



Fey Alegría

Movimiento de Educación Popular Integral y Promoción Social



Positioning before the next International Donors' Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and forced migrants to be held on March 16 and 17 in Brussels.

We, the undersigned networks and organizations of the Society of Jesus and the Red Clamor, address the representatives of the States and delegations at this Conference, with the purpose of raising requests in favor of the more than 7 million Venezuelan forced migrants and refugees, based on the realities that we observe in the experience of accompaniment, defense and protection of their rights.

After 7 years we see that the Venezuelan crisis continues and the causes that force people to migrate remain. Despite the measures adopted by the receiving countries, the new restrictive migration policies and the consequences of the pandemic hinder integration and the development of their dignified life projects.

For this reason, we insist on the recognition of the Venezuelan population as highly vulnerable people in need of international protection who continue to suffer the consequences of a prolonged crisis that remains hidden to the rest of the world, like so many others. We recognize the progress made in the response to this crisis and identify three challenging areas where we invite you to focus your actions during this Conference which will shape this continued humanitarian and development response.

Humanitarian attention and emergency response. In Venezuela, 19.7 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance; however, [responses reach only 5.2 million of them](#). Likewise, in the last year we observed a new mixed migratory movement towards the United States. A total of 248,284 people were forced to [migrate across the Darien border](#), 150,327 of Venezuelan nationality who left their country or receiving countries due to integration problems, and traveled the road to the north of the continent. The response to both groups require:

1. Increase the response in Venezuela, especially for internally displaced persons, returnees, indigenous people and victims of human trafficking. Recognize vulnerabilities and minimize risks during international transit, derived from the structural conditions of migration and the presence of organized crime, facilitating the creation of humanitarian corridors that save lives.
2. Recognize and minimize the risks during transit associated with the violation of their human rights, the presence of organized crime and the lack of humanitarian assistance, facilitating the creation of humanitarian corridors that save lives.
3. Promote reception actions in the communities and places of transit and destination in dignified conditions and in guarantee of human rights.

4. Incorporate a gender perspective in the responses to prevent and eradicate the various forms of discrimination and specific violence faced by women, girls and LGBTIQ+ persons in the different phases of the migration process.

Migratory regularization, integration and access to human rights. In recent years we have seen the increasing closure and militarization of borders and the hardening of policies that hinder the integration of Venezuelans. Migration policies and visa requirements establish conditions that are very difficult to comply with and lead to irregular migration. Consequently, the various barriers in the processes of integration and access to rights force new migrations through increasingly risky routes. For this reason, we recommend:

1. Strengthen asylum systems and allow people to apply for international protection in cases that require it, with due process guaranteed.
2. Expand regular channels in line with the Global Compact for Migration, which consider the reality of Venezuelan migration, establishing requirements that can be met in view of the difficulties people have in obtaining identity documents and apostilles due to lack of access to consular services.
3. Adapt the regulatory frameworks and promote comprehensive, affordable, and flexible regularization processes that facilitate the integration and contribution of migrants in the receiving countries and societies.
4. Consider resettlement programs as an opportunity for regularization.
5. Develop and strengthen public policies that guarantee social protection through access to and coverage of rights such as health, education and work, regardless of migratory status.
6. Refrain from promoting policies that suspend the guarantee and protection of human rights, including during states of emergency.
7. Exchange lessons learned from state experiences such as Operation Welcome and the Brazilian government's internalization process, the ten-year regularization under the Temporary Statute in Colombia, among others.

Funding. This Conference is an opportunity to meet the goals set and to commit additional resources to achieve them. To provide a coordinated response among stakeholders, States and international organizations:

1. Direct funding to programs and policies that respond to changes in migration profiles and flows. As we are about to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration, we see that a coordinated response is required (i) among countries to support the proposals of the [Declaration and the 2014 Brazil Plan of Action](#); and (ii) among local governments, recognizing their role in the integration and reception processes.
2. Make political and financial support conditional on compliance with international human rights commitments and attention to vulnerable populations based on intersectionality and differential approaches.
3. Strengthen socioeconomic integration through solidarity and associative economy schemes that strengthen the support networks of the diaspora.
4. Ensure and strengthen the participation of Venezuelans, migrant organizations and civil society in regional and intergovernmental decision-making bodies.
5. Emphatically reject and defund institutional policies that promote xenophobia and discrimination.

6. Promote solidarity, welcome, hospitality and reconciliation as principles to enhance the positive aspects of migration and its benefits.
7. To account for the use of international cooperation resources based on the principles of transparency and equal treatment in their allocation and management.

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Signatory organizations

Alboan
Canadian Jesuits International
Entreculturas
Federación Internacional Fe y Alegría
Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) of Migration
Jesuit Refugee Service - JRS
Magis Americas
Red CLAMOR
Red Jesuita con Migrantes - RJM-LAC

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