



INTERFAITH DECLARATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Interfaith Conference on the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees

May 3, 2018

New York, NY

We, representing different religious traditions and regions of the world, are gathered here today to share our human and spiritual perspectives on the human rights and dignity of persons on the move, as a contribution to the on-going processes regarding the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, currently under intergovernmental negotiations at the United Nations in New York, and the Global Compact on Refugees, currently subject to a consultative process under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

We RECOGNIZE across our different faith traditions the core impulse to share the journey and hospitality with the stranger;

We COMMIT ourselves, based on our teachings and values, to continue fostering dialogue and peace within our communities and across religions with a view to be welcoming as well as to denounce injustices;

We EXPERIENCE how welcoming newcomers helps us build stronger and more diverse communities and creates a spirit of fraternity and solidarity that dispels fear and celebrates the personal and collective enrichment they bring to our cultures and societies;

We CALL TO MIND that, while we recognize the national sovereignty of States, all human beings at and within their borders deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to be assured recognition of their human rights, including access to services needed to realise those rights, regardless of their migratory status and in accordance with the common good and international law;

We JOIN all stakeholders in addressing the root causes of forced migration through a renewed commitment to peace, stability, and sustainable development among Nations as well as other factors that compel persons to migrate;

We ARE CONVINCED that migration should always be a choice, never a necessity, and that human beings should have every opportunity to grow and flourish in their own countries in dignity and hope;



We URGE all with us to focus on protecting and securing durable solutions for all, in particular for those in vulnerable situations such as separated and unaccompanied children, women at risk, victims of human trafficking, or those otherwise unsafe on the move, in host countries or unable to return safely to their countries of origin;

We **ASK** States to consider expanding legal pathways so that migrants and refugees do not fall prey to smuggler and traffickers, to exploitation and abuse;

We JOIN all States and relevant stakeholders to agree on solidarity mechanisms to share the responsibility of caring for people affected by conflict, violence and disasters;

We BELIEVE that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees should embrace an all-of-society approach to the situation of migrants and refugees that acknowledges the important role that faith-based communities and organizations play extensively on the ground;

We OFFER our support through our capillary networks of faith communities and organisations — engaged in welcoming the stranger for hundreds of years — to seize this singular opportunity for cooperative action among States and relevant stakeholders to respond better to mass movements of peoples;

Finally, **We BELIEVE** that all States and all stakeholders have the moral responsibility to avail themselves of this unique opportunity to work together to alleviate the sufferings of millions of migrants and refugees.

This declaration is adopted by the Speakers of the Interfaith Conference, "*Sharing the Journey of Migrants and Refugees: An Interfaith Perspective on the Global Compacts*," held at the United Nations in New York, on May 3, 2018, and jointly organized by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and Caritas Internationalis.

A handwritten signature in Arabic script, enclosed in a simple oval outline.

Sheikh Mohamad Abou Zeid

A handwritten signature in Greek script, written in a cursive style.

Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Carnegie".

Reverend Rachel Carnegie

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Rosen".

Rabbi David Rosen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "杉谷義純" (Sugitani Gijun).

Venerable Gijun Sugitani

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle".

Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle