

## Press release : Inside Out Photobooth Action on World Refugee Day

20 June 2023

On 20 June 2023, World Refugee Day (WRD) is celebrated all around the world. To mark this day, Switzerland for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's national partner for Switzerland, and the Hospice général, the public entity in charge of hosting refugees in the Canton of Geneva- are inviting the community to participate in an Inside Out Photobooth Action happening at the Centre d'hébergement collectif de Rigot - a refugee and asylum seekers hosting facility across the street from UNHCR headquarters in Geneva.

[Inside Out](#) is a global participatory art platform that helps people make a statement by displaying large-scale black and white portraits of members from their community in public spaces. Founded by internationally-renowned French artist JR in 2011, the project has reached over 150 countries and territories with over half a million participants.

On World Refugee Day, Inside Out's Photobooth will be stationed in front of the Centre d'hébergement collectif Rigot, at 36/38 Avenue de France, Geneva from 16:00 – 19:00 CEST. Everyone is welcome to step into the booth to take their portrait. Within minutes, a printed black and white poster prints out the side of the Photobooth. The posters will be pasted on the façade of the Centre d'hébergement collectif de Rigot. This Action will underline the message of inclusion reflected in this years' WRD theme of *hope away from home: a world where refugees are always included*. The portraits of host- and refugee- communities will be intertwined on the façade, making it impossible for the public to distinguish who is who, underlying the message of inclusion behind this Inside Out Action.

Giving visibility to this community- which is often on the margins- is crucial today more than ever. On June 14, UNHCR published its "Global Trends" report, shedding light on the increasing number of forcibly displaced people around the world. Over 110 million people are today forcibly displaced throughout the world- the highest number ever recorded. This marks an increase of 20 million people forced to flee in the last two years, mostly due to the situation in Ukraine, in Afghanistan and more recently in Sudan, but also because of protracted crises. As the number of people forced to flee is



Photographer: Yoshida-San  
Kobe, Japan, 2022  
[www.insideoutproject.net](http://www.insideoutproject.net)

on the rise, it is crucial for host communities to include them and ensure their rights are respected.

Using JR's artistic practice as inspiration, Inside Out Actions are all community-led projects created by individuals around the world independently from JR. His current exhibition [Women](#) at Pace Gallery in Geneva until 18 July presents photographic works from the [Women Are Heroes](#) project that the artist began in 2008 in Sierra Leone, before taking the project to Liberia, Kenya, Cambodia, India, Brazil and France. Known for his monumental, outdoor photographic installations, JR's practice is rooted in an exploration of identity, community, and social justice.

Furthermore, the artist's support for underrepresented people, particularly those forced to flee, can also be seen in his solo exhibition [Déplacé·e·s](#) at Gallerie d'Italia in Turin until 16 July 2023. The show explores installations that JR created with communities in refugee settlements in Rwanda, Mauritania, Colombia, Ukraine and Greece.

The Inside Out Photobooth Action "World Refugee Day" brings JR's global participatory art project to the streets of Geneva. The Inside Out team will be running the Photobooth and pasting portraits to create an installation that honours the stories and perseverance of displaced communities worldwide. All are encouraged to participate and add their face to a monumental mosaic of the community.

For further images about Inside Out actions, please reach out [jr@insideoutproject.net](mailto:jr@insideoutproject.net).