

PRESS RELEASE

Human mobility under threat: Demands from Civil Society and Academia at the Global Forum on Migration and Development

Within the framework of the Annual Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which is taking place in September 2025 in Riohacha, La Guajira, Colombia, a small group of 74 people from grassroots migrant and refugee organizations and international organizations working on the diverse dynamics of human mobility, academia, trade unions, as well as women's and youth organizations from five continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, and the Caribbean), were convened to the Forum to discuss with States and relevant authorities on the challenges surrounding migration. Although there remains a lack of communication and coordination with civil society, we wish to express that **the right to human mobility is seriously threatened today.**

It is worrying how the entire institutional architecture of human rights, created after World War II, has been eroded by the racist, fascist, and anti-immigration policies of multiple governments that weaken human rights organizations around the world. Instead of advancing the progressiveness of new rights, we must now fight to prevent their regression and exercise our right to defend them. Through our work, we are familiar with the barriers and violations faced by those who, in an act of courage, decide to embark on a journey in search of a better future, while governments adopt increasingly restrictive policies: they reinforce their borders, criminalize migrants, refugees, and displaced persons, limit their possibilities for integration, and deny them the full exercise of their rights in transit and destination countries.

For all the above reasons, we, the undersigned, wish to express to States, international cooperation agencies, the private sector, academia, and society that, based on our commitment to the dignity and defense of migrants:

1. We are outraged and condemn the **genocide in Gaza**, where people, including children and women, are dying every day because of the war and the vile blockade imposed by Israel on the delivery of humanitarian aid, condemning the Palestinian people to catastrophic hunger, while Europe looks the other way, defending economic and national security interests. Gaza is proof that we have failed as humanity.

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2. We view with anguish the **dangerous geopolitical scenario** in which the great powers divide the world solely for economic interests, while condemning their citizens to war, death, and forced displacement.
3. We urge States to take a firm and proactive stance against **regressive agendas**, fundamentalism, and extremism that seek to criminalize and dehumanize migrants and refugees. These narratives, which have become commonplace in various political and media spheres, not only jeopardize basic human rights but also undermine the principles of democracy and social coexistence. As a result, they affect the global public policies we see under attack today, particularly in the US.
4. We call attention to governments that, out of **political submission** and other interests, are signing bilateral agreements to receive deportees, as if they were bargaining chips, without considering that they are human beings. Anti-migrant policies punish vulnerability while real policies to combat illegal economies are not observed.
5. We consider it essential to focus efforts on preventing gender-based violence and promoting essential knowledge and skills regarding sexuality, as well as gender identification and expression, in a safe, informed, consensual, and discrimination-free manner. These topics should be included into the ongoing training of civil servants and diplomatic personnel abroad, in order to ensure that women and migrants with non-normative gender identities and sexual orientations could report and receive sensitive and responsive support in situations of abuse, discrimination, violence, and/or sexual exploitation.
6. We are concerned about **human trafficking** as a hidden side of migration, based on fraud, coercion, and violence. Unlike safe migration, it exploits vulnerabilities through three elements: displacement, deception, and exploitation. Women and children are the most affected and must therefore be at the center of migration governance. A global framework for cooperation is needed, one that is sensitive to gender and children and involves countries of origin, transit, and destination. Restrictive laws intensify vulnerability and encourage unsafe channels. Global policy must prioritize safe and legal mobility over border control.
7. We call for concrete actions to **guarantee access to fundamental rights** through the implementation of stronger labor protections, access to

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healthcare, and quality housing in a framework of dignity and security. Too many people face low wages, unsafe conditions, and a lack of social protection, while their vital contributions to sustaining life and care remain invisible and undervalued.

8. We call on the international community to officially **recognize the essential, dignified, and human rights nature of care work**, while clearly distinguishing between unpaid care work and the situation of migrant domestic and care workers (MDWs), who constitute a central pillar of the global care economy. States must adopt policies that protect MDWs and refugee women engaged in care work, ensuring decent working conditions and full labor rights. According to the ILO (2018), more than 68 million care workers are in vulnerable situations, most of them migrant women, who face precarious conditions such as low wages, long working hours, and, in many cases, a lack of social protection and basic labor rights.
9. We are pained by the infamous denial **of the triple planetary crisis** composed of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, which in 2024 alone caused 13 million internal displacements in Latin America and the Caribbean (GRID, 2024) and is expected to reach 17 million in 2025 (WB).
10. We raise our concern about **anti-immigration narratives in the media**, which reinforce stigmas, foment xenophobia, and legitimize restrictive policies. These discourses reduce migrants and refugees to numbers or threats, rendering their stories, contributions, and dignity invisible.
11. Finally, we stand in solidarity with our **migrant people and sisters in the US** who face relentless attacks by the Donald Trump administration in workplaces, schools, churches, and hospitals. We tell them that they are not alone and that we support their struggle for dignity and life. We also stand in solidarity with organizations that defend rights around the world, particularly in the US and other countries that are also being persecuted and harassed.

The signatories of this statement will continue to **RESIST** the setbacks in migration policies, **RECLAIM** the guarantee of the human rights of migrants and refugees, and **REALISE** the importance of migration in building more inclusive and diverse societies. Therefore, we continue to organize ourselves as a civil society to demand coherent and supportive responses to the human mobility emergency

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and promote supportive and welcoming communication. The rights of migrants are human rights!

For justice: we are here.

