



JESUITS IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA OFFER PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS FORCED MIGRATION

Mexico City, September 13, 2021. The Provinces of the Society of Jesus expressed their concern about the causes that give rise to forced migration in a statement entitled "**Position of the Society of Jesus in Mexico and Central America on Forced Migration**", a call to action to address the causes that give rise to forced migration in northern Central America.

The Apostolic Subject of both Provinces, made up of Jesuits, lay women and laity, analyzed the phenomenon using information drawn from the works of the **Provinces in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico**. The resulting proposals acknowledge the complexity of the situation and call for collaboration and solidarity between countries, sectors, organizations, and people.

The analysis identified seven structural causes of the phenomenon of forced migration: **1) Inequality of opportunities for full human development within existing economic structures; 2) Disillusionment with existing democratic processes within the state; 3) Deficiencies in the tax and social protection systems; 4) Influence of drug trafficking and arms trafficking, 5) (In)security, militarization, and systematic violation of human rights; 6) Vulnerability in the face of threats from climate change and variability, and 7) The individualistic life possibilities linked with a universalism that prioritizes global categories over local ones.**

Given this complexity of factors, **the Jesuit Provinces of Mexico and Central America developed a series of proposals**, not without first warning that "the attention to these and other causes does not exempt the responsibility of attending to the immediate needs of humanitarian aid, legal advice or guidance, and psychological care".

Among the proposals, it stands out **that States undertake tax changes** that reduce inequality and privileges and aim to increase productivity and improve public spending. In addition, they noted the need to strengthen micro and small businesses, a Central American common market and local food markets, and promote decent employment and access to land, resources, and infrastructure.

The universalization of education, health, water and sanitation are also policies that must be implemented with a view to ensuring well-being for those who today find no hope of resolving their

precarious situation.

Linked to the search for an **effective State**, the document warns that **prosecutors' offices and electoral bodies should also be strengthened and bridges built between elites and grassroots communities.**

The **promotion of citizen security models, the establishment of routes for regular migration, the approach to the causes of violence, and programs aimed at youth** are some of the alternatives offered in the face of the aforementioned crisis of violence.

Finally, **the proposals address the need to revalue and strengthen ecosystems and community life**, emphasizing the recognition of the contributions of indigenous peasant peoples, the reassessment of agri-food systems, and the elimination or regulation of megaprojects.

The Provinces of Mexico and Central America of the Society of Jesus recalled that **human mobility "brings good news and positive changes to peoples and enriches the culture of places and communities" and called for solidarity and hospitality with their works and communities.**

The Jesuits have accompanied migrants and refugees in the Mexico and Central America area since 1980. In Mexico, the Jesuit Migrant Service was created in 2001, and in 2017 the Jesuit Refugee Service was reactivated to serve the southern border. This year, a project was started on the northern border. In Central America various organizations are part of the Jesuit Migration Network across the region.

The document "Position of the Society of Jesus in Mexico and Central America on Forced Migration" is currently available on: https://bit.ly/DocumentoMEX_CA

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