



**VII International Congress on Migration & Mental Health
Youth & Families Wellbeing matters in the context of Migration**

20th October 2018 – Brussels

Familles du Monde, asbl & The Athena Network

RESPEVOL CARING FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WITH A REFUGEE STORY

THE CULTURE-SENSITIVE GLASSES



PhD Jose M Gonzalez

**Department of Equals Rights and Diversity
of the city of Diest (BE)**

Many people assure us that the Refugee crisis these day is a lees current affair. Yet every day we see in our Department of Equal Rights and Diversity in the city of Diest that everyday families, children and young people end up in our city, in our neighbourhood, in our Flemish schools, that are on the run from dangerous situations in their country of origin.

We can see and we know from experience that these people have gone through many traumatic experiences. This requires an appropriate approach in our society but also in the classroom, in the streets, so we can cope with both traumas and the culture shock of this families. To this end we need appropriate culture-sensitive glasses.

This seminar/ presentation aims to provide a few frameworks, a pair of culture-sensitive glasses and practical tips to specifically coordinate the care in our society and more specially at our school of refugee families and children with possible traumatic experiences. This both at the level of basic care and the more increased professional care, with this target group.

We would also like to discuss the situation where this care and support proves to be inadequate in many situations. This seminar provides concrete tools to improve the understanding of the situation of many families and children in traumatic situations and how can we move further to best levels of understanding and care for the society, the families and the children in complex immigration situations.

Keywords:

Cultural glasses, In-group, out-group, social categorization, personal filters, perception, culture, image building...

About the author

Jose M Gonzalez is head of the Department of Equals Rights and Diversity of the city of Diest. Trained in sociology with many years of experience in the coordination of projects for Immigrants, Refugees and other Ethnic Minorities. He works as expert for many institutions like the Council of Europe, The School for Civil Servants PIVO in Brussels and also for the Flemish Agency for Integration and Social Orientation.