The power of interfaith solidarity for migrant rights, protection and justice in times of crisis

Date: Thursday 7th May
Time: 8:30 - 9:45, 1 hr 15 mins
Location: Church Centre for the UN, 8th Floor
Format: Hybrid (Interpretation in EN/ES/FR)
Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8TBzzvNDSMeSDpjicsG3bQ

Background

Amidst a global climate of polarised instability, the increase of anti-migration sentiment across many parts of the world, and increasing questions around the efficacy and sustainability of the current multilateral system, faith-based communities and organisations have continued to provide crucial frontline support and assistance to the most vulnerable communities and migrants in need. Initiated by discussions between Caritas Internationalis, the Church World Service, Jesuit Refugee Services USA, the NGO Committee on Migration, and the International Catholic Migration Commission, represented by its role hosting the Civil Society Action Committee secretariat, in response to these increasingly difficult global challenges, prominent faith-based organisations across major global religions are coming together during the 2nd International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to showcase their unwavering solidarity together and for migrants and their communities across the world, and pave a way forward together.

The 2nd IMRF will also be held at an unprecedented moment for the international community- one marked by significant questions around efficacy of geopolitical inequality and lack of accountability to international law and norms, and the beginnings of a shift into a multipolar world system. As such, it is a critical opportunity for key international actors in the global faith-based landscape to both assert their unity under the pursuit of human rights for all, as well as understand and explore their role and contributions to the building of a new global governance and cooperation system.

This will be the first part of a two-part session, with the second an inter-faith roundtable building collective strategy for the future.

Objectives

- Express strong, unifying interfaith solidarity for the non-negotiable protection of migrants and their communities, and for an effective global multilateral system that works to ensure equality, rights and dignity for all.
- Showcase the crucial role and power of faith-based communities and work in the implementation of the GCM objectives, and protecting the rights of migrants and their communities.
- Provide key recommendations to decision-makers from across the international faith-based landscape for fulfilling crucial requirements for an effective, rights-based global migration governance and international cooperation system that is future-proof and builds a better world for all.

Thematic Foci:

- Overarching: An interfaith call to urgently center international migration governance and policy in human dignity
- Returns and collective expulsion
- Family unity, ending child detention
- Faith-based support for access to services regardless of status, welcoming communities and cities
- Interfaith solidarity against the weaponisation of religious and 'religious conflict' utilised to drive anti-migration and xenophobic narratives

Co-Organisers

Caritas Internationalis, Civil Society Action Committee (includes some members here), Church World Service, Center for Migration Studies, HIAS, International Catholic Migration Commission, Lutheran World Federation, Mercy International Association, NGO Committee on Migration (includes some members here), Jesuit Refugee Services USA, Scalabrinian International Migration Network, Secours Catholique- Caritas France, World Relief

Run of Show

8:30 - 8:35	**Welcome and Opening Remarks**
8:35 - 8:45 / 8:50	**Opening Keynotes from High Level Speaker** • Msgr. Robert Murphy, Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Permanent Mission of the Holy See • Azza Karam, Lead - Integrity and former Secretary-General of Religions for Peace

8:45 / 8:50 - 9:20	**Panel Discussion** Moderator: Cecilie Kern, Mercy International Association ● Sister Maria Eugenia, Scalabrinian Mission for Migrants and Refugees (SMR) ● Johana Morales Quiroga, Migrants' Pastoral Coordinator - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia ● Noah Gottschalk, Chief External Relations Officer - HIAS (virtual)
9:20 - 9:35	**Open Floor**
9:35 - 9:45	**Key Takeaways and Close** Suggested: ● Victor Genina, Director of Integral Human Development - Caritas Internationalis ● Kelly Ryan, President and North America Regional Director - Jesuit Refugee Services USA