

**RECEPTION AND CONVERSATION ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES IN PROMOTING INCLUSION OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

Held under auspices of the UN-led campaign to counter xenophobia : *TOGETHER* :
respect, safety, and dignity for all.

Speakers :

H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent
Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. Juan José Gomez Camacho Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations.

H.E. Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International
Migration and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Migration.

H.E. Mr. Maurizio Enrico Serra, Permanent Representative of Italy to the International
Organizations in Geneva.

The States are talking about integration, but the question is : are They Ready to
Act ? Non-stop new migrants arrive. They are a priority for the United Nations Office.
Campaigns are launched to help them, principally the young people.
Geneva give to them the possibility to study.

Why ? What are the reasons ?

- They have the right to go to school.
- It's for them the way to become free.
- It is an absolute weapon.
- It educates people.
- it helps to fulfill their dreams.
- It represents the freedom of speech.
- It allows to meet friends.
- It learns to like justice.
- It helps to create its own business.
- _ It makes discover new cultures, civilizations.

Young migrants will not be victims, but pupils.

To help migrants is a commitment of the UNO (September 2016).

ANTONIO GUTERRES: General-Secretary says :

« Our duty to the people we serve is to work together to move from fear of each other to
trust in each other. Diversity all its form is an asset, not a threat ».

ACTING TOGETHER

Migrants talk in a film which is presented to us : we are not just bones and flesh. Yesterday we were different, today we are different, tomorrow we will be different. In fact, another film shot in a bus explains to us our misanthropy and xenophobia. They come from ourselves : we are disliking ourselves.

The art can have a very important part in the integration.

- A Syrian physicist refugee in Geneva studied music to become musician in the orchestra of the UNO, because music is in fact a link.

- Geneva hosted until December 2016 among many others the work « Enlightened Universe » created by the Spanish artist Cristobal Gabarron.

The monumental work composed of 70 colorful, human size figures evokes all the ages, genders, ethnic groups and cultures of the world. In many ways it illustrates the message of solidarity carried by the « TOGETHER » campaign.

JACQUELINE BOURGEOIS
Representative UNO GENEVA

