



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

AMMPARO ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

PRINCIPLE

NATIONS THAT PROTECT PEOPLE IN SITUATIONS OF HUMAN MOBILITY AND DO NOT INFRINGE ON THEIR RIGHTS

EXPLANATION

Nations must comply with and guarantee the full rights of people in mobility through comprehensive protection systems, especially for those in conditions of greater vulnerability: women, children, Indigenous peoples, the elderly, the LGBTQIA+ population, people with disabilities and those with the right to seek international protection, among others.

Local governments are jointly responsible for guaranteeing the respect and protection of human rights, especially for people in human mobility. As communities of destination, reception or return, local governments must avoid acts of discrimination and xenophobia, allowing unrestricted access to rights for all people, without exclusion. Given their proximity to the impacted population, local governments should also

promote, create and implement mechanisms for protection, assistance and local development.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS ON MIGRATION

Nations in the region that are signatories to international agreements on migration must take their responsibility seriously, complying with the internationally recognized norms embodied in these conventions and other regional human rights instruments, such as the Inter-American System of Human Rights. It is crucial to establish an intergovernmental accountability mechanism to identify situations in which states violate these norms and, where appropriate, establish consequences for countries that do not comply with their obligations under these treaties.

Current and future signatory states to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration must consistently apply the values, principles and objectives of the compact. They also must address irregular migration within a human security and rights framework.

Finally, we urge international organizations not to endorse states that fail to comply with their international obligations, but rather to promote differentiated care for people in human mobility by age, gender, ethnic identity and social status, also taking into consideration cultural relevance, the best interests of children, and due process.

A HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH RATHER THAN THE CURRENT NATIONAL SECURITY APPROACH

Governments need to adopt a human security approach to migration that welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates people in mobility and recognizes their fundamental rights, thereby expanding upon the current discourse and legal frameworks. They must move away from the current national security approach, which militarizes, represses, detains, separates families and arbitrarily expels migrants—resulting in

systematic human rights violations with serious consequences for people's lives, safety and well-being.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDER LEADERSHIP

To ensure that regulatory frameworks and public policies on the humane treatment of people in mobility are more effective and meaningful in the long term, and that they contribute to addressing the root causes¹ of forced displacement and irregular migration, it is essential to establish mechanisms for the active and effective participation of migrants and their families, civil society,² community authorities and municipal governments.

The AMMPARO Network (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) will continue to support civil society actors and raise the voices of people in mobility who are working for change in their communities.

A MORE IN-DEPTH RESPONSE TO THE ROOT CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION, SHAPED BY COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Strategies to address the root causes of forced internal displacement and irregular migration should always be formulated, monitored and evaluated from a community perspective, taking into consideration the collective priorities of the community and civil society. Furthermore, the focus on the main social, economic, political and environmental reasons that drive migration, such as insecurity, violence, poverty and climate change, should also address the deeper causes of human mobility.³

¹ Migration is a symptom of deeper social, economic, political and environmental problems. Children and families flee for reasons related to violence and human insecurity, economic hardship, and environmental disasters caused by climate change.

² Civil society refers to citizen actors who are not part of the state but act in public life. It can include humanitarian organizations, faith-based organizations, local nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations.

³ Undoubtedly, the deeper reasons for forced displacement and migration are rooted in systems of oppression such as economic inequality and exploitation, gender discrimination, and racism. Gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, indigeneity, economic status, disability and other factors influence how people experience vulnerability within these systems. To understand the complex and interrelated reasons that compel people to migrate, one must critically analyze the structural causes that give rise to conditions of insecurity for those most at risk.

As the AMMPARO Network, we advocate for the provision of safe and sustainable livelihoods and the participation of our siblings in solutions that improve their quality of life.

MORE COMPETENT, MORE TRANSPARENT AND CORRUPTION-FREE GOVERNMENTS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

The creation and application of anti-corruption mechanisms is necessary to ensure the most effective use of international assistance. Local governments and civil society organizations should be the main implementers of social investment programs, coupled with instruments of community oversight to monitor the management of resources and with corruption-complaint mechanisms accessible to the public.

Without these measures, there is a risk of increasing illicit enrichment and further concentrating wealth in the hands of privileged elites, rather than improving the living conditions of the thousands of impoverished families in Central America who are the people most likely to migrate.

LINKING FORCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA

Forced internal displacement is the result of the constant threat of extreme climatic events; living conditions of generalized violence due to the illicit activities of gangs or organized crime; and the violence of national and international corporations whose local megaprojects (monocultures, mining, dams, etc.) entail the violent eviction of communities defending their natural and cultural resources, these evictions generally supported by state repression and the actions of private security forces.

Nations have not demonstrated their capacity to provide security in crime-affected communities, have failed to enact measures to prevent and mitigate the damage of climate change, and often collaborate with land dispossession through state repression.

Because of all this, people are forced to migrate from one place to another within their own country and then, unable to find the means to rebuild their lives, decide to emigrate.

PEOPLE IN HUMAN MOBILITY ARE BEARERS OF HOPE

People in a situation of mobility contribute positively to countries of origin, transit, and reception. They invigorate economies through their work and the remittances they send to their families. They create and drive economic growth, cultural exchange, inclusive spaces and human rights commitments.

We must continue to raise awareness and promote seeing migrants as people with inherent rights who make significant contributions to the growth of the countries through which they travel and to which they arrive.