

CONCERNS REGARDING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION IN THE AMERICAS

Refugees, migrants, and forcibly displaced persons in the Americas are living with **the impact of national policies and regional agreements, based on migration management strategies that, by trying to control migration, make it a dehumanizing process.** These regional management decisions do not have a human rights approach and are not based on protection standards, meaning that these measures not only impact those seeking protection, but also affect the receiving and transit communities. Given the continued impact of these decisions on those seeking protection, from the realities that we encounter through our migrant accompaniment and the experiences of the undersigned organizations, we are flagging regional concerns with the intention of preventing and reversing the impacts of these policies.

The recent tragedy in Ciudad Juarez (Mexico) on March 27, along with detention and deportation of thousands of people of diverse nationalities at the southern U.S. border and the southern Mexican border, are evidence of the consequences of **restrictive policies that have been replicated at other borders as an attempt to contain migration.**

Along with the above-mentioned concerns, there are other worrying situations such as the use of high-risk routes, including the Darien Gap and maritime routes on the Caribbean; the confinement of hundreds of people in highly vulnerable situations due to the militarization of border, such as what is currently occurring at the Chile-Peru border; as well as the cruel and degrading treatment reported in immigrant detention centers that can restrict access to asylum and lead to torture.

The root causes that force a person to leave and seek protection persist, despite the efforts to control and contain migration in the Americas. This means that nongovernmental organizations must respond to bridge the protection gaps created by these regional agreements and governmental policies. Our experience of accompanying migrants, refugees, and displaced persons allows us to understand first-hand the complexity of these situations and the impact of migration policies, further legitimizing our ability to notify government actors of the following:

To national governments:

- The agreements between countries have increased the vulnerability of historically discriminated groups, **including women and children who require a differential and intersectional approach to protection.**
- National and regional migration policies must have **a relevant approach for all included** – from the focus of upholding human rights and humanitarian principles to **addressing existing protection gaps.** These policies must include **active participation of civil society and nongovernmental organizations** that deal directly with migration.
- The increased migration control through military forces can result in major human rights violations, as they are not the ideal personnel to manage migration.
- Deportations and forced returns without future access to humanitarian corridors further complicates migration and can result in new migratory flows.
- **The U.S. practice of externalizing its border through migration management agreements with other countries** can further weaken the rights of migrants and force individuals to take more dangerous routes. For example, recent agreements with Guatemala and Colombia to establish U.S. Regional Processing Centers in their territories **effectively constitute safe third country agreements and border externalization.**

- The expectation created by these Centers may result in situations of prolonged confinement due to low institutional capacity as asylum seekers wait for their case to be processed, **turning these locations into forced destinations**.
- Continued insecurity and violence in Guatemala, Colombia, and the region prevent these locations from being “safe third countries.”
- The agreements between the U.S., Spain, Canada, and other countries prioritize labor migration, failing to consider the risk factors experienced by migrants and **further impeding access to the right to seek international protection**.
- The scarce public information limits the participation of civil society in offering recommendations and proposals that favor a better implementation of the agreements. In this sense, **the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees defines the categories of persons in need of international protection**.

To civil society:

- The changing context will challenge the ability of organizations to respond appropriately to the humanitarian situation.
- The probable increase of expelled and deported individuals will require coordinated efforts between accompanying organizations and additional resources to provide comprehensive protection responses.
- Some of the most vulnerable individuals will not meet the requirements set by the agreements, **resulting in more people being confined or taking higher risk routes to find safety**.
- The increase in fear and rejection of migrants limits their opportunities for integration, fails to respect their equal rights, and is **used by state governments to justify restrictive and dehumanizing policies**.

Along with these concerns, we recognize the tradition of various American state governments in welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating refugees, migrants, and displaced persons. Therefore, we are calling upon to all national governments to i) adhere to and strengthen multilateral regional mechanisms to address these realities, ii) **restore the high standards of the region**, and iii) propose solutions with a human rights focus that guarantee international protection and international humanitarian law. In this sense, the safeguarding of the principles of **neutrality, impartiality, and independence** are essential in meeting the mandate of United Nations (UNHCR and IOM).

We understand the need for cooperation and respect for sovereignty in concentrating **regional responses focused on informed, accompanied, and protected migration that is centered on people and their rights**. Basing regional responses on reception, hospitality, and reconciliation is an alternative to the securitized approach with which migration is currently managed.

