



CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION PLAN ON PERSONS LEAVING VENEZUELA WHO REQUIRE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

November 16, 2018

Road map for a coordinated response with a human rights perspective to the growing flows of persons leaving Venezuela in the Americas

PREAMBLE

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is experiencing a humanitarian emergency brought about by the breakdown of democratic institutions and the rule of law, hyperinflation, and a serious human rights crisis. The human rights crisis affects civil and political rights – including but not limited to serious restrictions on the freedom of expression, arbitrary arrests, and torture – as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, particularly food shortages and a generalized scarcity of health services and medicines. The combination of all these situations keeps the inhabitants of Venezuela from being able to meet their basic needs, and is endangering their life, security, and liberty.

The humanitarian emergency has intensified the flow of persons from Venezuela as they seek to make their way to different countries. In these movements they have encountered restrictive responses by States, and are exposed to different types of discrimination, denial of rights, and other situations that aggravate their situations of vulnerability.



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A coordinated regional response with a human rights-based approach is needed, requiring all the actors involved to strengthen, improve, and, as necessary, develop new mechanisms, both domestic and regional, that stem from the principle of shared responsibility, to address the situation of those persons who have been compelled to leave Venezuela. The Working Group on Venezuelan Human Mobility, comprised of civil society organizations in the Americas, has drawn up this Action Plan proposing courses of action to help respond to the mounting crisis of migrants and refugees coming from Venezuela.

The Action Plan is the result of a collective effort; its objective is to propose regional, state, and multilateral responses in order to attain a regional framework informed by a human rights perspective to confront the crisis of the international forced displacement of Venezuelans in the region.

The Action Plan addresses key aspects and proposes specific actions for all the actors involved in the flows of migrants and refugees, including the States, international allies and international organizations, and civil society, which includes international, regional, national, and local NGOs, churches, academia, the business sector, and the media.

CHAPTER ONE

Characterizing the dynamics of forced displacement of persons from Venezuela

The flows of displaced persons leaving Venezuela are made up of both migrants and refugees, considering refugees as defined in the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and the expanded definition as set forth in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (Cartagena's expanded definition). That definition has been adopted by a large number of states in the region in their national legislations, and by the organs of the inter-American system, as an operational definition with respect to the right to seek and receive asylum in one's status as a refugee.

Accordingly, it must be recognized, regionally and in a coordinated manner, that the flows of persons leaving Venezuela include persons who are being forced to leave the country and who require international protection and that all of them require means to ensure their regular stay in the destination countries so as to enable them to access social rights and become integrated into the host communities.

We ask the States of the region:

1. To use the expanded definition of the Cartagena Declaration for those persons leaving Venezuela who apply for recognition as refugees.
2. To reaffirm and strengthen their decision to recognize the highest standards of international protection for those persons who are forced to leave Venezuela due to



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situations such as human rights violations (civil and political as well as economic, social, and cultural), violence and insecurity, and the weakening of the rule of law and the democratic institutional framework.

3. To reaffirm the validity of the principles and provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and the applicable regional and international instruments on refugees, such as the Cartagena Declaration, the New York Declaration, and the Brazil Declaration and Action Plan.
4. To recognize and unify criteria for granting international protection that answers to the dynamics of displacement from Venezuela.
5. To maintain a public statistical record of requests for the recognition of refugee status, approvals, rejections, and reconsiderations, broken down using a differential approach.
6. To guarantee channels for obtaining regular immigration status through regional agreements or mechanisms such as humanitarian visas, authorizations to stay, or any other that ensures a regular and lasting stay.
7. The mechanisms for a regular stay should take into account the following characteristics: they should be lasting, respect the principle of legal certainty, and allow for the exercise of rights, with special emphasis on the right to work. And procedures for applying for such stays should be accessible, swift, and low-cost.
8. To recognize that providing for regular status has positive consequences, as it makes it possible to identify persons and reduces the risks, *inter alia*, of human trafficking, labor exploitation, and forced recruitment.
9. To guarantee the principle of *non-refoulement* in respect of all persons, independent of their immigration status.
10. To foster supranational channels to have joint, unified, and coordinated responses with respect to access to territory and regular stays.
11. To strengthen the States' domestic institutions, especially engaging in efforts for inter-institutional coordination for an integral response, with a differential approach mindful of age, gender, and diversity (hereinafter: "differential approach").
12. To involve other governmental and non-governmental offices that work on issues of migrants, refugees, and human rights in articulating responses.
13. To strengthen the process of generating statistics, broken down using a differential approach, to establish appropriate public policies and ensure access to information.
14. To provide accessible information on the procedures implemented for obtaining regular status, taking into account the differentiated information that some persons may require.
15. To take up anew the good practices of some States that have adopted criteria that recognize the need to provide international protection to persons displaced from Venezuela.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:



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1. To design and carry out communication campaigns on the flows of persons from Venezuela and the legal characterization of those flows.
2. To incorporate in our communications the characterization “persons in need of international protection” to describe Venezuelan migrants and refugees.
3. To generate and disseminate information about the legal characterization of the flows of persons from Venezuela.
4. To generate information, to support all the actors involved, regarding the standards of international protection applicable to the flows of persons from Venezuela, taking into account the specific human rights standards on population groups facing greater vulnerability.
5. To advocate using all the legal mechanisms and remedies available, national and international, with respect to how to legally characterize the flows of persons from Venezuela, so that they are recognized as refugees in keeping with the expanded definition of refugee in the Cartagena Declaration.
6. To continue pooling efforts with academia with a view to helping to develop research and assessments for a correct understanding of the unique nature of the mobility of persons from Venezuela in the region, and for the correct legal characterization of the flows of migrants and those in need of international protection.
7. To offer input to the receiving States about the scope of their international obligations as regards migrants and refugees in relation to the flows of persons displaced from Venezuela, with a differential approach.
8. To generate assessments, analyses, and proposals from academic perspectives to understand the scale and evolution of the migrant and refugee flows.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To adopt a legal characterization of refugees in keeping with the expanded definition of the Cartagena Declaration in their reports and press releases when referring to the flows of persons from Venezuela.
2. To make pronouncements on the obligation of the States to ensure a human rights-based response, with a differential and intersectional approach, including respect for the principle of equality and non-discrimination.
3. To make pronouncements on the procedures for pursuing recognition of refugee status, regular immigration status, and other forms of complementary protection.
4. To generate opportunities for coordination with respect to the legal characterization of persons leaving Venezuela and the state obligations that arise with respect to them.
5. Not to propose refugee camps as an institutionalized solution.
6. To generate mechanisms for the participation of civil society in the initiatives taken concerning migrants and refugees.



