



Photo by David Snyder/CRS

YOUTH ACTS: MIGRATION

empowering young people to act in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world

THE ISSUE:

Nine out of every ten refugees in the world live in developing regions. A small number of developing countries host the majority of the world's 15.7 million refugees.

- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, September 2013

THE CHURCH SAYS:

“Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet’s resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all. Don’t we all want a better, more decent and prosperous life to share with our loved ones? ... Welcoming others means welcoming God in person!”

- Pope Francis

Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2016

as individuals & families, we can...

Pray with scripture!

Read and pray with the stories of migration in scripture. Start with the Book of Exodus! Read the account of the Holy family’s flight into Egypt (Matthew 2: 13-23).

“I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them ...

so I will send you.”
Exodus 3:7-8, 10

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Support local efforts to house and care for immigrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking!

Remembering that the Holy Family fled violence and lived for a time as refugees, we can seek to protect refugee families in the U.S. that have likewise fled violence and persecution. Support your parish or school in their efforts to work with your local Catholic Charities to tutor, assist with job training, provide legal services, shelter, and - most importantly - provide welcome and companionship to migrants in your community.

Advocate for a balanced national policy on migration!

People migrate to the United States to escape violence, poverty, and unemployment, caused in part by policies that have neglected the needs of poor and vulnerable people and lack of investments in rural areas. Many have no choice but to risk everything, including their lives, to leave their homelands and migrate. For example, farmers in El Salvador earn just \$4 per day, half what they can earn per hour in the United States. Go online and join Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP) and, with a click of a button, urge our nation's leaders to enact a balanced policy that addresses the causes and consequences of migration, and gives people a chance to work hard and support their families. (<http://confrontglobalpoverty.org>)

Use social media to support comprehensive immigration reform!

Help spread the word about the need for comprehensive immigration reform! Post on Facebook and tweet your thoughts with links to Catholics Confront Global Poverty online action alerts. Start by using some of these posts and tweets in the highlighted box.

GIVE the Gift of Hope!

Donate to Catholic Relief Services to improve lives of migrants and refugees around the world! gifts.crs.org

SPREAD THE WORD!

TWEET

Invite others to learn more about migration and to become advocates!

Sample tweet:

Let's address the root causes of why people migrate in the first place— poverty, unemployment, violence. Let's #BringHomeDignityForMigrants @CatholicRelief @USCCB @YourMemberofCongress

POST

Encourage friends on Facebook to advocate for migrants and to help end global poverty!

Sample post:

What are the conditions that force many people to migrate? As Catholics, how can we respond justly? CRS's Mary DeLorey explains: youtu.be/oD033OxV2vI

as a community, make an impact...

Observe World Migrants Day (December 18), National Migration Week (January)!

Join together with other young people and create an awareness day or week around the listed national observances. Use online resources and get creative with: bulletin/school announcements, education booths, speakers from your local Catholic Charities, film viewings, prayer services, a family night to explore the realities of refugee families via role-play, and suggested action steps for personal and communal actions to 'welcome the stranger'. For more ideas and resources, consult the websites of: Catholic Relief Services, USCCB Migration and Refugee Services, USCCB Justice for Immigrants (JFI) Campaign, Jesuit Refugee Services, the Archdiocese of Chicago, United Nations, and Education for Justice (Center of Concern).

National Migration Week, USCCB (January)
www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/

World Refugee Day, United Nations and USCCB (June 20)
www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/
www.usccb.org/about/resettlement-services/world-refugee-day.cfm

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, United Nations (July 30)
www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/

International Migrants Day, United Nations (December 18)
www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/

Raise awareness and compassion via social media!

Join together with other young people to raise a voice of compassion toward migrants through social media. Discuss ideas for posting and tweeting about the realities of people forced to migrate- as immigrants, refugees, or trafficked persons. Through a responsible use of social media, you can put a face on the strangers among us and our call to provide welcome.

Create a Catholics Confront Global Poverty Sign-Up Drive!

The Catholic Church supports the right of people to remain in their home country in safety and with conditions worthy of human dignity. Additionally, the Church supports the protection and promotion of the rights of those who have little alternative but to migrate or flee their homes. Educate and activate your community to urge our nation's leaders to address the root causes of poverty, enact a balanced policy that addresses the causes and consequences of migration, and gives people a chance to work hard and support their families. Create a Catholics Confront Global Poverty sign-up drive in your community using the online resources.

confrontglobalpoverty.org



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Do you have ideas – for young people, families, youth groups, and faith communities - that can be added to this resource? If so, contact us at education@crs.org.