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Signed:

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Red Jesuita con Migrantes - Latinoamérica y El Caribe
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Endorsed:

1. Albergue Casa del Peregrino, México
2. Albergue de Migrantes La Asunción (Puebla), México
3. Alianza Migrante, Ecuador
4. Asociación Alianza Vencer, Costa Rica
5. Asociación Civil Mujeres en Líneas, Venezuela
6. Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria de Servicios para la Salud (ACCSS), Guatemala
7. Asociación de Empresarios Venezolanos en México, México
8. Asociación de Familiares de Migrantes Desaparecidos de Guatemala (AFAMIDEG), Guatemala
9. Asociación Pop No'j, Guatemala
10. Asociación Rumiñahui, España
11. Asociación WAYRA, Perú
12. Asylum Access México (AAMX) A.C., México
13. Aula Abierta, Regional - América Latina y El Caribe
14. Bloque Latinoamericano sobre Migración, Red Regional - América Latina y El Caribe
15. CAMPAÑA LATINOAMERICANA POR EL DERECHO A LA EDUCACIÓN-CLADE, Regional
16. Campaña por el Derecho a la Educación en México, México
17. Casa Monarca. Ayuda humanitaria al migrante, A.B.P., México
18. Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, United States
19. Center for the Human Rights of Children (CHRC) - Loyola University Chicago, School of Law, United States
20. Centro de Acción y Defensa por los Derechos Humanos (CADEF), Venezuela - Chile
21. Centro de Derechos Humanos, Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Venezuela
22. Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo SJ" (CSMM), Ecuador
23. Centro de Estudios Aplicados para las Migraciones (CEA Migraciones), Chile
24. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Argentina
25. Centro de orientación y educación familiar, Panamá
26. Centro Internacional de Investigación Otras Voces en Educación, Venezuela
27. Centro Montalvo, República Dominicana
28. Centro para la Observación Migratoria y el Desarrollo Social en el Caribe (OBMICA), República Dominicana
29. Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL), Regional
30. Civilis Derechos Humanos, Venezuela



31. Coalición de Derechos Humanos, United States
32. COCASEN Ec., Ecuador
33. Colectivo sin Fronteras, Chile
34. Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), Honduras
35. Comisión Nacional de DDHH de la Federación de Colegios de Abogados de Venezuela del estado Táchira, Venezuela
36. Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento – CODHES, Colombia
37. Corporación Viviendas del Hogar de Cristo, Ecuador
38. Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino A.C. "FM4 Paso Libre", México
39. Dolores Mission Church, United States
40. Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación, ERIC-SJ, Honduras
41. Fe y Alegría, Venezuela
42. Fe y Alegría Panamá, Panamá
43. Formación y Capacitación (FOCA). Red Mesoamericana Mujer Salud y Migración, México
44. Foro Dakar-Honduras, Honduras
45. Frontera de Cristo, United States
46. Fundación Familia Sin Fronteras, Ecuador
47. Fundación para la Justicia (FJEDD), México, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador
48. Fundación Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes Bolivia, Bolivia
49. Grupo de Apoyo en Ecuador al Legado de la Comisión de la Verdad de Colombia, Ecuador
50. Grupo Intersectorial por los derechos humanos, derechos sexuales y reproductivos, Guatemala
51. Grupo Multidisciplinario por la defensa de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos, Guatemala
52. Humberto Vandembulcke, República Dominicana
53. Instituto de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (IDHUCA), El Salvador
54. Instituto de Investigación en Ciencias Socio Humanistas, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala
55. Instituto Internacional Sobre Raza, Igualdad y Derechos Humanos, Regional
56. Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, AC, México
57. Jesuit Social Research Institute- Loyola University New Orleans, United States
58. Jesuits West, United States
59. Kusi Ayllu, Perú
60. La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo, España
61. Latinas en Poder, Transnacional
62. Magis Américas, United States
63. MIREDES Internacional, Regional
64. Misioneras del Inmaculado Corazón de María, Guatemala
65. Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón, Guatemala



66. Movimiento Acción Migrante, Chile
67. MOVIMIENTO SOCIO CULTURAL DE TRABAJADORES HAITIANOS (MOSCTHA), República Dominicana y Haití
68. Observatorio Nacional de Justiça Socioambiental Luciano Mendes de Almeida (OLMA), Brasil
69. ONG Proyecto Tepuy, Chile
70. Organización Trans Reinas de la noche, Guatemala
71. Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, Panamá
72. PAZ Y ESPERANZA, Nacional
73. Piero Trepiccione, Venezuela
74. Programa de Asuntos Migratorios (PRAMI), ITESO Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara, México
75. Programa de Asuntos Migratorios Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México, México
76. Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en derechos humanos (PROVEA), Venezuela
77. PROMEDEHUM, Venezuela
78. RED CLAMOR, Regional - América Latina y El Caribe
79. Red Clamor capítulo Honduras, Honduras
80. Red de Centros Sociales de la CPAL, Regional - América Latina y El Caribe
81. Red de Solidaridad Ignaciana / Ignatian Solidarity Network, United States
82. Red de solidaridad y apostado indígena de la Compañía de Jesús, Regional - América Latina y El Caribe
83. Red Franciscana para Migrantes, Regional
84. Red Jesuita con Migrantes - Guatemala, Guatemala
85. Red MAAD, fundación Afroecuatoriana AZUCAR, Ecuador
86. Red Nacional de Organizaciones Migrantes y promigrantes, Chile
87. Red Sin Fronteras, Regional
88. Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes Argentina y Uruguay, Argentina y Uruguay
89. Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (JRS) México, México
90. Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados Ecuador, Ecuador
91. SJM-UCA, El Salvador
92. Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, Society of Jesus, Italy
93. Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador
94. Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla, México
95. Voices from the Border, United States