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7. To continue monitoring and evaluating the dynamics of flows of migrants and refugees from Venezuela in the region, as well as the States' responses to the crisis of persons displaced from Venezuela.
8. To develop procedures and special protocols for receiving and protecting the non-Venezuelan population included in these mixed migratory flows and who were seeking asylum or refugee status in Venezuela, guaranteeing the principle of *non-refoulement* to their country of origin, and the status of international protection in the receiving country.

CHAPTER TWO

Crosscutting actions with a differential approach

In addition to the specific vulnerabilities that accompany persons forced to migrate, refugees, and persons in the context of human mobility in general there are population groups in which multiple factors of discrimination converge, such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and age, intersectionally compounding their levels of vulnerability and impairing their enjoyment and exercise of their human rights.

The dynamics of the flows of migrants and refugees from Venezuela are no exception; to the contrary, this crisis has shown how different groups suffer discrimination, neglect, invisibility, and violence differently. Accordingly, it is imperative that every action, decision, public policy, and response by all the actors involved in responding to the crisis of migrants and refugees, especially from Venezuela, take into account the differential approach and the intersection of one or more of these factors with their already-vulnerable status as migrant or refugee. Bearing in mind that these factors are related to situations of discrimination and structural exclusion, a human rights-based response with a differential approach should also consider the specific vulnerabilities that accompany these groups from their country of origin, which are aggravated in light of the discrimination and exclusion to which they may continue to be exposed in the transit or destination countries.

A. Crosscutting actions

We ask the States of the region:

1. To take into account the specific factors of each population group that expose them to suffering violence, discrimination, neglect, and/or being made invisible in a different way or to a greater degree than the rest of the population, so as to design public policies with a differential approach that help prevent human rights violations in each population group.
2. To use the Heightened Risk Identification Tool designed by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).



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3. To ensure the participation of the different population groups in vulnerable situations in decision-making, the framing of public policies, and any other response that affects them in a differentiated manner.
4. To make a comprehensive and differentiated assessment of the vulnerabilities of each group that is vulnerable and at risk; and identify and set in motion the affirmative actions required for overcoming those vulnerabilities.
5. To ensure that the information produced on the flows of migrants and refugees is detailed and differentiated for each population group.
6. To train state agents, including immigration and security agents, and raise their awareness of the specific needs of each vulnerable population group.
7. To ensure the protection of civil society, including capacity building for demanding rights and securing timely, differential information adapted to the different contexts of migrants and refugees.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. Make a mapping of organizations that work on issues of the different population groups in vulnerable situations that identifies the organizations, their work, location, as well as any data on the migrant and refugee population – especially Venezuelan – they may have. Identify the basic categories with the information in hand as well as the information gaps.
2. Support the grassroots organizations that work with different vulnerable population groups to demand their rights.
3. Reinforce their presence at borders and in host communities that receive large flows of migrants and refugees to give differentiated attention, prioritizing the most vulnerable population groups.
4. Provide more individual support to migrants and refugees with a differential approach.
5. Work with the media and other social actors with a capacity for mass communication to prevent hate speech and to combat stereotypes and distortions regarding the migrant and refugee community, especially the groups rendered vulnerable by multiple factors.
6. Together with private businesses, other nongovernmental organizations, humanitarian institutions, the religious sectors, and civil society in general, seek resources for lobbying, promotion, dissemination, and tasks involved in supporting campaigns, plans, programs, and projects to defend the human rights of all the population groups that require differentiated attention.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To enter into strategic partnerships with other international agencies and organizations, especially with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),



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the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

2. To train state agents to use UNHCR's Heightened Risk Identification Tool.
3. To monitor the indicators for discrimination and xenophobia, as well as other forms of intolerance that accompany the flows of migrants and refugees in all stages of their displacement.
4. To submit reports on discrimination, crimes, and expressions of hate directed against the migrant and refugee population, with a differential approach, paying special attention to gender-based violence, including rape.
5. To evaluate the expressions of xenophobia and their impact on protecting and guaranteeing rights in the different contexts of migrants and refugees.
6. To become involved with networks of civil society organizations that carry out actions to protect the rights of different population groups, with the objective of creating strategic partnerships with various sectors based on their respective roles and responsibilities in society in order to eradicate feelings of xenophobia and discrimination in the communities that interact with the flows of migrants and refugees.

B. Population groups that require differentiated attention

We identify the following population groups, in what does not purport to be an exhaustive list, that face specific conditions of vulnerability, as well as the specific and differentiated actions that they require.

B.1 Women and girls

We ask the States of the region:

1. To guarantee easy and safe access to secular health services broadly speaking, including sexual and reproductive health and mental health, in conditions of equality and non-discrimination against women, adolescent females, and girls among the migrants and refugees.
2. To prevent, investigate, and punish any form of sexual violence or gender-based violence against migrant or refugee women, adolescent females, or girls at any stage of displacement and perpetrated by anyone.
3. To incorporate a gender and intersectional perspective in all actions and responses around the migrant and refugee crises, making it possible to understand the situations and needs of girls and women based on their other social constructs such as ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and religious creed, among others.
4. To implement adequate mechanisms for identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking, whether for sexual exploitation or labor exploitation, as well as forced marriage, domestic servitude, and forced recruitment, with a human rights perspective and a gender



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perspective. This includes guaranteeing the principle of *non-refoulement* and the obligation to grant a period for reflection to victims of human trafficking.

5. To implement programs for detecting human trafficking networks, promoting collaboration, support, and reporting in the communities, leading to the dismantling of such networks.
6. To ensure access to justice and full reparation for migrant and refugee women who are victims of human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, or any other form of exploitation.
7. To heed international standards on granting regular immigration status as a measure of reparation to victims of human trafficking.
8. To use the differential approach to age, gender, and diversity in designing all initiatives for protection and responses related to sexual and gender violence.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To carry out information campaigns on health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, in those places where large numbers of migrants and refugees move through or are to be found.
2. To document the obstacles in accessing health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, faced by migrant and refugee women, adolescent females, and girls, including trans women.
3. To consider the sanitary needs of women in the humanitarian assistance that is provided.
4. To offer complete legal accompaniment to victims of human trafficking, forced prostitution, or any other form of gender-based exploitation or violence.
5. To generate strategies for protecting migrant and refugee women, girls, and adolescent females from gender-based violence.
6. To work with media outlets to avoid sexualization or any kind of stereotype based on gender associated with Venezuelan women, girls, and adolescent females.
7. To convene medical organizations of volunteers to deploy health brigades in areas with large numbers of sex workers for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and to address issues of sexual, reproductive, and mental health.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To urge the States to provide basic secular sexual and reproductive health services, free of charge, in conditions of equality and non-discrimination.
2. To promote activities for prevention and response for survivors of gender-based violence; take into account and strengthen the Safe Spaces Network promoted by UNHCR.
3. To offer the States technical support that enables the health sector – from below – to train itself to provide differential, quality care to migrants and refugees with a gender and human rights perspective.



