



## **TALKING AND DOING POINTS** **CHURCHES WITNESSING WITH MIGRANTS (CWWM)**

**CHURCHES WITNESSING WITH MIGRANTS (CWWM)** is an international tripartite network of grassroots migrants, migrant-serving groups and organizations, and varied religious and faith-based institutions dedicated to the proposition that all human beings have inherent, inviolable human dignity and protected human rights. Forced migration is a violation of human rights and a denial of the inherent dignity of migrants, refugees and all uprooted peoples. CWWM is committed to eliminating the conditions that create forced and enforced migration, especially the root causes and historic injustices, and their contemporary manifestations, that perpetuate such conditions. Forty-eight (48) participants from 30 countries, attending the Eight International Consultation of CWWM in Berlin, Germany, produced this document which now serves as CWWM's **TALKING AND DOING POINTS**, starting at the 10th Global Forum on Migration and Development, also held in Berlin. For more information about this document and CWWM, please email: [cwwm2013@gmail.com](mailto:cwwm2013@gmail.com) and visit <http://nccphilippines.org/cwwm/>

**1. HUMAN DIGNITY AND ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND UPROOTED PEOPLES.** All human beings have inherent human dignity and protected human rights. Human dignity is inviolable; and all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. All human rights are migrant, refugee, and uprooted peoples' rights. Their dignity and human rights are primordial over any other considerations be it in their familial, community, social, economic, political, or cultural relations. The protections guaranteed by the international regime of human rights and humanitarian principles, as well as human development arising from international treaties, conventions and protocols, generate legally binding obligations that accrue to migrants, refugees, and all uprooted peoples. The fulfillment of these obligations must be open and inclusive, transparent and accountable.

**2. FORCED MIGRATION IS ABOUT REAL HUMAN BEINGS.** Forced migration is a human tragedy affecting real human beings, with real emotions and human relationships with friends, families and communities. Our solidarities and advocacies must focus on the actual, material, concrete, sensuous human bodies of migrants, refugees, and all uprooted peoples, including asylum seekers and stateless peoples, and how their human bodies respond to assaults on their dignity and violations of their human rights as they negotiate the workings of labor, capital and the market. Witnessing with and among them must include the rejection of the objectification and commodification of their lives and bodies, and the exploitation and commoditization of their labor and services. Other concerns include contemporary realities such as xenophobia, racial discrimination, intolerance, and the toll on the human body and the planet due to extractivism, predatory capitalism, and global warming (climate change).

**3. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS A PROTECTED HUMAN RIGHT.** People and things have always been on the move. Movement and mobility are natural characteristics of life. Freedom of movement is a protected human right. Migration must be an option arising from choice. Forced and enforced migration, within countries and across international borders are violations of human rights. Wars and ongoing conflicts, including those arising from political persecution and religious and cultural intolerance around the world, have resulted into forced migration, creating unprecedented numbers and massive movement of refugees and uprooting of peoples. The uneven development of economies and labor export policies of certain countries have resulted into forced movement of peoples seeking employment and other economic opportunities. We must put to stop the scourge of human smuggling and trafficking in persons that occur along the path and chain of migration and mobility.

**4. FORCED AND ENFORCED MOVEMENT IS ENTANGLED WITH HISTORIC INJUSTICES.** Forced and enforced migration have deep historic roots and entanglements in slavery and colonialism, and in racism and genocide. The historic injustices that arose from these entanglements saddle the complicated nature of forced and enforced migration today. The legacy of these ignominious historical events bequeathed the current generation and milieu an unprecedented and devastating experience of oppression, exploitation, persecution, and psychosocial trauma, complicating even more so the experience and situation of migrants, refugees, and all uprooted peoples. People in situations of forced migration, involuntary displacement and forcible uprooting are affected many times over by migration that is increasingly globalized, securitized, militarized, ethnicized, racialized, sexualized, gendered, and criminalized. They experience multiple challenges: socially and psychologically traumatized, economically exploited, politically oppressed, and culturally marginalized (women, children, indigenous peoples, stateless peoples, and LGBTQI persons as vulnerable populations in the migration chain).

**5. FORCED MIGRATION REQUIRES A JUST, DURABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION.** A just, durable and sustainable development that will truly eliminate forced migration must focus on freeing peoples from poverty and hunger and protecting the planet. It must also address the uneven economic development and structural inequalities within and among countries, including the plunder and exploitation of natural and human resources, and attendant practices and policies of extractivism and development aggression. Addressing the above includes providing for the immediate need of migrants, refugees and uprooted peoples for goods and services that tend to their wellbeing and survival (hospitality, accompaniment and acts of mercy). It also includes a strategic visioning for how to achieve development justice whose pillars include redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice, and accountability to the people (solidarity and acts of justice).

**6. NOTHING ABOUT MIGRANTS WITHOUT MIGRANTS IN ANY VENUE AND LEVEL OF NEGOTIATION.** Migrants, refugees and uprooted peoples must be involved in great numbers and in all venues and platforms throughout the full timeline of the negotiations of a “global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration”, and the “Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.” Their full participation gives meaning to the intention to develop and abide by “open, transparent and inclusive modalities”. The United Nations, especially the expertise of its human rights, humanitarian and labor treaty bodies, and other multilateral (regional and international) bodies, must work in concert with the wide spectrum of migrant/refugee/asylum seeker/uprooted and stateless peoples, communities, service organizations, civil society and advocacy groups. Ensure democratic, representative and accountable governance at all times and in all levels. No negotiation must proceed and conclude without the robust participation and engagement, including the democratic access—physical and political—by all stakeholders. The same principles, modalities and mechanisms hold true with respect to our engagement with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

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