



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Paris, June 20, 2018

# Philanthropy Elior Group Solidarities backs the Refugee Food Festival

For World Refugee Day, Elior Group Solidarities has forged a partnership with the Refugee Food Festival, an international touring event designed to promote the integration of refugees thanks to the universal power of food.

Backed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Refugee Food Festival entrusts restaurant kitchens to refugee chefs in a bid to:

- foster a change in the public perception of refugees by valuing their talents and culinary heritage,
- speed up the professional integration of refugee chefs by offering them a springboard to employment,
- mobilize people by creating food-tasting events enabling them to discover and savor new tastes.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the festival and throughout the year, Elior Group will be welcoming refugee chefs into its restaurants, at *Le Ciel de Paris* and *La Maison de l'Amérique Latine* in Paris, as well as in its corporate and school canteens in Lyon, Bordeaux, Lille (France), Madrid (Spain), Bologna (Italy) and New York.

With a long-term commitment, Elior Group is backing the Refugee Food Festival by mobilizing its skills to serve refugee chefs, providing them with a springboard to employment and raising the awareness of its clients and guests.

Chief Executive Officer of Elior Group and Chairman of Elior Group Solidarities Philippe Guillemot stated: "The Refugee Food Festival particularly reflects our daily values and commitments. With this project, our aim is to encourage our employees, guests and partners to assume more responsibility and to promote our vision of cooking and food which are conducive to integration and sharing."

At the same time, Elior Group Solidarities is also lending support to *La Résidence*, which was created by the Refugee Food Festival last year. Located right in the heart of Paris, *La Résidence* is a Refugee Food Festival restaurant and training center where refugee chefs can test and fine-tune their culinary talents before entering the professional catering stage.

Every 2 to 6 months, *La Résidence* hands over the reins to a new refugee chef, with refugee status in France. This enables refugee chefs to promote and share the savors of their culinary heritage. Hailing from Syria, Iran and Georgia, all of the invited chefs are skilled professionals.

By backing the Refugee Food Festival, Elior Group underscores its commitment to promoting the discovery of new savors, valuing the culinary heritages of the world and creating convivial events that bring people together, as well as the professional integration of people in need.

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## **About Elior Group**

Founded in 1991, Elior Group has grown into one of the world's leading operators in the catering and support services industry, and has become a benchmark player in the business & industry, education, healthcare and travel markets. Now operating in 16 countries, the Group generated €6,422 million in revenue through 25,000 restaurants and points of sale in FY 2016-2017. Our 127,000 employees serve 5.5 million people on a daily basis, taking genuine care of each and every one by providing personalized catering and service solutions to ensure an innovative customer experience.

We place particular importance on corporate social responsibility and have been a member of the United Nations Global Compact since 2004 and we reached the GC Advanced level in 2015. The professional excellence of our teams, as well as their unwavering commitment to quality and innovation and to providing best in-class service is embodied in our corporate motto: "Time savored".

For further information please visit our website: http://www.eliorgroup.com or follow us on Twitter: @Elior\_Group

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