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B.2 LGBTIQ+ population

We ask the States of the region:

1. To apply a differentiated approach that takes into account age, gender, and diversity in designing all initiatives for protection and responses related to sexual and gender-based violence.
2. To recognize, facilitate, and create flexible conditions for obtaining documents that conform to each person's self-perceived gender.
3. To train all armed forces and police units and other authorities to keep them from harassing, persecuting, stigmatizing, and/or stereotyping LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees, especially to prevent violence against such persons in the context of sex work.
4. To train and raise awareness among immigration and police authorities, as well as local governments, about LGBTIQ+ rights.
5. To apply the UNHCR guidelines on international protection for LGBTIQ+ persons.
6. To ensure that all state personnel are familiar with and implement the international and national guidelines for the protection of LGBTIQ+ persons.
7. To see to it that cases of resettlement of LGBTIQ+ persons is to safe environments, without obstacles to accessing their rights.
8. To ensure easy and safe access to sexual and reproductive health services in conditions of equality and non-discrimination, including access to treatment for sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS and HIV.
9. To apply an intersectional approach that makes it possible to understand the situations and needs of LGBTIQ+ persons based on their other social constructs such as ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and religious creed, among others.
10. To promote advocacy campaigns with civil society to promote inclusion in transit and destination territories without discrimination or exclusion.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To carry out campaigns to raise awareness on non-discrimination and the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in the context of human mobility.
2. To monitor cases of violence against LGBTIQ+ persons, including police violence.
3. To carry out information campaigns on available sexual and reproductive health services.
4. To convene medical organizations of volunteers to deploy health brigades in areas with large numbers of sex workers to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and to address issues of sexual, reproductive, and mental health.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:



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1. To urge the States to provide basic health services, including secular sexual and reproductive health services, free of charge, in conditions of equality and without discrimination, to the LGBTIQ+ migrant and refugee community.
2. To provide information and technical assistance to the States in relation to international protection and other complementary forms of protection due to violence directed against and persecution of LGBTIQ+ persons.
3. To generate awareness in the States and the general population as to the challenges of protection, the specific vulnerabilities, and the violence LGBTIQ+ persons face in the origin, transit, and destination countries.
4. To assist the LGBTIQ+ rights organizations that engage in binational activism with the States of origin.

B.3 Children and adolescents

We ask the States of the region:

1. To implement technological means that assist in identifying and registering unaccompanied children and adolescents in all stages of their displacement.
2. To refrain from detaining and holding children and adolescents in immigration detention centers.
3. To guarantee the rights of the family and to refrain from separating families.
4. To develop a safe mechanism for family reunification. Such a mechanism should have the necessary tools to ensure that the person with whom a child or adolescent is reunited is in effect a family member or legal guardian.
5. To implement programs for detecting human trafficking networks, especially of migrant and refugee children, promoting collaboration, support, and reporting in the communities so as to lead to the dismantling of such networks.
6. To consider the use of the Protocol for consular action on unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents (Protocolo para la atención consular de niñas, niños y adolescentes migrantes no acompañados) developed by UNICEF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico as a tool to assist in such situations.
7. To ensure access to health, food, water, and education for children and adolescents in host communities without any type of restriction on the effective enjoyment of those rights.
8. To uphold, at all times, the best interest of the child.
9. To adopt measures of protection with a differential perspective in the case of indigenous and Afro-descendent children and adolescents, aimed at respecting their cosmovision and ancestral traditions.
10. To adopt measures of protection with a differential approach in the case of children and adolescents with diverse sexual and gender orientations, aimed at respecting their rights.
11. To guarantee the nationality of children born in the receiving countries independent of their or their parents' immigration status, along with easy access to recognition.
12. To sign and implement the measures set forth in the protocols for preventing statelessness.



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13. To adopt a policy of flexibility with respect to the documentation required for migrant and refugee children and adolescents to enter the territory and access fundamental services in all cases, with particular emphasis on children under 10 years of age without travel documents.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To reinforce civil society presence at borders and to pay direct attention to the specific needs of children and adolescents.
2. To provide psychosocial accompaniment to migrant and refugee children and adolescents who have been victims of violence or any human rights violation.
3. To identify, compile, and disseminate good practices and protocols for action with respect to the treatment of migrant and refugee children and adolescents.
4. To carry out advocacy actions to reinforce the systems of protection with respect to accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.
5. To promote, with medical organizations of volunteers, brigades to promote and care for the physical and mental health of children and adolescents in vulnerable situations, such as abandonment, living in the streets, violence, and/or child labor.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To adopt practices, such as those used by UNICEF, that provide technology developed for registering children in real time to authorities in countries receiving migrants and refugees.
2. To monitor the practices used for identifying and registering children and adolescents at borders.
3. To monitor and identify risks of statelessness in children.
4. To conduct outreach campaigns and to provide technical support to the States to combat statelessness among children.

B.4 Ethnic and racial groups (including, among others, Afro-descendent, indigenous, and Roma persons)

We ask the States of the region:

1. To prevent racial discrimination and related forms of intolerance, according priority to responses to flows of migrants and refugees.
2. To monitor the indicators of racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance. To follow up and submit reports on hate crimes in their territory.



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3. To ensure that the communities of indigenous and racial minority migrants stick together to preserve their cultural heritage and identity in all stages of displacement, including resettlement, so long as there is no interference with the individual right of freedom to choose.
4. To respect the traditional practices of the indigenous migrant and refugee population, mindful of their cosmovision and cultural practices.
5. To analyze and compile information from indigenous migrants and refugees as well as ethnic and racial minorities broken down by age and gender.
6. To refrain from taking a census of indigenous persons when this practice is prohibited by their traditional practices and cosmovision.
7. To develop, in the short term, comprehensive care programs specific to the population of indigenous peoples at border areas from a rights-based approach that at the same time are informed by the indigenous peoples' own law, addressing in particular serious health situations such as malnutrition, early pregnancy, and sex education.
8. To give special attention to border areas inhabited ancestrally by indigenous communities and reinforce their presence in the field in order to address the specific needs with an approach based on the rights of the indigenous peoples and preventing acts of discrimination.
9. To train police officers on issues of ethnic and racial discrimination so they have clear guidelines with respect to the most effective and appropriate ways of responding to crimes motivated by hate and/or racial or ethnic prejudices.
10. To raise the awareness of the police agencies on issues of discrimination and the specific needs of each minority ethnic and racial group in order to improve the interaction between the police authorities and the victims and to prevent harassment by the police.
11. To encourage reporting and respond in timely fashion to reports of hate crimes.
12. To ensure that migrants and refugees – especially indigenous ones – who do not speak the language of the host community have interpreters, particularly in proceedings for obtaining regular immigration status and recognition of refugee status.
13. To identify and take all measures necessary to protect indigenous and ethnic and racial minority migrants and refugees from cross-border attacks or violence committed by other migrants and refugees as well as by members of the host communities and government forces.
14. To enter into agreements recognizing the binational or multinational citizenship of the indigenous peoples in cross-border areas between or among those States that share borders, and thereby respect the ancestral territories that predate the delimitation of the present-day States.
15. To recognize the binational or multinational status of some cross-border indigenous peoples; avoid erecting administrative or bureaucratic barriers; and prevent indigenous populations who are constitutionally recognized as having dual citizenship from being treated as migrants.
16. To identify and address risks of exploitation in formal and informal labor markets both legal and illegal.
17. To adopt measures fashioned jointly with the indigenous peoples with respect to the fundamental right to prior consultation.



