

Song : Travel by Anns James, cms

Abdoul: from fleeing to graduation, the story of a political refugee.

Abdoul is a political [refugee](#) who left Ivory Coast in search of a better life. After crossing the desert and Libya, he found himself on a 13-meter-wide and 2-meter-long rubber dinghy with 200 other people, which was about to sink in the Mediterranean Sea in the summer of 2014. After receiving the "Young America Award for University Talent," Abdoul was among the 500 most deserving students in Italian universities in the academic year 2021-2022. He graduated on March 25, 2022, with honors and was about to start a free one-year master's degree in international relations. Abdoul is grateful to the Combonian Association for Migrants and Refugees Services (ACSE), which instilled in him the courage to pursue his dreams until today, thanks to the scholarship granted to him.



"While I am here receiving this award, I think back to 8 years ago when I was on a rubber dinghy in the Mediterranean Sea, after crossing the desert and Libya."

(di Abdoul)

"When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God."

(Lev.19: 33-34)

Moment of Reflection

1. What are your opinions about political refugees in Europe and America?
2. How do you think society can help political refugees integrate?
3. What are your ideas for promoting solidarity and welcoming political refugees in your community and society in general?