



# Newsletter



Peace Leader in Yangon, Myanmar

## JWL evolves to meet need for greater quality, flexible professional courses

The demand for higher education by refugee and other marginalised communities was clear from Jesuit Worldwide Learning's earliest assessments. Still, not all could go for the Diploma in Liberal Studies (accredited by Regis University) - it was too academic or it would take too long to complete for those itching to address the diverse and pressing needs of their communities, to name a couple of reasons. In response, JWL launched the Community Service Learning Track courses, a set of vocational, onsite/classroom-based courses. In order to scale, ensure the delivery of even higher quality, relevant courses, as well as meet the daily challenges faced by many of our students, JWL has revised its offerings and has piloted a new set of 6-month professional certificate programmes.

Earlier this month, after evaluation of the pilots and necessary adjustments were made, full offerings of the Learning Facilitator course (in Afghanistan and Kenya), certified by the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany), and the Peace Leader course (in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar), certified by Hekima College (Kenya). Learning Facilitator addresses the need for training of trainers, preparing students to become learning facilitators within their communities, while Peace Leader integrated best practices from peace and leadership studies, introducing students to the role and practices needed to be effective peace leaders among their communities.

The full launch of the Youth Sports Facilitator (certified by Metropolitan State University of Denver, USA) began in July in Kakuma, Dzaleka, and for the first time in Bamyan, Afghanistan. Students learn to design and maintain sports programmes within their communities, fostering collaboration, fairness, tolerance and responsibility through the medium of sports, exploring key thematic areas such as gender issues, conflict management, and psychosocial first-aid.

One of the biggest changes to these courses was the shift from being classroom-based to mobile blended learning. To facilitate their continued participation, JWL takes note of challenges such as professional or personal commitments, as well as distances to be covered to reach learning centres. While meeting in person for group discussions remains important and mandatory at set intervals, mobile devices and the use of the online/offline app (JWL HeLP - Humanitarian e-Learning Platform), students are able to study and access a wealth of resources wherever they may be. They interact with a Subject Matter Expert in the virtual classroom, while also benefitting from onsite support.

Above all, these high quality courses are designed to prepare students to gain specific skillsets to become active in addressing issues of local and global concern, exploring themes alongside peers from across the world in the virtual classroom. IT courses are also on our radar, as a crucial set of skills for professional opportunities. In 2018, we served just under 200 change-makers. In 2019, will expect to serve up to 400.



Learning Facilitator students,  
Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

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## Today's story, tomorrow's aspiration

Am I resourceful to my family, community and country? Is this level of education really helpful enough for me to reach my goals and dreams?

These are some of the questions Zamzam asked herself once she completed secondary school and in doing so. Originally from Somalia, she has been in Kakuma Refugee Camp since she was seven years old. It became clear that in order to be of assistance to those around her, she would need to pursue higher education.

When she joined the JWL Diploma in Liberal Studies programme (accredited by Regis University) Zamzam felt like she belonged. "Where I come from education for girls is not valued." Although it wasn't easy, Zamzam was among this summer's Diploma graduates, the only young woman of her community (for this cohort) and the first young woman in her family to do so.

Zamzam is confident that programme has endowed her with the necessary training and strength to overcome obstacles she may face on her journey of service to her community. Out of Business, Social Work and Education, she chose Social Work as her concentration. "I want to help people the same way I was

helped," she says, recalling how the community welcomed and supported her and her family when they first arrived. Her formal education does not end here for in early August, she began the AA/BA programme through Southern New Hampshire University.

She has also been working on a book – and not just any book. It is an account of the challenges she has faced from early on, as a girl in pursuit of an education. Through this she hopes to inspire and motivate the many girls who were deprived of such opportunities. "I believe a today story is tomorrow's aspiration." Another project on her to-do list is setting up a YouTube through which she aims to share experiences of refugee life, also demonstrating the positive impact they have can, countering the existing perception that they are a burden.

Later this year, Zamzam will be among the over 1,000 persons in attendance at the UNLEASH innovation lab in Shenzhen, China, sharing insights and exploring ways of furthering the Sustainable Development Goals. Her focus will be on Sustainable Cities and Communities.

## Championing sports for change

"I always wanted to study. It is one of my hobbies," says Joseph, JWL Diploma graduate. Growing up in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he did all his schooling in French, he had to learn English in order to socialise, pursue higher education opportunities, as well as find a good job in Kakuma. Before joining the Diploma programme and working for the International Rescue Committee, he made bricks to provide for his family whilst completing an advanced English course and computer skills training.

Since graduating from the Diploma, Joseph completed an Associate's Degree and moved on to study towards a full degree in Public Administration, from Southern New Hampshire University (USA). This educational journey has thus far forged him into a more organised, critical-thinking and attentive person, with the necessary knowledge for success. After the degree, his eyes will be set on an MBA.