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As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To accompany indigenous persons in the recognition of cross-border dual nationality.
2. To carry out campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples, who on occasion do not recognize the current political borders, to ensure that the policies put in place not violate their cosmovision or ancestral culture.
3. To offer integral accompaniment to indigenous migrants and refugees and those who are from minority ethnic and racial groups who are victims of hate crimes or other expressions of hate.
4. To work with media outlets and other social actors with the capacity for mass communication to prevent hate speech and fight stereotypes of racial and ethnic minorities in the migrant and refugee community.
5. To identify and advocate on behalf of indigenous and ethnic and racial minority migrants and refugees who suffer problems in the protection of their rights and state recognition due to statelessness or lack of legal identity documents.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To evaluate expressions of racial discrimination and their impact on protecting the rights of migrants and refugees.
2. To identify the risks of policies that de facto or de jure deny citizenship and/or arbitrarily deprive minority racial and ethnic groups of recognition of nationality.
3. To engage in partnerships with the governments and to support governmental activities to prevent, reduce, and respond to hate crimes and discrimination against migrants and refugees who are members of some minority racial or ethnic group.
4. To foster spaces for promoting and recovering common traditions in the host communities and strengthening ties between the migrant and refugee community and the host community.

B.5 Older adults

We ask the States of the region:

1. To guarantee easy and safe access to health services, not subjected to showing documents.
2. To reinforce attention at borders to facilitate access for older persons.
3. To refrain from detaining older adults at immigration detention centers.
4. To strengthen social assistance and welfare programs for older adults among the migrant and refugee population in the host communities.
5. To ensure that the public policies are framed mindful of the needs of the older population.
6. To form partnerships with organizations that have expertise when it comes to working with older persons.



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7. To train state agents, especially immigration and national security agents, on the rights of older adults to foster greater awareness of age discrimination and the specific needs of this group.
8. To generate data on migrants and refugees broken down by gender and age for designing programs and public policies.
9. To detect and prevent the exploitation of older adult migrants and refugees.
10. To ensure that older adults, especially women and widows, and those with chronic-degenerative diseases, have access, without discrimination, to programs to uphold their rights to health, housing, and welfare.
11. To raise the awareness of the population and especially of state agents in the host communities as to the warning signs and risks of physical, emotional, material, and sexual violence against older adults.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To carry out information campaigns on access to health services, housing, and welfare programs.
2. To provide legal accompaniment in access to rights, especially social rights.
3. To provide humanitarian assistance that addresses the specific needs of older adults.
4. To facilitate and/or strengthen the formation of organizations of older adults, to empower them to provide mutual support to one another and to defend themselves.
5. To create strategies for advocacy, lobbying, or strategic litigation so that the host States incorporate older migrants and refugees in their social programs.
6. To coordinate with private agencies specialized in providing care for older adults, to obtain placements in such institutions for those who are in especially vulnerable circumstances.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To urge the States to guarantee basic health services, housing, and public welfare programs.
2. To monitor the obstacles this population faces in accessing rights and produce reports about the situation.
3. To facilitate the participation of older adults in decision-making and in the leadership structures in their communities with an age-sensitive differential approach.
4. To monitor the situation of the pension programs for Venezuelan older adults both inside and outside of Venezuela. To make pronouncements on any arbitrary act and issue reports on access to social security for this population group.

B.6 Persons with disabilities



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We ask the States of the region:

1. To consult and involve migrants and refugees with disabilities in decision-making, programming, and leadership, giving them the means to express their opinions and participate in the design, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the activities that concern them.
2. To guarantee the principles of inclusion, accessibility, universal design, and reasonable accommodation in any procedure for obtaining or granting regular immigration status, recognition of refugee status, or accessing rights in the host communities.
3. To strengthen their institutions to guarantee that government programs and mechanisms for migrants and refugees to access rights are inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities, especially in relation to the healthcare system, including medication and treatment.
4. To guarantee access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive healthcare and mental healthcare.
5. To put in place procedures for identifying migrants and refugees with disabilities, breaking down the results by gender and age.
6. To guarantee the non-separation of migrants and refugees with disabilities from their families, caregivers, and service animals.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To strengthen support for and forge partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities and other entities.
2. To advocate for the inclusion of migrants and refugees with disabilities in national policies and programs.
3. To inform and train migrants and refugees with disabilities, their family members, and their caregivers about their rights and how to identify, avoid, and report cases of violence, discrimination, exploitation, and abuse.
4. To coordinate brigades for accompaniment, managing resources and securing donations and support in the form of medical instruments, medicines, and other elements needed to ensure dignified living conditions for migrants and refugees with disabilities.
5. To coordinate with private and religious institutions, and with civil society in general, to obtain placements in treatment centers for persons with disabilities.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To offer training to the States on the rights of migrants and refugees with disabilities.
2. To offer support to the States for designing responses to contingencies of flows of migrants and refugees to ensure they are inclusive and accessible.



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3. To carry out campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of migrants and refugees with disabilities.

CHAPTER THREE

Transit, access to the territory, and borders of solidarity

The harsh journey that the migrant and refugee population in transit coming from Venezuela faces is marked, among other situations, by insecurity, difficult climatic conditions, precarious conditions, and lack of access to basic necessities. In addition, there have been acts of violence, discrimination, and xenophobia perpetrated by both state actors and the general population against the migrant and refugee population.

Some States of the region have responded to the flows of migrants and refugees leaving Venezuela with restrictive policies when it comes to accessing the territory, such as imposing immigration requirements that are impossible for Venezuelan nationals to meet, as most of them are unable to obtain identity documents. As a result, migrants and refugees opt for irregular channels and access routes where they are more vulnerable, placing their lives and security at greater risk.

The borders are peripheral areas that are generally characterized by state abandonment when it comes to preventing violations and accessing and guaranteeing rights. This abandonment is also evidenced in the lack of human and material resources in border areas, facilitating the presence and actions of non-state actors (such as mafias, gangs, cartels, armed groups, and illegal economies, among others), increasing the levels of vulnerability of both the migrant and refugee population and the inhabitants of the border areas.

