

INVITATION LETTER

2ND EUROPEAN POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Vienna, 21 October 2020

Dear JLI member,

On behalf of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) and the Network for Dialogue platform, we have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2nd European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants called “*Contributing to the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe through interreligious and intercultural dialogue*” which was planned to take place in Bonn, Germany. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented us to organize a physical gathering for this event, therefore the Policy Dialogue Forum will be organized online over two days on Tuesday, 3 November to Wednesday, 4 November 2020.

The Policy Dialogue Forum will be held under the support of the German Federal Foreign Office and the Representation of the European Commission in Germany and will address the current social inclusion processes of refugees and migrants in Europe. The **aim of the Forum is to develop policy recommendations** in three selected areas: strengthening social inclusion in education; building trust in local communities; and reshaping the narratives on migration. In this sense, it is important to mention that the Forum does not address border security or reforms of the asylum system; rather, it deals with the question of how interreligious and intercultural dialogue can contribute to the social cohesion and inclusion of refugees and migrants in Europe.

Two things stand out: first, this Policy Dialogue Forum is a space where religious and secular actors are purposefully brought together to allow for active exchange on the issue of refugees and migration. Second, by providing a space for dialogue, the Policy Dialogue Forum is designed for participants to share and exchange their experience and expertise, as well as to harvest new perspectives for the current policy directions of refugees and migrants in Europe. The participants come from around Europe and include policymakers, religious leaders, academic scholars, and civil society members to strengthen their collaboration. The Forum will mostly consist of interactive sessions with workshop-type discussions that will allow for the active involvement of all participants in designing policy recommendations.

KAICIID is reaching out to you in recognition of your abundant experience in the field of migration and refugee policy in Europe. We would be honoured if you were able to join us virtually and supporting us in our overarching aim to understand the challenges and directions of current migration policies in Europe. Please find enclosed the draft agenda and the brief description of the Policy Dialogue Forum sessions, for your appreciation. You will have the choice to join the opening

and closing plenary and take part in the four working sessions in one of the three areas mentioned above.

To confirm the acceptance of this invitation, please kindly respond to the [following Google Forms link](#) by Friday, 23 October 2020. For any further questions, you can also get in touch with Dr. Aleksandra Djuric-Milovanovic by email at aleksandra.djuric@kaiciid.org.

We look forward to your response and it would be an honour for us if you will be able to virtually join us for this event.

*Please find more information about the Policy Dialogue Forum [here](#),
the [report](#) of the first Forum and a short video [here](#).*