Joseph is also the Kakuma Learning Facilitator for the Youth Sports Facilitator (YSF) professional certificate course. A footballer from an early age and now Vice-Chairman of the Kakuma United Football Club, the prospect of being the YSF Learning Facilitator was also interesting because it would allow him to enhance his "knowledge about sports as one of the tools that can change a community in every aspect," and apply his leadership skills to support students on their journey. The story of the founding of Kakuma United Football Club is just one example of how sports can make a difference, uniting refugees and the host community.



It has been a learning experience for both sides, as "each student came with his or her knowledge and experience about sports which helped both of us to understand better the basics of sports and how to use sports of the community development and peaceful coexistence." He has been proud to see how well his students have performed. Keth, for example, is a young woman whose volleyball club for girls has managed to unite two rival tribes from Sudan. Some day, Joseph would like to establish a sports academy within the camp, to "enhance or prove how sport is important and the role it can play in people's lives worldwide."

## Sport is a teacher

Sifatullah is passionate about sports and just joined our first group of Youth Sports Facilitator in Bamyan, Afghanistan. More than just an activity, "sport is a teacher which can teach us the value of being together and helping each other in a group." Indeed, it Sifatullah says sports has transformed him from the shy person he was at school, into a more confident and energetic person.

Students meet twice a week to take part in discussions as they explore the different ways in which sport can positively contribute to education, health, peace, and the economy. They most enjoyable part of the course thus far has been being able to learn and discuss in a friendly and

respectful environment. The class has been split into two groups and each much design and implement a sports project engaging youth (especially girls) in a remote community. Whether it is involves engaging girls or boys, it will be challenging to overcome the long-standing belief that sport is "foolish." Still, he remains hopeful! Let me assure you that we are able to do it, but it takes some time..."

In addition to the Youth Sports Facilitator course, Sifatullah studies archaeology at Bamyan University, and takes English and French classes. "I always wanted to get a scholarship after completing my university to continue or at least to have a chance to meet cultures and different people."



Susanna (centre) with Magdalena and GEL teachers

## Going to the margins

Susanna Ablewhite

In August, I was lucky enough to travel to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for the first time. I was very excited to visit our established Global English Language (GEL) centres in Alqosh, Domiz and Khanke and talk to some of our students, many of whom are Syrian refugees and IDPs, about the GEL course, their life stories and their hopes and dreams. I was impressed by their determination in the face of adversity: they are intelligent, hardworking, well-qualified young people but job opportunities are scarce. Our hope is that the English skills they acquire from the GEL course will give them an edge in a competitive job market.

I organised a two-day GEL teacher training workshop for all our teachers, with a little help from Noah, our American GEL Coordinator from Alqosh. We explored topics such as ice-breaker activities, improving students' listening and speaking skills, differentiation and monitoring progress. This sparked some interesting discussions where teachers were able to share their experiences and ideas. I also spent time working with Nagham and Noor, the two new coordinators who are setting up new GEL centres. It was a privilege to work with these two inspirational women, who are former JWL Diploma students. We even found the time to go on an outing with the GEL teachers on the last afternoon. It was a great opportunity for the GEL teachers to get to know each other better and to swap advice about the programme.

I was touched by the warm welcome I received from everyone and the memories of this unique trip will stay with me for many years to come. A special thanks to Magdalena, our JWL Iraq Representative, for everything she did to organise, help and support throughout my visit. It has spurred me on to keep working to make the GEL programme as effective as possible for all our students in both Kurdistan and across the world.

Susanna Ablewhite  
Global English Language Programme Director

**Are you interested in an internship as an English teacher at one of our learning centres in Iraq?**

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## What does peace mean to you?



On 21 September, the world marked International Day of Peace with this year's theme focusing on how efforts to mitigate climate change are important in protecting and promoting peace.

Our students in Domiz Refugee Camp, Iraq (above and left), sought messages of peace. They, as well as their peers in Kakuma Refugee Camp (below), also came together to plant trees to foster peace and raise awareness of environmental concerns.



For one of their assignments, our Diploma students were recently asked to get creative and submit a journal entry describing in whichever form they liked, what matter represents to them.

### The Mother of Matter

By Kodi (Kakuma, Kenya)

Matter is human, human is matter

As matter is made up of atoms,

So atoms are everywhere,

Humans, animals, water; all the universe is matter,

We are all scientifically described, electrically-charged,

How wonderful is it!

With matter, nothing superior than the other

Atoms makes all the same,

Hydrogen is formed into helium,

Helium is built into carbon,

Nitrogen and oxygen, iron and sulfur,

Everything in us,

How wonderful is it!

Yes!

All things are made of atoms,

All atoms are made of the same properties,

Protons, neutrons, and electrons,

Ooooh! Atom is the mother of matter,

How wonderful is it!



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