

Migrants

The issue of migrants is closely linked to the issue of modern slavery. A large percentage of migrants are victims of labour and sexual exploitation leading them to live a life of slavery. In addition, some migrants are victims of human trafficking, which is one of the new forms of slavery.

Whereas the context of this 'dossier' leads us to look at the 'migrants-issue' from its negative aspects, we should not forget its economic, cultural and spiritual aspects. In fact, many nations both those who send and receive migrants, would not be what they are today - especially in terms of economic development - without the contribution made by millions of immigrants.

*The two texts below, one from the **Second African Synod** and the other from the **United Nations** show that this issue is both International and National and therefore need both International and National policies to reach lasting solutions which respect the human dignity and rights of the migrants.*

Second African Synod (2009) - Proposition No. 28 - Migrants and Refugees

*At the end of the Second African Synod (2009) the bishops presented 57 propositions to the Pope, and one of them was on Migrants and Refugees. The Pope included this point in *Africae Munus* under the title: *Migrants, Displaced Persons and Refugees* (nos. 84-85).*

"On the African continent there are about 15 million migrants who are looking for a homeland and a place of peace. The phenomenon of this exodus reveals the face of socio-political injustices and crises in some areas of Africa. Thousands have tried, and are still trying, to cross deserts and seas to reach "greener pastures", where they believe they will receive a better education, earn more money and, in some cases, enjoy greater freedom. Unfortunately, this phenomenon afflicts many countries of the continent. Even now, many of the refugees are languishing in prisons; hundreds have already died.

This precarious situation for so many foreigners ought to win the solidarity of everyone; instead it causes much fear and anxiety. Many consider immigrants a burden, view them with suspicion and indeed consider them a danger and a threat. This often gives rise to expressions of intolerance, xenophobia and racism.

Among some recent worrisome developments are: legislation which penalizes all clandestine entries into foreign countries and consulates and the border police discriminating against travellers from Africa in airports.

Indeed, migration within and outside the continent is a multi-dimensional drama, which affects all countries, causing destabilization, the destruction of families and a waste of Africa's human capital

The Synod Fathers believe, first of all, that the principle of the universal destination of created goods and the Church's teachings on human rights, freedom of movement and the rights of migrant workers are increasingly violated by the world's restrictive migration policies and laws against Africans.

Therefore, the Synod is convinced that it is necessary and urgent to:

1. demand that governments apply international migratory law evenly and fairly without discriminating against African travellers;

2. provide special pastoral care for the vulnerable segments of Africa's population in a joint-effort between the Churches-of-origin and host-Churches to extend pastoral care to migrants;
3. advocate for a just treatment of refugees in cooperation with the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, the International Catholic Migration Commission and Justice and Peace Commissions at all levels of the Church;
4. establish offices or "Commissions" for the Movement of People in the secretariats of Episcopal Conferences, charged with the task of working together and with Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant Peoples;
5. Develop programmes of pastoral care for migrants and their families.

The Synod also calls on African Governments to create a climate of security and freedom, to implement programmes of development and job creation, to dissuade their citizens from leaving home and becoming refugees, and to undertake initiatives encouraging refugees to return with a programme to welcome them."

Migrants by origin and destination

The role of South-South migration¹

- 1. South-South migration is almost as common as South-North migration**
 - In 2010, about 73 million international migrants who were born in the South were residing in the South.
 - In 2010, about one-third (34%) of the global migrant stock both originated in and was living in the South.
- 2. South-North migration has been the main driver of global migration**
 - From 1990 to 2010, the migrant stock born in the South and residing in the North increased by 85 per cent, more than twice as fast as the global migrant stock (38%).
 - In 2010, South-North migrants outnumbered South-South migrants for the first time.
- 3. Since 1990, the migrant stock in the North has increased three times as fast as the migrant stock in the South**
 - By 2010, almost 60 per cent of all international migrants in the world were living in the North, compared to 53 per cent in 1990.
 - The increase in the migrant stock in the North from 1990 to 2010 was largely fuelled by migrants from the South.
 - Between 1990 and 2010, the increase in the migrant stock in the South was entirely fuelled by migrants from the South.
- 4. While significant migration takes place within the world's five major areas ...**
 - Most international migrants born in Europe (63%), Oceania (57%), Asia (56%) and Africa (53%) are living within the major area of their birth.
 - Conversely, most international migrants born in Latin America and the Caribbean (72%) reside in North America.
 - A large majority of international migrants residing in Africa (81%), Asia (75%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (60%) were born in their major area of residence.

¹ United Nations - Population Facts NO. 2012/3.

http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/popfacts/popfacts_2012-3_South-South_migration.pdf

- Asia is the second largest region of origin for migrants residing in Europe (19 million), North America (14 million), Oceania (2 million) and Africa (1 million).
- 5. ... the majority of migrants, born in the South, resides outside their immediate region of birth**
 - In 2010, most international migrants born in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania resided outside their region of birth.
- 6. Southern and Western Asia are host to some of the largest “bilateral” migrant stocks in the South**
 - In 2010, international migrants from Bangladesh residing in India constituted the single largest “bilateral stock” of international migrants residing in the South (3.2 million).
- 7. The United States hosts some of the largest “bilateral” migrant stocks in the global North**
 - The world’s largest international migration “corridor” is the one between the United States and Mexico.
- 8. Germany hosts the largest “bilateral” migrant stock from the South residing in Europe**
 - Germany is host to the largest “bilateral” migrant stock in Europe.
- 9. While the majority of the world’s refugees is hosted by countries in the South ...**
 - Nine of every ten refugees in the world are hosted by developing countries.
- 10. ... they generally constitute a small fraction of the total migrant stock**
 - In 2010, refugees constituted some seven per cent of the global migrant stock.

International migrant stock by major area of origin and destination, 2010 (millions)

		Destination								
O R I G I N		Africa	Asia	Europe	LAC	NAM	Oceania	Total	% Origin	
	Africa	15.5	4	7.7	0.0	1.7	0.4	29.2	53	
	Asia	1.0	46.1	19.0	0.3	14.2	0.2	82.6	56	
	Europe	0.8	7.8	37.3	1.5	9.0	2.4	58.7	63	
	LAC	0.0	0.6	3.9	4.6	23.5	0.1	32.8	14	
	NAM.	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.2	4.1	34	
	Oceania	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.6	57	
	Various	1.8	2.1	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.1	5.1		
	Total	19.3	61.3	69.9	7.7	50	6	214.2		
	% Dest.	81	75	53	60	3	15			

LAC = Latin America and Caribbean

NAM = North America

- International migrant stock in the North and the South, 1990 - 2010 (millions):

1990: North 82, South 73. **2000:** North 104, South 74. **2010:** North 128, South 86.

- Percentage of refugees by major area, 2010:

Asia 68.9%, **Africa** 15.4%, **Europe** 10.1%, **LAC** 2.4%, **Others** 4.2%

*Source: United Nations - Population Facts No. 2012/3

Other sources

- International Labour Organization: <http://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm>
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/migrants/index.htm
- Erga migrantes caritas christi (The love of Christ towards migrants) - Vatican City 2004.
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/migrants/documents/rc_pc_migrants_doc_20040514_erga-migrantes-caritas-christi_en.html
- UNHCR - International Migration: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a16aa156.html>