



DECLARATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ON PERSONS FROM VENEZUELA THAT REQUIRE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

More than 50 delegates from civil society organizations from 12 countries in the Americas, all members of the Venezuelan human mobility group, met on September 18 and 19, 2018 in Washington, D.C. with the objective of creating a civil society plan of action. This plan is centered on the guarantee of human rights for the people who are forced to leave Venezuela and require national and international protection (migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and people at risk of statelessness). We agreed on the following points:

1. To recognize that the massive outflow of people from Venezuela is motivated by a humanitarian emergency caused by the breakdown of democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as violations of fundamental rights such as the right to life, humane treatment, personal liberty, health, food, education, among others. This outflow of people generates a human mobility crisis with great needs for national and international protection as well as humanitarian assistance.
2. To highlight the actions implemented by the States of the Americas by responding and devising solutions regarding the situation of people in need of international and national protection. However, it is evident that these solutions not only lack a human rights-centered approach, but have also been insufficient and sometimes restrictive against the magnitude of the migrant and refugee flows.

3. To highlight that different States in the region have held meetings and created spaces to develop collective responses and shared solutions to the massive arrival of migrants and refugees coming from Venezuela to different countries of the Americas¹. However, future encounters should be articulated in terms of strengthening existing international and regional frameworks of protection: especially the application of the refugee definition from the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, as well as the obligations under the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights.

4. To encourage States to be governed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) 2/18 Resolution Forced Migration of Venezuelans of March 2, 2018 and the United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) Guidance Note on the Outflow of Venezuelans of March, 2018, which demonstrate the large number of people forced to flee Venezuela as a result of human rights violations, violence, insecurity, and political persecution. These instruments largely address the Venezuelan human mobility crisis, providing solid international refugee law arguments and establishing the principle of *non-refoulement* as a cornerstone.

5. To request States to accept the principles and obligations set forth in the Joint Statement for the development of a regional response to the massive arrival of Venezuelans to the Americas of the IACHR, and committees, organs and special procedures of the United Nations (UN) of September 5, 2018. This is not only an important contribution based on the guarantee and protection of human rights, but also due to the incorporation of the principle of shared responsibility of States that provides them with concrete measures to address this forced migration crisis.

6. To demand that States respond to the Venezuelan migration and refugee crisis based on their international commitments and responsibilities derived from the principles and norms of: the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, and the subsequent regional instruments such as the 1994 San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons, the 2004 Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America and the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, which establishes “a framework of cooperation and regional solidarity to strengthen the international protection of refugees, displaced and stateless persons in Latin America and the Caribbean,” as well as the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

7. To urge that States’ responses regarding the Venezuelan migration and refugee flows take into consideration the processes of development of the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Compact for Migration and in particular the “100 Points of Brasilia” which points to initiatives, experiences, and practices carried out by one or more Latin American and Caribbean countries as contributions to the development of the pacts.

¹ Such as the meeting of the Andean Council of Migration Authorities of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru on August 29th, 2018; the Regional Technical Meeting and Declaration of Quito about the human mobility of Venezuelan citizens in the Americas held in Quito, Ecuador on September 3 and 4, 2018; and the Special Session convened by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on September 5, 2018

8. To recognize the joint statement of the Offices of the Ombudsperson of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Ecuador as a valuable contribution regarding the protection of the rights of Venezuelan people in context of human mobility. We highlight the fundamental role of the different Ombudsmen in the region regarding the protection of human rights of migrants and people in need of international protection.

9. To emphasize that the incorporation of rigorous standards in terms of national and international protection are an essential element in making the Venezuelan human mobility crisis an opportunity to strengthen the guarantee and protection framework of human rights for migrants, refugees and people in risk of statelessness in the region in such a way that future crises can be dealt with more efficiently.

10. To demand States to process applications for the recognition of refugee status in a reasonable time, applying both the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1984 Cartagena Declaration. Likewise, States should adopt long-term migratory regularization means, which must respect the basic principles of *non-refoulement*, due process and assure equal and nondiscriminatory access to rights. These procedures should be accessible (without any obstacles or costs), flexible and expeditious. Adopting such a response helps to reduce risks of human rights violations such as human trafficking, discrimination, xenophobia, and contributes to a better integration of the migrant and refugee populations in their host communities.

