

Statement: World Refugee Day

Today, on World Refugee Day, we need to remind ourselves of the responsibility we all have as humans towards each other, our shared duty to ensure that those in need of protection can always find a safe and welcoming space in Europe.

Today, on World Refugee Day, we call upon European citizens to think about our past, and ponder about the consequences of the divisive, xenophobic political narrative that weakened this continent so many times. We call upon European citizens to acknowledge that in the present, one of the main strengths of the European continent lies in its diversity, and the ability to recognise the great added value newly arrived people offer to local societies. For a better future we all have to invest in promoting diversity, strengthening the rights and voices of displaced people, creating safe and supporting environments, and fostering communities that embrace people regardless to their country of origin.

Today, on World Refugee Day, we call upon European policy-makers to direct their attention to displaced young people and recognise that they have special needs. We ask for displaced youth to be seen as rights holders who need to be meaningfully involved in all decisions concerning the different areas of their life. We want to see ensured that all youth - especially those with less opportunities like displaced young people - have access to essential services as quality education, health care, and legal assistance in order to support inclusion into society.

Today, on World Refugee Day, we want to raise our voice to bring awareness to the tremendous efforts young people and youth organisations are already investing in creating an inclusive society for all. Youth organisations play an important role in empowering displaced young people by informing them about their rights, by providing space for skills development and by increasing the visibility of the obstacles young refugees and asylum-seekers face.