

International Migrants Day statement

By Martina Liebsch, head of advocacy at Caritas Internationalis

On International Migrants Day, and shortly after the 70th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration Caritas Internationalis commends all those governments who stayed firm behind their commitments expressed in the New York declaration in 2016, which resulted in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and adopted it.

In line with the Holy See, Caritas strongly believes that “the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a significant advance in the international community’s shared responsibility to act in solidarity with people on the move, especially those who find themselves in very precarious situations”. These were the [words of Cardinal Pietro Parolin](#), Vatican secretary of state, to the Intergovernmental Conference for the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 10th of December 2018).

The Global Compact on Migration in its introduction states that it is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles, namely by a people-centred and Human Rights based approach independently of the status of migrants. (GCM Nr. 4, 11 and 15)

In an [editorial published in America Magazine](#), Caritas President Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle says: “If we look away or give in to fear and hate, we lose our perspective and the core of what it is to be human. More than anything at this point in our common history, we need a perspective that provides a global vision and a united and compassionate response to the challenges of our time, such as migration is one.”

A people-centred and human rights approach requires services for migrants to realize their rights and have a dignified life, wherever they are and whatever their status is. It is detrimental for societies and communities if people are left behind in their midst.

Caritas has been accompanying the drafting process of the Global Compact with its campaign “[Share the journey](#)” with the belief that beyond policies, it is the personal encounter between migrants and local population that changes hearts and minds and thus counteracts xenophobia.

To welcome, protect, promote and integrate the foreigner is a task for the whole society and we will continue to encourage those encounters.

Caritas as a front-line responder with decades of experience in providing services to migrants wants to see action after the words and offers its expertise to cooperate with governments on how to implement the Global Compact.