At the same time there has been a lack of orientation of the competent state authorities and a lack of clear and timely information at border areas on the rights of the migrant and refugee population. At the border areas there has been deficient identification of the population in need of international protection; in addition, at the borders migrants and refugees have faced criminalization of migration through policies or actions that prioritize national security over human rights.

Also of concern is the situation of migrant and refugee children, especially those under 9 years of age, who, due to different situations in the country of origin, lack travel documents and face difficulties in transit and when it comes to regular entry to the territory of the destination country.

The situation of migrants and refugees leaving Venezuela requires that the States reinforce their capacity to receive them, mindful of the principles of *non-refoulement* and shared responsibility in the region.

We ask the States of the region:



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1. To standardize and adopt more flexible requirements for entry to their territory of persons forced to leave Venezuela, considering that many Venezuelan nationals do not have travel documents or that they have expired, with special attention to the situation of children.
2. To use the UNHCR's Heightened Risk Identification Tool.
3. To strengthen the identification at the border of persons who require international protection, to guarantee access to the procedure for recognition of refugee status, and to ensure the principle of *non-refoulement*.
4. To activate cross-border cooperation actions that make possible an articulated and coordinated response by the agencies and organizations of different States to address the contingency of migrants and refugees coming from Venezuela.
5. To ensure that migrants and refugees are not penalized and/or criminalized for irregular entry to the territory.
6. To refrain from creating immigration detention centers.
7. To refrain from adopting measures such as the militarization of the border and other security strategies with the use of force in immigration operations. To reorient the approach to migration from one framed by militarization and the use of government security forces to one framed by a comprehensive human rights perspective.
8. Under the principle of shared responsibility, provide technical, human, and financial support to the States that receive the largest flows of migrants and refugees and whose capacity for receiving them has become debilitated.
9. To create or strengthen multinational processes at borders to adequately address the needs of the migrant and refugee population.
10. To refrain from criminalizing, penalizing, or in any way impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance provided to migrants and refugees by the general population, civil society, states, and international organizations and allies.
11. To provide protection and guarantee the security of humanitarian agents, human rights defenders, and migrant and refugee rights advocates, in both border areas and host communities.
12. To monitor, prevent, identify, and address situations in which there is a risk of human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, or forced recruitment of migrants and refugees by criminal networks, especially at the irregular points of entry to the countries, with a differential approach and special attention to unaccompanied children.
13. To create and strengthen programs to prevent and combat forced prostitution and any other type of sexual exploitation, with special emphasis on groups in vulnerable situations, providing accompaniment and special protection to migrants and refugees at risk.
14. To train immigration officers in human rights, international refugee law, as well as the contexts of the country of origin that produce flows of migrants and refugees.
15. To ensure that migrant and refugee families are not separated.
16. To reinforce their obligations to prevent, investigate, and punish human rights violations against the migrant and refugee population in border areas.
17. To guarantee access to emergency health services.



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18. To create comprehensive programs for institutional strengthening and establishing or bolstering the State presence in border regions, protecting the rights of both the host communities and the migrants and refugees, without creating rivalries over resources.
19. To refrain from imposing any type of restriction on private enterprises with respect to providing services to foreign persons, for example, the prohibition on selling bus tickets to migrants and refugees in transit.
20. To value the information generated by the church sector, which in many cases is the first contact with migrants and refugees. That information should be processed, shared, and used by the public institutions in designing policies and responses.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To strengthen our presence in border areas, especially the most abandoned ones, and areas transited by migrants and refugees in order to provide psychosocial support, humanitarian assistance, legal counsel, and accompaniment in immigration proceedings for determining refugee status.
2. To carry out campaigns to raise awareness in border communities to prevent acts of discrimination as well as xenophobia and violence against the migrant and refugee population.
3. To create a network on registration of migrants and refugees, in partnership with other civil society organizations, such as shelters and points of access to humanitarian assistance to prevent and detect the disappearance of migrants.
4. To create mechanisms, or strengthen them where they already exist, to search for migrants who have gone missing, in coordination with international organizations and other international allies.
5. To continue reporting and forcefully condemning the mistreatment and abuse of migrants and refugees by state authorities, the general population, and other non-state actors.
6. To create or support existing programs for monitoring, identifying, assisting, and accompanying victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.
7. To provide assistance and accompaniment to separated families and unaccompanied children to ensure family reunification and security for all families.
8. To document abuses and practices contrary to human dignity by authorities and the general population towards migrants or refugees.
9. To provide resources to facilitate access to information for migrants and refugees with respect to the rights of migrants and refugees, access to support services, organizations, points of support, host communities, and receiving countries, among others.
10. To generate partnerships with private sector actors that strengthen actions of psychosocial and legal accompaniment, along with a humanitarian presence at the borders.
11. To generate academic inputs for strengthening adequate implementation of policies to address flows of migrants and refugees at the borders.



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12. To create or strengthen programs for preventing and combatting forced prostitution at the borders, with special emphasis on persons in vulnerable situations.
13. To monitor deportations and expulsions; to work to uphold due process guarantees.
14. To promote dissemination of good practices at border areas throughout the region.
15. To make the most of the networks and infrastructure of the religious sector as spaces for initial reception, their role finding out about the needs and demands of migrants and refugees, and their status as the first to receive flows of displaced persons.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To call for and supervise compliance with the provisions of international human rights law and international refugee law ratified by the States.
2. To strengthen their presence at borders and along routes of transit of migrants and refugees, to receive and document the population in transit and facilitate access to their rights.
3. To contribute technical, human, and financial resources to civil society and the States to implement protection programs at points where migrants and refugees access the territory.
4. To share information with the State and civil society in a timely and transparent fashion.
5. To establish partnerships with civil society and other international actors to detect and monitor cases of detention of migrants and refugees at detention centers and jails.
6. To reaffirm the special protection owed to the victims or potential victims of human trafficking, in particular women and girls, as well as the obligation of the States to ensure adequate mechanisms of identification and protection, including the period for reflection, as well as access to justice.
7. To not promote or support militarized responses as a security strategy or to prevent access to the territories.
8. To ensure that any response by the human rights bodies with respect to Venezuela, as well as with respect to the States receiving flows of persons as a result of the complex humanitarian emergency in Venezuela, makes use of the distinct frameworks and mechanisms of international protection simultaneously, given that the humanitarian exigencies are multifaceted and bring about a broad and severe destruction of state capacities to guarantee the rights of assistance to and protection of the whole population, including restrictions when it comes to carrying out international obligations.

CHAPTER FOUR

Guarantees of rights in host communities

Due to the increase of the Venezuelan population in various countries of the region, discourses and practices have been observed that are at odds with the human dignity of this population, from the existence of discriminatory domestic laws, rhetoric, policies, and state practices to discrimination,



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xenophobia, violence, exclusion, and stigmatization by the population at large. Despite some community and state efforts, many obstacles stand in the way of the migrant and refugee population accessing fundamental rights and state services, which only compounds their vulnerability and impedes their effective integration to the host communities, reinforcing the segregation between them and the nationals.

This translates into difficulties in accessing justice and the right to an identity and in accessing basic services; significant shortcomings in due process guarantees in immigration matters, recognition of refugee status, immigration regulation, and integration into the communities; and major risks of exploitation.

We ask the States of the region:

1. To strengthen or create programs to fight discrimination, xenophobia, and other practices that violate the human dignity of migrants and refugees.
2. To send a message to public opinion with the intent of preventing discrimination, violence, and xenophobia against the migrant and refugee population.
3. To assist in the validation of identity papers or the granting of valid identity papers to those migrants and refugees who do not have them or whose documents have expired.
4. To create flexible and lasting mechanisms for granting regular immigration status.
5. To guarantee recognition of refugee status under international refugee law and the legal and technical instruments that exist in the region, in keeping with the right to due process.
6. To reinforce the complementary forms of protection, ensuring that they not exclude other more permanent forms of protection, including refugee status.
7. To guarantee the migrant and refugee population access to public health systems, independent of their immigration status, even when they do not have legal identity documents. Health services should be comprehensive and should include sexual and reproductive health services as well as mental health services.
8. To standardize requirements and apply them flexibly to migrants and refugees to guarantee access and the completion of studies at all levels of education.
9. To ensure that education programs incorporate language courses in the official language of the host country for those migrants and refugees who speak a different language.
10. To include migrants and refugees in income-generating programs in the same conditions as nationals and create new programs if there are none.
11. To adopt public policies that enable migrants and refugees to have access, in equal conditions as nationals, to formal-sector employment.
12. To refrain from adopting and/or applying policies and practices that criminalize and foster harassment and/or stigmatization of migrants and refugees in the informal economy.
13. To monitor working conditions, identify risks, and implement policies aimed at preventing practices of labor exploitation or working conditions and salaries that discriminate against Venezuelan migrants and refugees.



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14. To guarantee, in equal conditions, access for migrants and refugees to existing programs for social security and welfare.
15. To guarantee, in equal conditions, access for migrants and refugees to existing housing programs.
16. To recognize, identify, and combat the risks of statelessness faced by migrants and refugees and their families.
17. To ensure adequate access to justice and measures of reparation for the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population, especially victims of human trafficking, labor or sexual exploitation, and smuggling of migrants.
18. To implement programs for international protection of refugees and asylum seekers set forth in the Brazil Action Plan on Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Stateless Persons, such as the Quality Asylum Program and the Borders of Solidarity Programs.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To provide advisory services and legal support in migratory procedures and procedures for the recognition of refugee status.
2. To provide advisory services and legal support to migrants and refugees in accessing rights such as education, housing, health, work, and access to justice.
3. To empower the host communities of migrants and refugees and to ensure their involvement in the process of seeking and obtaining access to rights.
4. To carry out programs that inform the migrant and refugee population about their rights and state services available.
5. To promote programs to raise awareness aimed at the host population, with respect to the population of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, to combat discrimination and xenophobia.
6. To monitor compliance with these recommendations by the State and identify and work jointly with all the actors involved to respond to those circumstances that continue to obstruct access to and enjoyment of the rights of the migrant and refugee population in host communities.
7. To identify difficulties accessing social rights and carrying out strategies for litigation and advocacy.
8. To carry out programs to connect the community, including the migrant and refugee community, to jobs, as well as to identify existing programs to put them in touch with those who need them.
9. To coordinate with civil society organizations that operate locally and provide technical, human, and financial support.
10. To urge the national governments to provide financial, technical, and human support to the local governments whose capacity to respond is limited by lack of resources.
11. To foster and facilitate spaces for association and participation of the migrant and refugee population to become consolidated as relevant actors in all matters of interest to them.



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12. To provide accompaniment to – without taking the place of – Venezuelan migrants and refugees who are organizing and demanding their rights, recognizing Venezuelans as subjects of rights who should participate in making the decisions that affect them.
13. To get the business sector to play an active role employing this population, fighting and not tolerating human trafficking, discrimination, and/or exclusion in the labor market.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To reinforce joint actions with the States to raise awareness and prevent discrimination in host communities.
2. To compile good state practices for addressing this crisis of migrants and refugees and systematize lessons learned in other contexts.
3. To encourage the governments to identify ways of benefiting both the migrant and refugee population and the host communities.
4. To encourage access to rights in host communities being handled in the same way for the migrant and refugee population as for the national population.
5. To strengthen the monitoring capacity of the States and civil society with respect to violations of migrants' and refugees' rights.
6. To evaluate existing programs of access for migrants and refugees to rights to identify their level of success.
7. To work in coordination with civil society in the responses for the inclusion of migrants and refugees.

CHAPTER FIVE

Durable and sustainable solutions

While the dynamics of forced displacement of migrants and refugees leaving Venezuela are at a stage that demands urgent responses, it is wrong to consider that the phenomena of migration and refugee flows are short-term situations that require only short-term solutions. To the contrary, displacement has lasting effects, both in the lives of the migrants and refugees and in the sending and receiving communities. Therefore, it is necessary that the actions and responses to the crisis of migrants and refugees be addressed integrally, in the short, medium, and long term.

Durable and sustainable solutions are developed once the crisis and contingency pass; they address the medium- and long-term issues and their purpose is to end the cycles of displacement, guaranteeing that migrants and refugees can go on with their lives safely. Three ways of achieving this have been identified: local integration; solidarity resettlement nationally or to third countries; and dignified, safe and voluntary repatriation.



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While we identified specific actions for each durable solution, from the perspective of civil society we consider it necessary to implement a long-term strategic plan for implementing the three durable and sustainable solutions that are detailed here and which involve all the actors, i.e. the receiving States, civil society, international allies and organizations, and the country of origin.

A. Long-term local integration

The previous chapter addresses the actions needed for integration in the host communities that receive migrants and refugees, including urgent short- and medium-term solutions. Nonetheless, the experience of other contexts of migrant and refugee flows shows that many persons never return to the countries from which they were displaced; instead, they become permanent members of the community that received them. Long-term local integration should facilitate lasting measures for the life projects of migrants and refugees who decide to establish themselves permanently in the communities that received them.