11. To emphasize that the lack of identity documents combined with the implementation of restrictive measures to access the right to a nationality of foreigners' children in a country creates a risk of statelessness in the region. States must take appropriate measures to prevent this phenomenon, including the adoption of the safeguards established in the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

12. To require States of the Americas to recognize, guarantee and protect the rights of those particularly affected and develop differentiated approaches of protection for children and adolescents, women, LGBTI persons, elderly people, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, ROM, and any other person or group of people in a situation of special or added vulnerability.

13. To note that it is essential to promote and recognize the direct, diverse and proactive participation of migrants and refugee organizations in the adoption of measures and plans regarding the observance of their rights on both the regional and national levels.

14. To vehemently reject the adoption of regressive measures by States, massive deportations or deportations held without due process guarantees, the closing of borders, the politicization of the situation of forced migration from Venezuela, the violation of the principles of non-intervention and the prohibition of the use of force, xenophobic practices and any other type of action or measures that endanger the life and dignity of Venezuelan migrants and refugees and of their host communities.

15. To urge States to formulate solutions to this situation using the framework of a good faith dialogue that incorporates peaceful and lasting solutions and respect democratic principles.

16. To highlight the efforts and response of civil society in facing the grave situation of migrants and refugees in the region, which, among many other actions, has facilitated access to humanitarian aid and basic services, access to justice, as well as local integration. In pursuit of this, and with the objective of strengthening the work we do in the field regarding the protection of migrants and refugee's rights, we have created a Plan of Action from civil society and commit to continue monitoring and influencing public policies that affect migrants and refugees.

17. To call on the different sectors of society in the Americas and the Caribbean to respond in a fraternal and solidary manner to the difficult situation of the Venezuelan people.

18. To propose an open dialogue between all stakeholders for the elaboration of a regional and coordinated response in which the principle of shared responsibility is the main focus. This process should be translated into a plan of action that includes the States, international organizations, civil society, Offices of the Ombudspersons, the migrant and refugee population, and all stakeholders involved.

19. To call on donors to provide funds for humanitarian responses and the strengthening of institutions that address the needs of the population as well as the formulation of long-term solutions. We recommend that in relation to the funds needed to overcome this crisis, there should be a planning process for the allocation of resources, which should include the active and proactive participation of civil society. The destination of funds should be based on good international practices and existing declarations of national cooperation as well as an assessment of criteria of proportionality in relation to the size of the population that each country receives, the capacity of resources of the host communities and the situation of inequity of the host countries that hinders an integral response to migrants and refugees. The destination of funds must have a focus on rights and action without harm that avoids rivalry behavior in host communities.

Washington D.C., September 19, 2018

Signatory organizations of the Venezuelan Human Mobility Group

Regional

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

Alianza Americas

Asylum Access

International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights

Latin American Working Group

Mercy Corps

Oxfam

Plan Internacional en las Américas

Red de Apoyo Legal para los Refugiados de las Américas (RALRA).

Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (JRS LAC)

Synergía - Initiatives for Human Rights

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

Women's Link Worldwide

Argentina

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
Comisión Argentina para Refugiados y Migrantes (CAREF)

Brazil

Conectas Direitos Humanos
Instituto Migrações e Direitos Humanos (IMDH)
Missão Paz
Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados Brasil (SJMR)

Chile

Clínica Jurídica de Migrantes y Refugiados de la Universidad Diego Portales

Colombia

Caribe Afirmativo
Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES)

Ecuador

Misión Scalabriniana

United States of America

Visión Democrática, Diáspora Venezolana

Mexico

Sin Fronteras IAP

Perú

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos
Encuentros Servicio Jesuita de la Solidaridad
Instituto de Democracia y Derechos Humanos de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (IDEHPUCP)
Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya

Dominican Republic

Centro para la Observación Migratoria y el Desarrollo Social en el Caribe (OMBICA)

