

# EUPJ – HIAS EUROPE POST-REFUGEE SHABBAT WEBINAR HOW CAN EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES ENGAGE IN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE?

**Sunday afternoon, 21 March 2021**



## **Background:**

Today, we are witnessing one of the largest humanitarian crises in history, some 80 million people have fled their homes due to persecution and violence. HIAS, guided by Jewish values and history, rescues people whose lives are in danger for being who they are. To raise awareness about the plight of refugees, HIAS organizes Refugee Shabbat 2021 on March 5-6; this is a moment for Jewish communities, organisations and individuals around the world to create a Shabbat experience that is dedicated to asylum seekers and refugees. EUPJ is a co-sponsor of the 2021 Refugee Shabbat, and several of its member congregations have already signed up.

On the occasion of Refugee Shabbat 2021, EUPJ and HIAS Europe organise a webinar to be recorded at the Beth Hillel/IJC “studio”. All EUPJ members interested in participating are requested to register. The webinar will feature a number of Jewish activists and experts from around Europe, providing a menu of engagement opportunities for interested Jewish communities. The subsequent discussion is to facilitate discussion of individual Jewish groups how to approach the issue of refugees and asylum seekers locally in their respective communities, possibly as part of a wider social justice agenda.



**21**  
**MARCH**  
**2021**  
14:00 – 16:00

**Register [here](#)**

# AGENDA

Moderation by William Echikson, EUPJ

**14:00-14:10 Short overview of key challenges in relation to asylum and integration in Europe – Celia Gomez, HIAS Europe**

*Engagement Opportunity 1: Support international humanitarian action in support of those forcibly displaced through a global Jewish humanitarian organization*

**14:10-14:20 Presentation of HIAS, display of short video “HIAS: For the Refugees” – Ilan Cohn, HIAS Europe**

**Personal testimony of a HIAS beneficiary and IJC member Daniel Rozas**

*Engagement Opportunity 2: Organize Jewish Community volunteers as mentors for refugees arriving in your community*

**14:30-14:40 Presentation: a Jewish initiative for refugees in Vienna, Sonia Feiger, Founder, Shalom Alaikum**

*Engagement Opportunity 3: Mobilization through service and collecting and distributing clothing and other items*

**14:40-14:50 Presentation– Stéphanie Lecesne, Jewish Activist, about her personal activism**

*Engagement Opportunity 4: Programming that promotes tolerance and co-existence at the local level*

**14:50-15:00 “Getting to Know your Neighbour” by Chantal Suissa-Runne, Liberal Jewish Community of Amsterdam**

**15:00-15:10 Inter-faith, refugee-themed programming based on Jewish Holidays, Giorgio Gomel, Beth Hillel Rome**

*Engagement Opportunity 5: How Jewish communities can get involved in community-based sponsorship programs and other, complementary pathways of admission.*

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**15:10-15:30** How to build Welcoming Communities for Refugees, Petra Hueck, Director, ICMC Europe

Reflection of Giorgio Mortara, Vice President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), on UCEI's role in support of Humanitarian Corridor in Italy

**15:30-16:00** Discussion, Q&A - How can European Jewish Communities engage in support of asylum seekers and refugees, locally and/or internationally?



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