



Fe y Alegría

Movimiento de Educación Popular Integral y Promoción Social



Canadian  
Jesuits  
International



GIAN  
MIGRATION

**In solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and forced migrants, Jesuit organizations and Clamor Network call for a stronger commitment from the international community at the upcoming International Donors' Conference in Canada.**

We, the undersigned organizations of the Society of Jesus and Clamor Network, address State representatives and delegates to the International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants to provide an account of the reality currently experienced by the [5.6 million](#) Venezuelan forced migrants and refugees, and from the experience of accompanying, defending, and promoting their rights, present recommendations to guide actions and results.

As recognized at the 2020 Donors' Conference, the Venezuelan crisis is multidimensional and joint response efforts cannot be delayed. We insist on a democratic and peaceful solution to the crisis, since as long as the cause persists, migration will continue to be the only way out for many to safeguard their lives. It is necessary to recognize that Venezuelan migration is forced, and therefore, to consider the Venezuelan population as people in need of international protection in the context of mixed and massive flows, which suggests a comprehensive institutional response, especially when the [effects of the COVID-19 health emergency](#) are generating a double impact among the migrant population.

**Migratory reality.** Given the ongoing and precarious nature of migration from Venezuela, we call for greater effort and political commitment on the part of all States. Specifically, it is necessary to:

1. Provide humanitarian assistance to the population in [Venezuela](#), as well as to the "[walkers](#)" who, given the lack of economic support and protection continue to make their way on foot across the continent. Before crossing international borders, they suffer forced internal displacement and are exposed to insecurity by legal and [illegal](#) actors.
2. Recognize [vulnerabilities](#) during *international transit* and minimize associated risks, such as family separation leading to an increase in [unaccompanied](#) children and adolescents, opting for unsafe means of migration, which can lead to the loss of children and adolescents, and the loss of their families. We call for an end to [tragedies at sea](#) and forced disappearances.
3. Approach migration in the *countries of destination* with the highest standards of protection and promote human rights in all policy decisions.
4. Promote the incorporation of a gender perspective 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.
5. Refrain from using the issue of forced Venezuelan migration for electoral purposes or with hate speeches that lead to episodes of violence and foster discrimination and xenophobia.

**Border closures and militarization.** Measures to contain the pandemic with a national security approach have been used to prevent entry into different countries. However, migratory flows do not stop and migrants are forced to enter through non-regular passages, which results in them becoming victims of trafficking and smuggling, refoulement, [detention](#) and massive deportations, as is happening in [Chile](#) and [Brazil](#). In short, those who migrate are facing greater risks which is why we call for:

6. Approach to migration that respects [human rights](#) and meets minimum humanitarian standards such as transit [corridors](#) to prevent migrants from being stranded at borders, reducing the pressure for resources in historically impoverished communities.
7. Adopt the [UNHCR](#) recommendation to recognize the need for international protection of the Venezuelan population. Given low recognition rates, it is important to strengthen asylum systems (operationally, technically, and financially) and guarantee [due process](#).
8. Adapt regulatory frameworks and design public policies for regularization that facilitate the integration of migrants and provide them with [complementary protection](#). We recognize Brazil's efforts through Operation Welcome to integrate the Venezuelan population.
9. Establish regularization processes for those who are in an irregular situation. We encourage countries to develop measures such as the Colombian Temporary Protection Statute and support these [civil society recommendations](#). We also invite States to consider resettlement programs as an opportunity for regularization.
10. Alleviate the difficulties generated by Venezuelan [consular services](#), and the difficulty of access to identity documents that condition regularization.
11. Promote solidarity, hospitality, and welcoming as principles that allow us to recognize and enhance the positive aspects of migration and take advantage of its benefits among all.

**Human Rights.** Respect for human dignity and access to fundamental rights must be *independent of migratory status*. In order to reduce lack of protection and guarantee access to rights, we recommend:

12. **Health.** Promote universal access to COVID-19 vaccines and include migrant populations in national vaccination plans. Recognize other chronic diseases affecting the migrant population, including mental health.
13. **Education.** Ensure the best interests of children and adolescents by seeking mechanisms to ensure their access to a quality education, providing the resources, including technological resources, to make this possible.
14. **Income and Livelihoods.** Strengthen opportunities for income generation and livelihoods. Migrants should also be included in emergency assistance and economic recovery measures, regardless of their status.

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

15. Co-manage resources with civil society organizations that have a track record in accompanying migrant populations and with migrant organizations in the diaspora, as subsidiary and complementary actors.
16. Ensure the participation of civil society in regional intergovernmental bodies such as the Quito Process to contribute their knowledge and experience.
17. Refocus funding considering the social and economic impacts of the pandemic in the region so that the criteria for assistance reflects the new reality and needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees.
18. Offer a coordinated response among regional States and local governments recognizing the role of integration and reception processes, favoring approaches set forth by the [Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action of 2014](#).
19. Make political and financial support conditional on compliance with international human rights commitments and attention to vulnerable populations.
20. Account for the use of international cooperation resources based on the principles of transparency and equal treatment in their allocation and management.

## **Contacts**

María Teresa Urueña B, Jesuit Network with Migrants -LAC  
[incidencia@redjesuitaconmigranteslac.org](mailto:incidencia@redjesuitaconmigranteslac.org)

Lucía Rodríguez, Entreculturas-Fe y Alegría Spain  
[l.rodriguez@entreculturas.org](mailto:l.rodriguez@entreculturas.org)

Giulia McPherson, JRS/USA  
[giulia.mcperson@jrsusa.org](mailto:giulia.mcperson@jrsusa.org)

Norbert Piché, JRS/Canada  
[npiche@jesuites.org](mailto:npiche@jesuites.org)

Oscar Calderón, JRS/LAC  
[oscar.calderon@jrs.net](mailto:oscar.calderon@jrs.net)

## **Signatory organizations**

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