Venezuela

Acción Solidaria
Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello
Centro de Justicia y Paz - CEPAZ
Comisión de Justicia y Paz de la Conferencia Episcopal de venezolana"
Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA)
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados Venezuela
Vicaría de Derechos Humanos de Caracas

Adhesions of Organizations to the Declaration

A.C. María Estrella de la Mañana, Venezuela
Abogadas y Abogados para la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos, México
Acceso a la Justicia, Venezuela
ALAPLAF, Venezuela
Alimenta La Solidaridad, Venezuela
Asociación Mujeres en Positivo por Venezuela, Venezuela
Asociación Civil Mujeres en Línea, Venezuela

Asociación civil Venezuela en Ecuador AC , Ecuador
Asociación Larense de Planificación Familiar, Venezuela
Asylum Access México (AAMX) A.C. , México
Aula Abierta, Venezuela
Caracas Mi Convive, Venezuela
Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Metropolitana , Venezuela
Centro de Estudios Migratorios CEM-Ecuador, Ecuador

Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos - PROMSEX, Perú
 Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM), Ecuador
 Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH-RD), República Dominicana
 CEPAZ- REDAC ECUADOR, Ecuador
 Civilis Derechos Humanos, Venezuela
 Clínica Jurídica Alaíde Foppa de personas Refugiadas, Mexico
 Colectivo de Abogados "José Alvear Restrepo", Colombia
 Colectivo de Género Acción y Política, Ecuador
 Colectivo Kyntiñan, Ecuador
 Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Políticas de La Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela
 Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Federación de Colegios de Abogados de Venezuela del Estado Tachira , Venezuela
 Comisión para los Derechos Humanos del Estado Zulia (Codhez), Venezuela
 Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Ecuador
 Conciencia Ciudadana A.C , Venezuela
 Convite AC, Venezuela
 Defiende Venezuela, Venezuela
 Dignidad y Justicia en el Camino A.C, México
 Equipo de Reflexión, investigación y comunicación , Honduras
 Espacio Público, Venezuela
 EXCUBITUS Derechos Humanos en Educación, Venezuela
 FIAN México, México
 Fundación Colonia de Venezolanos en República Dominicana, Venezuela
 Fundación Ecuatoriana Equidad, Ecuador
 Fundación Nueva Gobernanza , Colombia
 Fundación para la prevención de la violencia domestica hacia la mujer, Venezuela
 Hombres por la Eguidad e Igualdad, Venezuela
 Humano Derecho Radio Estación, Venezuela
 Mesa Nacional para las Migraciones y Refugiados en RD (MENAMIRD), República Dominicana
 MMFAM (Movimiento Migrantes y Familiares), Ecuador
 Monitor Social A.C. (Edo. Nueva Esparta) , Venezuela
 Movimiento de Venezolanos en República Dominicana (MOVERD), República Dominicana
 MUJERES CONTANDO, Colectivo de Derechos y Comunicación, Ecuador
 Nuvadis, Colombia
 Observatorio de derechos humanos de la universidad de los Andes , Venezuela
 Observatorio Venezolano de Prisiones, Venezuela
 ObstVzolanosDDHHde las Mujeres, Venezuela
 Oficina juridica para la mujer, Bolivia
 ONG Redes Ayuda / Humano Derecho, Venezuela
 Organización Diálogo Diverso , Ecuador
 Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC), Colombia
 Pacto por la Niñez y Adolescencia, Ecuador
 Pastoral Social Cáritas Ecuador, Ecuador
 Paz y Esperanza, Perú
 Prepara Familia, Venezuela
 Proiuris, Venezuela
 Promoción Educación y Defensa en DDHH, PROMEDEHUM, Venezuela
 Propia Cuenta, Venezuela
 Proyecta Ciudadanía A.C , Venezuela
 Proyecto de Extensión: Visibilización y Educación de los Derechos Humanos de la Facultad de Educación de la Universidad de Carabobo, Venezuela
 Psicólogos Sin Fronteras Venezuela, Venezuela
 Red 20/20, Venezuela
 Red Venezolana de Mujeres Positivas RVM+, Venezuela
 Redes Ayuda, Venezuela
 Revista SIC del Centro Gumilla, Venezuela
 Red CLAMOR Ecuador
 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Regional
 Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes , Chile
 Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados Colombia, Colombia
 Sociedad Hominis Iura (SOHI), Venezuela
 Unión Nacional de Educadores UNE , Ecuador
 Unión Vecinal para la Participación Ciudadana A.C , Venezuela
 Vicaría de los DDHH de la Arquidiócesis de Barquisimeto, Venezuela