We ask the States of the region:

1. To establish labor integration programs that consider the migrant and refugee population as well as nationals; strategically prevent xenophobia and the fears nationals may have of losing their spaces and work opportunities; and enable all members of the community – both migrants/refugees and nationals – to develop professionally, advance, and contribute to the community's economy.
2. To guarantee access to public services and social rights for the migrant and refugee population, no matter their immigration status, in equal conditions and without discrimination.
3. To facilitate access to mechanisms for securing permanent residence, citizenship, or nationality.
4. To ensure that public schools have space for the entire population of migrants, refugees, and nationals.
5. To ensure access in equal conditions and without discrimination to public welfare programs including those aimed at satisfying the rights to housing, health, education, and food.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To generate and promote opportunities for Venezuelans to interact and connect with locals in the host communities.
2. To establish a communication strategy to prevent xenophobic and discriminatory speech in order to reorient negative perceptions of migrants and refugees towards an attitude characterized by openness and solidarity.
3. To identify obstacles in accessing social rights and discrimination against migrants and refugees so as to work to overcome them.
4. To establish a communication strategy with a narrative framework that avoids xenophobia.



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We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To work in coordination with the States on job programs.
2. To identify obstacles in accessing rights by the migrant and refugee population, and to issue reports in this regard.
3. To carry out programs for the integration of nationals and migrants and refugees, in order to avoid xenophobia and intolerance.
4. To identify good practices of States in procedures for accessing permanent residence, citizenship, and nationality by the migrant, refugee, and stateless population.
5. To devise advocacy strategies with the States for opening channels of communication and securing mechanisms to facilitate obtaining permanent residence, citizenship, and nationality.

B. Voluntary Solidarity Resettlement to third countries or in the same country

Resettlement to third countries is based on the principle of shared responsibility and allows the transfer or relocation of a person who is in need of international protection, from the country where he or she sought protection to a third country that has agreed to admit him or her permanently. This option is important in light of the concentration of the migrant and refugee population in bordering countries that have received the largest numbers of Venezuelans.

Similarly, resettlement may occur in the same country in order to have a more uniform distribution of the migrant and refugee population in the national territory and avoid disproportionate impacts on small cities that face difficulties generating incomes, employment, and public services.

We ask the States of the region:

1. To enter into regional and bilateral agreements for the solidarity resettlement of Venezuelan nationals, ensuring the participation of the migrant and refugee community.
2. To ensure that resettlement is voluntary and not to a place in which the life, safety, or liberty of the person would be at risk.
3. To ensure that the migrant and refugee community, especially LGBTIG+ persons and persons who belong to minority ethnic or racial groups, are not resettled in places where there is a risk of them suffering discrimination or exclusion, or where there is a risk of a setback in the recognition of their rights.
4. To implement mechanisms to decentralize migration; this is imperative taking into account that in general the border areas or capital cities are taking in the largest numbers of migrants and refugees.
5. To ensure that the procedures for obtaining permanent residence, citizenship, and nationality can be pursued accessibly throughout the territory, not just at the borders or in the capital cities.
6. To decentralize the bureaucracy to other national spaces and facilitate online procedures.



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7. To implement good practices and strategies in relation to resettlement developed and identified by international organizations and regional programs.
8. To develop, in the multilateral scenarios and regional spaces created by the migration from Venezuela, agreements on resettlements, taking into account criteria of shared responsibility, solidarity, and equity, and a human rights perspective.
9. To work with local governments so that when migrants and refugees arrive the necessary guarantees are in place so that they can work and have access to health, education, and housing, ensuring that there are no situations of labor exploitation or unequal wages to the detriment of the migrant and refugee population by employers. To monitor and impose sanctions on such practices.
10. To prepare a communication strategy that informs the migrant and refugee community about the possibility of accessing resettlement programs.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To monitor to ensure that resettlement processes unfold transparently and involve civil society and the migrant and refugee population.
2. To generate and promote opportunities for Venezuelans to make connections in the new host communities.
3. To see to it that human rights are respected in all resettlement processes.
4. To work with national and local organizations that closely accompany resettlement processes.
5. To devise an advocacy strategy for civil society to play the role of interlocutor between the local and national government for resettlement in the host country.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To develop mechanisms and programs for informing the migrant and refugee population of job and resettlement opportunities in other places.
2. To help the States plan and carry out national and international voluntary resettlement programs.
3. To see to it that human rights are respected and that the entire resettlement process is voluntary.
4. To devise strategies for identifying the main unmet needs in certain labor sectors in the countries of the region to inform and connect the migrant population to opportunities to resettle in those places.

C. Dignified and safe voluntary repatriation



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Every process involving the repatriation of Venezuelan nationals to their country of origin must necessarily include full guarantee of respect for the guiding principles of return, i.e. they must be in conditions of dignity, and must be voluntary and safe. Returns should always unfold with the participation of four parties: the receiving states, the state of origin, multilateral organizations, and civil society, providing accompaniment.

We ask the States of the region:

1. To guarantee, at all times, that migrants and refugees who return to Venezuela do so voluntarily and safely.
2. To ensure that persons who return to Venezuela will not suffer threats to their lives and security, before, during, or after the return.
3. To prepare mechanisms of transparency and for documentation that show the decision and consent of persons who return to Venezuela.
4. To prepare a communications strategy that informs the migrant and refugee community about the possibility of signing on to repatriation programs.
5. To implement good practices and strategies developed and identified by international and regional organizations on matters of repatriation.

As members of civil society we recommend to other organizations, and we take on, the following commitments in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To devise and propose mechanisms to ensure transparency around repatriations.
2. To document the decision to return of persons who return to Venezuela.
3. To accompany the individual repatriations.
4. To generate partnerships with civil society organizations in Venezuela for an orderly and safe taking in of returnees.
5. To accompany the organizations in Venezuela in the processes of rebuilding the country.
6. To see to it that human rights are respected in each repatriation and that it is voluntary.

We ask other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. To facilitate international forums for discussions on voluntary repatriation.
2. To see to it that human rights are respected in each repatriation and that it is voluntary, and to submit reports in this regard.
3. To keep a census, compile, and publish information on the persons who have returned and the conditions in which they were returned.

CHAPTER SIX



CIVIL SOCIETY'S ACTION PLAN BY THE WORKING GROUP ON VENEZUELAN HUMAN MOBILITY

Regional strategy, monitoring, and advocacy

When it comes to finding solutions to the challenges facing migrants and persons in need of international protection we start from the reality that many States of the Americas are receiving flows of persons from Venezuela in their territories, generating challenges not only domestically, but also regionally, that need to be addressed regionally as well. The regional response requires specific actions designed and implemented collectively by regional actors, multilateral organizations, States, and civil society. Similarly, the regional responses should be articulated with national and local proposals.

