

## RIGHTS FOR US ALL

How Emmaus groups are putting the movement's priorities into action - together

### Healthcare meetings



**F**or 12 years in Africa, and three years in Asia, Emmaus International and Emmaus groups have been developing community-based healthcare schemes, proving that even the least privileged can play a part in gaining access to healthcare.

The Benin and Burkina Faso programmes have been operating since 2013, while the India and Bangladesh programmes

are going from strength to strength, with many new members.

Stakeholders such as elected members, users and doctors will come together to share ideas and experiences (costs, services provided, members, management, etc.) at an international steering committee meeting, in Montreuil, France, on 14th October. The following day, groups involved in the schemes will meet and lay the groundwork for future campaigning initiatives, based on the experiences of the pilot schemes.

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### Microcredit in Africa – developments

Half of African Emmaus groups lend microcredit. In total, 14,580 women benefitted from these loans in 2013.

The priority for our African groups is to improve these services and offer them professionally. The aim is for the sets of borrowers to become legal entities. This would make their funds more secure and would allow them to stand up for their legal rights and use ethical banks.

Afterwards, training on bookkeeping and administration would be provided for the entrepreneurs, so their businesses are more likely to succeed and their loans more productive.

**POINT OF VIEW** → Amela Efendic, director of the European Resource Center for the Prevention of Trafficking & ISF, Bosnia

**“Cases of human trafficking are increasingly being reported in Europe and throughout the world. Using the information we’re gathering, we’re raising awareness to both prevent trafficking and help victims. This crime affects all countries and denies millions of people their basic human rights. The public knows very little about this issue so we have to combat a great deal of prejudice.”**



# GO FOR IT!

## Passport covers

→ Passport covers issued by the Organisation for Universal Citizenship are still on sale. For only 2 euros, you can show your support for freedom of movement and settlement. Packs are available if you'd like to have them on offer at your sales, or sell them to your partner organisations.

To place an order, contact  
m.grau@o-c-u.org

## 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal from Emmaus Björkå

→ Emmaus Björkå in Sweden has launched a new appeal to groups in the movement for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. All money donated will go towards meeting the urgent needs of new arrivals in the camps (food, clothing, etc.).

To take action, contact  
e.larcher@emmaus-international.org

## Upcoming regional salons

→ Several regional salons will be held in France in the coming months. Some of the proceeds will go to international solidarity.

- Rouen-Elbeuf Salon (1st-2nd Nov, Rouen)
- Herbiers Salon (9th Nov, Herbiers)
- Emmaus International auction, organised by the Tours and Angers groups (22nd Nov, Angers).

Donations of valuable objects to sell would be most welcome!

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## Solidarity survey

Emmaus International is launching a survey on solidarity at all levels of the movement. As Emmanuelle Larcher, manager of the Solidarity department, explains, "Since groups seem to be losing interest in solidarity, particularly internationally, we need to try to understand the problems they're facing and the questions they have about solidarity initiatives, so we can improve these initiatives and increase their impact." There will be opportunities to discuss the results of this survey at the next WCPAIS\*, and at the 2016 world assembly.

\*World Council for Political Action and International Solidarity.

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## UK solidarity sales

19 Emmaus groups in the UK organised their solidarity sales on 17th May this year. "Our aim was to raise awareness throughout the UK about Emmaus and its international programmes", says Ali Ward, from Emmaus Leeds. "It was great to see so many groups involved. The sales reminded us all that our purpose is to help those less fortunate than ourselves." The sales raised a few 25 000 euros for international solidarity.

The British groups are hoping to repeat their success next year!

## Members of the values committee

**W**ith the next world assembly coming up in 2016, Emmaus groups are being asked to think about the values that go hand in hand with their actions. Representatives of all four Emmaus regions make up the values committee, which is coordinating this initiative. Here we put the spotlight on some committee members.



From left to right: Véronique Gnanih (Africa), Luis Tenderini (the Americas), Alexander Sawarimuthu (Asia), Birgitta Göranson Iliste (Europe).

**Véronique** left her job in administration in 1988 to build the Tohouè community in Benin with Emmaus. She saw how, “at Emmaus, we find resources where others see only rubbish.” A pioneer of the Emmaus movement in Africa, she got involved at international level and was inspired by how the movement always shows solidarity with those most in need.

**Alexander** set up Florence Home Foundation in 1992, which rescues street children in India. When he first came across Emmaus in 1994, he knew he’d found the only real solution to exclusion: working for the poorest with the poorest. “Emmaus must be willing to accept change so it can take forward the values that form the backbone of our movement.”

**Luis** founded Emmaus Recife in Brazil in 1995 with Helder Câmara, an advocate of liberation theology and close friend of Abbé Pierre. He’s met companions from all over the world and has developed “a deep passion for the movement and its values”. He thinks that if Emmaus is to continue to offer a serious alternative, it must adapt to changing times, without losing sight of Abbé Pierre’s question: “What about the others?”

**Birgitta** worked with Emmaus in Peru (1971), and then in Bangladesh (1975). She then became a volunteer member of Swedish group Swallows, then an elected member, and finally a member of staff. She’s had a number of international roles, leading her to believe in the importance of taking time to think about our actions. “Emmaus is about seeing the world from the point of view of the weakest. We must never lose sight of that, so we can develop activities that best serve their interests.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### → The 2014 *Nuits Atypiques* festival in Koudougou

The 19th *Nuits Atypiques* international music festival, organised by Emmaus Benebnooma, will be held from 26th-30th November 2014 in Koudougou in Burkina Faso with the theme of “Culture and Youth”. Twenty five African and French groups and nearly 30,000 festival goers are expected to attend.

### → New communities!

Two new communities have joined the Emmaus movement. Emmaus Bourges has set up a “satellite” group in Vierzon, France, which was launched on 3rd September. Another community has been created in Italy: the Emmaus group in Verona has set up a group in the town of Aselogna, which was launched on 14th September.

### → Proceeds from the Paris Salon

The Paris Salon on 22nd June raised 150,000 euros, which will be used to finance projects put forward by Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe (such as microcredit schemes) and will allow Emmaus International to continue its work on ethical finance and a solidarity-based economy.

# SAVE THE DATE

## 4 - 5 November

“Emmaus, Europe in all of its facets” training  
(Cologne, Germany)

## 5 - 7 November

WCPAIS meeting  
(Montreuil, France)

## 26 - 30 November

*Nuits Atypiques* festival in  
Koudougou, organised by Emmaus  
Benebnooma  
(Koudougou, Burkina Faso)

## 5 - 9 December

World Social Forum on migration  
(Johannesburg, South Africa)

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groups are currently  
trial members of  
Emmaus International.

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## The WCPAIS (World Council for Political Action and International Solidarity)

### → WHAT?

Created in 2004, the WCPAIS is a think tank for reflecting on campaigning and solidarity within the movement.

### → WHO?

The WCPAIS is made up of two elected representatives each from Africa, the Americas and Asia, and four representatives from Europe. Representatives of the board, executive committee and international secretariat also attend WCPAIS meetings.

### → WHEN?

The WCPAIS meets once a year but can be consulted at other times in exceptional cases. The next meeting will take place from 5th to 7th November 2014 in Montreuil, France.

### → HOW?

At its annual meeting, the WCPAIS reviews our solidarity actions – projects, sales, containers sent, etc. – and campaigning initiatives (groups’ activities and commitment to our priority areas). It also assesses solidarity project applications put forward by the Emmaus regions.

Lastly, the WCPAIS is sometimes asked to reflect, or take action to engage groups in the regions and get them involved.