Adhesions of Individuals to the Declaration

Adriana Guerrero , Peru
 Aida Mireya Aular Montes, Venezuela
 Alberto Fuenmayor , Venezuela
 Aldanis Pérez, Uruguay
 Alfredo Michelena, Canada
 Ana Edith Rojad, Colombia
 Ana Maria Matinez , España
 Ana Ramirez, United States
 Ana Yeresa Perez, Venezuela
 Armando Coello, Venezuela
 Bárbara C.Rodríguez A., Chile
 Beatriz Elena Prado Osuna, Perú
 Benedicto Cervantes , Ecuador
 Brenda Garrido, USA
 candida gimenez, Argentina .
 Carlos Prado, Venezuela
 Carlos Prado, Venezuela
 Cristina de Pablo de Pablo, España
 Daniela Salazar. Co-Directora Clínica Jurídica
 Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador
 Diana Milena Sanmiguel Osorio , Venezuela
 Diana Sanmiguel , Venezuela
 Edmirya González , EEUU
 Elena Graterol, Ecuador
 Erick Histol, Venezuela
 Francisco Marcano T., Venezuela-España
 Genoveva Marquez, Estados Unidos
 Graciela Suárez, Estados Unidos
 Griselda Barroso Morgado, Venezuela
 Hugo Ramón Quintero Gómez, Colombia
 Iruña Urruticoechea, Venezuela
 Jean Carlos Guerrero Meléndez, Venezuela
 Jesús Cerrada, Venezuela
 Jesús Saavedra, Venezuela
 Jorge Luis Caña Guzman , Venezuela
 José Rafael Pineda Segovia, Venezuela
 Judeisy Castro, Perú
 Julio Javier Copo Terrés, México
 Karina Rivadeneira Roura, Ecuador
 Karinya Francis, Estados Unidos
 Katerinne Díaz, Ecuador
 Lisdeth Gonzalez , España
 Liz Nazareth Mercado Hurtado, Ecuador
 Lorena Liendo Rey , Venezuela
 Lorena Pérez , Ecuador
 Ludmila Palacios, Venezuela
 Luis palma, Venezuela
 Luisa Feline Freier, Perú
 Luris Velásquez , Estados Unidos
 Ma. Alexandra Sordo , Venezuela
 Magaly Huggins, Venezuela
 Maria Pilar Garcia Guadilla, Venezuela
 Maria Rocio Bedoya, Colombia
 Mauricio Reyes Betancourt, profesor Universidad
 Nacional de Colombia. , Colombia
 Mercedes De Freitas, Venezuela
 Mergui Katherine Ozar Arrabal , Venezuela
 Moirah Sánchez, Uruguay
 Octavio De Lamo, Venezuela
 Óscar Mora, Venezuela
 Oswaldo criollo, Ecuador
 Pablo Araújo , Ecuador
 Paola Moreno Núñez , Ecuador
 Paola Pelletier Quiñones, República Dominicana
 Pedro Quijada, EEUU
 Pilar Rivas Castro , Ecuador
 Raiza Sánchez, Venezuela
 Ramon Alejandro Ascanio , Venezuela
 Raquel Vidal, Venezuela
 Rodolfo Corona, Venezuela
 Rodrigo Varela Torres, Ecuador
 Rogério Aguiar, Colombia
 Ronel Ramos , Venezuela
 Rosario Utreras, Ecuador
 Sabina Capasso T, Venezuela
 Sonia Hercilia Guanipa Rodríguez, USA
 Sonia Perez R, Venezuela
 Susana Romero, Venezuela
 Tibisay Betancourt Parra, Venezuela
 Vanessa Cartaya, Venezuela