

Emmaus in Europe



This month, we're giving you the chance to find out more about a French solidarity initiative - a property project - which supports the purchase of work premises for Emmaus groups.

We will also look at how the Emmaus Movement is rallying and can join forces to demand an end to the Israeli government's massacre of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. At a time when the Israeli government is trying to deflect criticism of its actions - in Israel and around the world - with another attack on Iran, Europe must take action.

And lastly, because peace is something we hold dear to our hearts, we want to remind you that we can all lead by example by participating in the Emmaus Europe Football Tournament for Peace and Human Rights: registrations close on 30 June! [Sign up now!](#)

Enjoy the newsletter,

The Emmaus Europe team

Sommaire

- [Emmaüs Épargne Solidaire - activist investments!](#)
- [Emmaus rallies against the atrocities in Gaza](#)
- [ECRE Conference and General Assembly](#)
- [A former Emmaus Greenwich \(UK\) companion reflects on his solidarity trip to Poland and Ukraine](#)
- [News from the team!](#)

Top Story

Emmaüs Épargne Solidaire - activist investments!

In France, the Movement has an innovative tool to support the work of Emmaus groups: a socially-oriented property company! In the face of mounting property pressure, this initiative allows people to make socially responsible savings by supporting Emmaus' social project.



Caption : construction of a bioclimatic building supported by Emmaus Épargne Solidaire. © Tero Loko

By offering Emmaus groups suitable work premises, while allowing individuals to invest their savings in a meaningful way, this initiative fully reflects the values of the Movement: solidarity, social inclusion and innovation.

We spoke to the project manager, Aymeric, and asked him to tell us more. He explained how this initiative started, how it works and what plans they have for the future. Aymeric also gave us some advice for Emmaus groups who want to get involved!

Read the full article here

European action

Emmaus rallies against the atrocities in Gaza

**Over the last few weeks, Emmaus Europe has joined Emmaus International and Emmaus France in voicing its support for the Palestinian people. Despite condemnations from the international community, the Israeli authorities have continued to annihilate the Palestinian population. Europe must take concrete and immediate measures at all levels to bring an end to the massacre.**

Many Emmaus groups in Europe are taking part in demonstrations, by forming human chains in red clothing to symbolise all the "red lines" crossed by the Israeli government. It is high time for governments in Europe and worldwide to act and put an end to these atrocities.



© Emmaus

To make our voices heard, we have jointly signed an [open letter](#) to the French President, Emmanuel Macron, who was due to co-chair an international United Nations conference on 18 June "for the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question and the implementation of the two-state solution". Unfortunately, France decided to postpone this conference. This will not prevent us from continuing our fight and calling on governments to act!

This letter goes further than this conference by calling for action from the European Union at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 June and the European Council of Heads of State and Government on 26 June to secure:

- **an arms embargo by all European countries;**
- **an embargo on all products from Israeli settlements;**
- **an overall suspension of the EU-Israel agreement.**

Please feel free to use [this letter](#) as a base text, make the necessary adjustments to adapt it to your national context and send it to your political representatives.

Emmaus Europe also lent its support to the citizen march to Brussels to call for Europe to take action against the genocide in Gaza. Read more about it [here](#).

Let's keep up our efforts! Lobby your governments, organise events and initiatives to push for international action and put an end to this unbearable, inhumane situation.

ECRE Conference and General Assembly

**On 5 and 6 June, Emmaus Europe attended the ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles) Annual General Conference.**

As a reminder, ECRE is a network of 128 European NGOs working for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons, particularly by lobbying European institutions.



© ECRE

As a recent member of this network, this meeting was the perfect opportunity for Emmaus Europe **to forge ties with other organisations**. We discussed European policies that we have already campaigned on (see our [May newsletter](#)), along with the status of Ukrainian refugees in the European Union (EU) which is currently under review.

For reference, Ukrainian refugees have benefitted from temporary European protection since 2022. This was intended to last for three years and is now due to expire. However, the war is still raging. The EU has therefore decided to prolong it for one year and reopen the directive to better reflect the current situation. Discussions are underway to move towards more permanent support for these people, bearing in mind that the Ukrainian government would like them to return once the war is over. This will be a crucial issue over the coming months.

Emmaus Europe remains active and is closely following these developments alongside ECRE and Migreurop, our second European migration network.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Manon](#).

Solidarity

A former Emmaus Greenwich (UK) companion reflects on his solidarity trip to Poland and Ukraine

**A former Emmaus Greenwich companion has just returned from a particularly memorable solidarity trip to Poland and Ukraine, where he provided hands-on support to Emmaus communities supporting those affected by war.**

Stewart, who now lives in one of the Emmaus Greenwich community houses, spent a week volunteering with Emmaus Kraków (Brat Albert) in Poland. He met Ukrainian families who have fled the war, including families with young children who show remarkable strength and resilience. From Kraków, Stewart travelled to Lviv, Ukraine, where he volunteered with a local Emmaus-run soup kitchen in the city's main square and helped organise donations.

Find out more about Stewart's solidarity trip [here](#).



© Emmaus Greenwich



We are delighted to announce that Yelena Yvoz has joined the Emmaus Europe team. Yelena has been recruited to take over from Marie Tixier, who is off sick, for a number of months. Her role will be to handle communications and organise upcoming events.

She has been involved in solidarity issues for several years now, both professionally and personally.

Her experience includes working for CartONG, a technical NGO, where she was responsible for communications and organising the GeOnG forum. She is also a volunteer with Utopia-56, a French humanitarian organisation that defends the rights of migrants and refugees.

You will get the chance to meet her at the Football Tournament for Peace and Human Rights on 22 and 23 July in Dijon! You can also contact her if you have any questions at the following address: [yelena.yvoz@emmaus-europe.org](mailto:yelena.yvoz@emmaus-europe.org)

