

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2016 HARVARD WORLD MODEL UNITED
NATIONS**

Paul VI Audience Hall

17 March 2016

[Link](#)

[...] The issues and challenges you discuss are not faceless. For each of you can articulate the hopes and dreams, the challenges and sufferings, which mark the people of your country. In these days, you will learn much from one another, and will remind each other that, behind every difficulty our world is facing, there are men and women, young and old, people just like you. There are families and individuals whose lives are daily shaped by struggles, who are trying to care for their children and provide not only for their future but also the basic necessities for today. So too, many of those affected by our world's greatest problems of violence and intolerance have become refugees, tragically forced from their homes, and denied their land and their freedom. [...]

I also hope that your experience has led you to see the commitment of the Catholic Church to serving the needs of the poor and refugees, to strengthening the family and communities, and to protecting the inalienable dignity and rights of each member of our human family. We Christians believe that Jesus calls us to be servants of our brothers and sisters, who care for others regardless of their background or circumstances. This is not only a mark of Christians, however, but is a universal call, rooted in our common humanity. It's something we have as persons, that we have inside as human persons! [...]