



A Competition for Aspiring Journalists

Across Europe the migration debate is now front-page news. On an almost daily basis pictures and articles are published focusing on the numbers of asylum seekers seeking refuge. Not all the information given about these individuals is true. What is true is that access to European asylum procedures is getting more and more difficult. Border fences are higher, patrols on the Mediterranean Sea have been intensified and officials at airports and ports prevent individuals leaving their country of origin.

The Jesuit Refugee Service is inviting aspiring journalists to investigate the reality behind the headlines by asking students across Europe to write an article on the theme:

'ACCESS TO ASYLUM'

Who can enter?

You can enter if you are a student at any institute of Higher Education in a member state of the Council of Europe, or if you've graduated from such an institution in the last twelve months.

What is the prize?

- The authors of the three best articles will be invited to Brussels to attend a prize giving ceremony in the European Parliament. They will meet members of the jury who are experienced journalists in this area and visit Jesuit Refugee Service Belgium who work with detainees held in detention centres. The three winning articles will be circulated to our press network at a European and national level.
- The overall winner will be invited to a refugee camp in Malawi as the guest of JRS Southern Africa, where they will meet refugees, representatives of NGOs and local media. JRS will advertise and circulate material written by the student journalist during this trip.

How do you enter?

You must write an article of not more than 1200 words on the theme 'Access to Asylum'. You can write in any European language, but must include an English translation of your work. Our judges include native speakers of English, French, Dutch and German.

Download an application form and further details on the competition, in English, at www.jrseurope.org. On this website you will find links to organisations that work with refugees and asylum seekers in different European countries.

Deadline for articles

14.00, 22nd February 2008



European Council
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The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic organisation. Its mission is to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and forced migrants. The Jesuit Refugee Service Europe is a network of over 20 offices working in Europe with and for refugees and displaced people. JRS does not discriminate on the basis of religion.

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