

# JORNADA DE SOCIALS AL BATXILLERAT

## 4 MARÇ 2016

### THE REFUGEES

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Last Friday, 4th May 2016, we attended some conferences that were held by two NGO, **Proactive Open Arms** and **Justícia i Pau**, which contributed to the successful celebration of our school Annual Social Science Day.

Thanks to these organizations we could all approach the refugees issue from a more humanitarian perspective



**Proactiva Open Arms** is a non-governmental organization from Badalona which is dedicated to saving lives on sea. In early September they decided to move to Lesbos island to help refugees that arrive to the Greek coast. This NGO decided to start acting when a dead child laying on a coast appeared on the news, this image shocked millions of people.

Refugees escaping from war must pay 1.500€ to cross the sea in a boat in precarious conditions and with fake lifevests that sink in a matter of minutes. All the money they pay to travel across the sea to escape from war goes to mafias which take advantage of their situation to win quick and easy money. The boats they use to cross the sea are made for small amounts of people to travel in them but most of the time around 50 refugees travel in the same boat. This causes very frequent shipwrecks and deaths in the sea. But that's not all, the refugees that try to escape from war are the ones in charge of steering the boats, which causes even more danger.

About 20 boats arrive to the Greek coast everyday and Proactiva Open Arms makes sure they all arrive safely. This non-profit organization started out with 15.000€ from their own pockets but thanks to donations they've arrived to over 200.000€ and thanks to this they're able to continue saving lives every day.

**Justícia i Pau** is a NGO founded in 1968 in Barcelona which promotes and advocates for justice, peace, human rights and Christian values.

The speech was about the great challenge of contemporary migrations. Such migrations are mainly caused by hunger, extreme poverty, war, political crisis and unemployment. Governments and institutions are trying to find solutions to this issue by improving their immigration policies, though it is not always easy.

All in all, we understood that migrations have always been a natural phenomenon and that all human beings should be free to migrate in order to get a better life. This is what we, both citizens and governments, must fight for.