For dignity: we are here.

For peace: we are here.

For rights: we are here.

Nothing about migrants without migrants!

RESIST, RECLAIM, REALISE

Endorsements

Organizations

- Alianza Migrante, Ecuador
- Temblores ONG, Colombia
- Refugiados Unidos, Colombia
- Asociación de Inmigrantes por la Integración Latinoamericana y del Caribe, Chile
- Asociación de Migrantes Organizados y Refugiados, Ecuador
- Asociación Red Itoco, Colombia
- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Argentina
- Centro para la Promoción y Acción Social, Ecuador
- Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP), Vietnam
- Coordinadora Nacional de Inmigrantes, Chile
- Corporación Mujeres Afrodiaspóricas, Chile
- Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento, Colombia
- Fundación Bien Humano, Colombia
- Fundación Cónclave Investigativo de las Ciencias Jurídicas y Sociales, Chile
- Fundación Rayito de Luz Ayuda y Esperanza
- Fundatransvida, Ecuador
- Fundación Familia Migrante - Infomigra
- Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, México
- Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), Vietnam
- Media Response, África
- National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM), Nepal
- Organización Guasimi, Colombia
- Organización Migrantas, Chile
- POURAKHI Nepal

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- Promotoras de Derechos en la Migración
- Red de Periodistas Migrantes, Chile
- Right to be Free, Africa

Regional Networks

- Asociación Mundial para la Comunicación Cristiana-América Latina
- International Domestic Workers Federation, IDWF
- Miredes Internacional (Guatemala, Ecuador, Brasil, Chile y Argentina)
- Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales, OLCA
- Bloque Latinoamericano sobre Migración – Latinoamérica
- Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)- Argentina
- Comisión Argentina para los Refugiados y Migrantes (CAREF)- Argentina
- Red Nacional de Líderes Migrantes en Argentina
- Programa de Migración y Asilo de la Universidad de Lanús-Chile
- Centro de Apoio Pastoral do Migrante (CAMI)-Brasil
- Instituto Migrações e Direitos Humanos- Brasil
- Clínica Jurídica de Migrantes y Refugiados de la Universidad Diego Portales-Chile
- Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social-Caritas Colombia
- Asociación Comité de Familiares de Migrantes Fallecidos y Desaparecidos de El Salvador (COFAMIDE) – El Salvador
- Cristosal, Advancing Human Rights in Central America - El Salvador
- Asociación RUMIÑAHUI. Red de Ecuatorianos en Europa
- Centro de Atención y Desarrollo Integral Migrante (CADIM), Latinas en el Poder- Estados Unidos
- National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
- South Texas Human Rights Center (El Centro de Derechos Humanos Del Sur de Texas)
- Asociación Coordinadora Comunitaria de Servicios para la Salud (ACCSS)- Guatemala
- Asociación de Familiares de Migrantes Desaparecidos de Guatemala (AFAMIDEG)
- Asociación Pop No'j – Guatemala

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- Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP)- Guatemala
- Mesa de Coordinación Transfronteriza Migraciones y Género (MTMG), Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)- Haití, Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)- Honduras,
- Comité de Familiares de Migrantes Desaparecidos del Centro de Honduras (COFAMICENH)-Honduras
- Comité de Familiares de Migrantes Desaparecidos del Progreso (COFAMIPRO)- Honduras
- Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (OCDIH)- Honduras, Casa del Migrante de Saltillo (CDMS)- México
- Casa Monarca Ayuda Humanitaria al Migrante- México, Centro de Atención a la Familia Migrante Indígena (CAFAMI)- México
- Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña-Tlachinollan (CDHM)- México
- Estancia del Migrante González y Martínez- México, FM4 Paso Libre-México
- Formación y Capacitación (FOCA)-México, Global Exchange, Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, AC (IMUMI)- México, Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas Transfronterizos (PUCOMIT)
- Sin Fronteras IAP- México
- Proyecto de Derechos Humanos, Económicos, Sociales y Culturales A.C (Prodesc)-México
- Red de casas de Migrantes y Centros de Derechos Humanos de la zona norte, Pedro Pantoja-México, Red de Mujeres del Bajío AC-México
- Unión Nacional de Organizaciones, Regionales Campesinas Autónomas. A.C. (UNORCA A.C.),
- Voces Mesoamericanas, Acción con Pueblos Migrantes (VM-AP)-México, Red Nacional de Jornaleros y Jornaleras Agrícolas-México
- Servicio Ecuménico para la Dignidad Humana (SEDHU)-Uruguay
- Mesa Transfronteriza Migraciones y Género (MTMG), CTA de Trabajadores
- Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho (FJEDD)- México, Guatemala, El Salvador y Honduras
- Red Mesoamericana Mujer Salud y Migración (RMMSYM)- México y Centroamérica

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- Red Jesuita con Migrantes
Latinoamérica y el
Caribe (RJM LAC)-Regional
- Red Sudamericana para las
Migraciones Ambientales
(RESAMA)- Regional
- Red Internacional de Migración
y Desarrollo, Red de Pueblos
Transnacionales
- Colectivo de organizaciones y
federaciones mexicanas migrante
(COLEFOM)
- Defensoras y defensores de
derechos humanos: Aaron Ortiz
Santos, Elba Coria, Efraín
Jiménez, Federico Fornazier,
Karina Sarmiento, Martha Rojas,
Patricia Zamudio y Berenice
Valdez Rivera