We understand regional solutions to mean those decisions and actions that have been the subject of dialogue, discussion and coordination, adopted simultaneously by the majority of receiving States, delegates of civil society, organizations of migrants and refugees, and international organizations. Moreover, regional solutions are understood as those in which: good practices in the region, non-regressive measures, and updated regional information are incorporated in the system of protection in the Americas; a response is forthcoming for persons in transit; and specific mechanisms of regional protection are implemented on refugee status, differential and affirmative actions, standardization of requirements for entering territories, and accessing rights.

On analyzing the various international organizations and forums, as well as the Latin American integration initiatives, we recognize that at present there is no multilateral body in which all the States participate actively and that enjoys absolute backing in the region. As a result, directing advocacy to just one of the various multilateral forums or initiatives is complex. Accordingly, the civil society organizations that have come together are of the view that advocacy is needed vis-à-vis several actors, including the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and the regional political groups or mechanisms that are established specifically to address this situation.

The gist of the proposal is to foster a regional and coordinated response in which the principle of shared responsibility prevails with the participation of the States involved, the international organizations, civil society, the national human rights institutions, the migrant and refugee population, as well as all the actors involved.

To this end the initial action to be proposed is organizing an international conference for developing a strategy for the exercise of the rights of Venezuelan refugees and migrants with the following characteristics:

- a. It should facilitate decisions and commitments, particularly on the part of the States, and their interaction with all the other actors.
- b. It should allow for the direct participation of civil society, especially of migrants and refugees from Venezuela.
- c. It should be accompanied by and involve the active participation of international human rights bodies.
- d. It should include the largest possible number of states of the Americas.
- e. It should include the presence of donor countries and institutions.



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We ask the States of the region:

1. To give impetus to the regional response by holding an international conference focused on the response to the human mobility of persons leaving Venezuela, based on existing human rights standards in the region.
2. To facilitate forums for crafting a regional response and establish forums for the direct participation of civil society, especially of migrants and refugees, in all regional decision-making or processes of adopting resolutions.
3. To promote strategies for border coordination and develop national and local forums for civil society participation.
4. To generate information on migrants and refugees with a differential approach.
5. The information that the States generate should be transparent and public.

As members of civil society, we recommend to other organizations and we take on the following commitments, in keeping with our respective mandates:

1. To promote and give impetus to a regional response for the rights of migrants and refugees from Venezuela.
2. To create data bases in light of the research being done in the region, identifying information gaps.
3. To map expertise and provide reliable information on the situation of displaced Venezuelans throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. To develop specific documents for regional advocacy based on existing documents and information.
5. To produce a periodic regional characterization of the human rights situation of the Venezuelan population by thematic component and with different approaches. This characterization should be distinct from the information from the States and include methodological strategies for statistical information systems and technological support. These reports should contain periodic analyses, not only identifying data but also identifying the state response. Coordination should be through the Working Group on Venezuelan Human Mobility.
6. To produce periodic reports to follow up on the Civil Society Action Plan that reflect the progress made in the situation of Venezuelan migrants and what the main challenges continue to be. A joint effort is required by civil society when it comes to undertaking periodic and consolidated follow-up on the process of carrying out the specific actions agreed upon, and on the results that are obtained throughout the process so that they can be sustained over time.
7. To contribute to the fundraising efforts and to the sound management of such resources as are collected. We will recommend criteria for where to earmark resources based on international good practices and declarations of international cooperation, including emphasis on the active role of civil society in the search for solutions.
8. To engage in a permanent dialogue with the regional strategy of the IOM and the UNHCR and to participate actively in the plan that these two agencies will head up.



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9. To engage in a permanent dialogue and be present in forums that emerge from civil society interaction with the OAS.
10. To take actions with a social impact, such as advocacy with international and regional media outlets. To monitor the veracity of the information. To implement campaigns to raise awareness (for example, fighting xenophobia and other forms of discrimination). These campaigns will be directed to the various actors involved. They may be regional campaigns that find expression in the territories and are articulated with the local governments.
11. To strengthen the Working Group on Venezuelan Human Mobility as a focal point and point of articulation, establishing priorities. To draw up a communication strategy that includes disseminating the Declaration and Action Plan and the periodic reports produced as part of follow-up to the Action Plan.
12. To frame a regional legal strategy that includes public hearings before the IACHR and the submission of reports to United Nations rapporteurships.
13. To strengthen the communities and organizations of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region.

We call on other international allies and international organizations, in keeping with their respective mandates:

1. Not to neglect other issues that continue to exist in the region and in the host communities.
2. To advocate strengthening the role and active and proactive participation of civil society in managing the resources earmarked to this migrant and refugee crisis. Among the principles to be borne in mind for the distribution of resources, we note: 1. Resources distributed should be proportional to the magnitude of the population received by each country; 2. They should be proportional to the capacity to respond of the host communities; 3. It should be understood that although there are middle-income host countries, the situation of inequity in the countries makes it difficult to provide an integral response to migrants and refugees; 4. Resources provided should be proportional to the type of responses being offered; 5. Resources provided should take account of the numbers of migrants and refugees in relation to the local population; 6. Resources should be used for action that causes no harm, with undifferentiated attention so as not to give rise to rivalries in host communities; 7. An effort should be made to strengthen the participation of organizations that provide humanitarian assistance and that work in the rural communities in the budgeting process.
3. To ensure that the assistance and resources aimed at responding to the situation of the Venezuelan population in the region are guided by the fundamental principle of international protection, and protection for the human rights of the persons compelled to leave Venezuela.

November 16, 2018



CIVIL SOCIETY'S ACTION PLAN BY THE WORKING GROUP ON VENEZUELAN HUMAN MOBILITY

Signatory organizations of the working group on Venezuelan human mobility

Regional

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
Amnesty International
Alianza Americas
Asylum Access
The International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
Latin American Working Group
Mercy Corps
Oxfam
Plan Internacional en las Américas
Americas Network for Refugee Legal Aid (ANRLA)
Refugees International
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
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)

Brasil

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

Chile

Clínica Jurídica de Atención a Inmigrantes – Universidad Alberto Hurtado
Clínica Jurídica de Migrantes y Refugiados de la Universidad Diego Portales

Colombia

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



CIVIL SOCIETY'S ACTION PLAN BY THE WORKING GROUP ON VENEZUELAN HUMAN MOBILITY

Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social Cáritas

Programa de Asistencia Legal a Población con Necesidad de Protección Internacional de la
Corporación Opción Legal

Ecuador

Misión Scalabriniana

México

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)

Clínica Jurídica para migrantes y refugiados Pedro Arrupe, SJ - Universidad Antonio Ruiz de
Montoya

República Dominicana

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

Venezuela

Acción Solidaria

Alimenta la Solidaridad

Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello

Centro de Justicia y Paz - CEPAZ

Convite, A.C.

Comisión de Justicia y Paz de la Conferencia Episcopal Venezolana

Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA)

Vicaría de Derechos Humanos de Caracas