The Vatican’s Twenty Points on Migration

- Background

- Four Verbs
  - To Welcome
  - To Protect
  - To Promote
  - To Integrate

Global migration is a major challenge for much of today’s world and a priority for the Catholic Church. In words and deeds, Pope Francis repeatedly shows his deep compassion for all who are displaced. Witness his encounters with migrants and refugees on the islands of Lampedusa and Lesbos. Witness his call for them to be embraced: to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking.

In addition, the Holy Father is guiding the Church to assist the world community in systematically improving its responses to the displaced. For the international political community has launched a multilateral process of consultations and negotiations with the goal of adopting two Global Compacts by the end of 2018: one on international migrants and the other on refugees.

The Church has already taken a stand on many of the issues which will be included in the Global Compacts and, drawing on its vast and longstanding pastoral experience, would like to contribute actively to this process. To support this contribution, the Vatican’s Section on Migrants & Refugees (Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development), consulting with various Bishops’ Conferences and Catholic NGOs, has prepared the following Twenty Action Points on migrants and refugees. They do not exhaust the Church’s teaching on migrants and refugees, but provide useful considerations which Catholic advocates can use, add to, and develop in their dialogue with governments towards the Global Compacts. The 20 Points are grounded on migrants’ and refugees’ needs identified at the grassroots level and on the Church’s best practices. The Points have been approved by the Holy Father.

The Migrants & Refugees Section, guided by the Holy Father, urges the Bishops’ Conferences to explain the Compacts and the Points to their parishes and Church organizations, with the hope of fostering more effective solidarity with migrants and refugees. Given the great range of issues covered in the Points, each Bishops’ Conference should select the most relevant points for their national situation and bring them to their Government’s attention, specifically the Ministers responsible for the country’s negotiations on the Global Compacts. Each country has already begun to prepare its position, and the negotiations will take place during the first six or eight months of 2018. The same Points in more formal language, for use as advocacy, may be found in the document Twenty Action Points for the Global Compact.

Through grounded in the Church’s experience and reflection, the 20 Points are offered as valuable considerations to all people of good will who might be willing to implement them and advocate

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1 Address to participants in the International Forum on “Migration and Peace”, 21 February 2017.
To Welcome

“Welcoming means, above all, offering broader options for migrants and refugees to enter destination countries safely and legally”

To Protect

“The second verb – protecting – may be understood as a series of steps intended to defend the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees, independent of their legal status.”
To Promote

“Promoting essentially means a determined effort to ensure that all migrants and refugees— as well as the communities which welcome them— are empowered to achieve their potential as human beings, in all the dimensions which constitute the humanity.”

To Integrate

“The final verb— integrating— concerns the opportunities for intercultural enrichment brought about by the presence of migrants and refugees.”
RESOURCE: A Primer on the 20 Points

http://justiceforimmigrants.org/caritas-share-the-journey-campaign/
The Compacts on Migration and on Refugees
Global Compacts: The U.S. Response

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Jesuit Refugee Service

• Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization serving refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

• JRS was founded by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. in 1980, in direct response to the humanitarian crisis of the Vietnamese boat people.

• Operating in 51 countries worldwide, JRS is a work of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and meets the educational, health, and social needs of more than 750,000 refugees.
Jesuit Refugee Service
U.S. Government Role

• September 2016 – Adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

• September 2016 – Leaders’ Summit on Refugees

• January 2017 – First Executive Order on Refugees

• December 2017 - U.S. Government pulled out of Global Compact on Migration negotiations
A vital part of JRS’s mission is to defend the rights of refugees and migrants throughout the world.

Initial feedback on Global Compact on Refugees Draft:
- Lack of focus on refugee protection concerns
- Must emphasize responsibility-sharing as a commitment, not an option
- Lack of clear policy and legal action steps
- Need for accountability and tracking mechanisms

Share feedback with UN Member States and via ongoing consultations

Goal: Final versions in September (Refugees) and December (Migration)
What Can You Do?

#Do1Thing

- **Experience** - Host a *Walk a Mile in My Shoes Refugee Simulation* and provide your community with an opportunity to pause and learn about the experience, the frustrations, disappointments and hopes that refugees around the world face. Visit [www.jrsusa.org/outreach](http://www.jrsusa.org/outreach)

- **Write** - Send a message of hope and solidarity by writing a postcard to a refugee. Visit [anyrefugee.org](http://anyrefugee.org)

- **Advocate** - Send a letter to your elected officials about the importance of U.S. leadership on refugee issues. Visit [www.jrsusa.org/advocacy](http://www.jrsusa.org/advocacy)

Take part in JRS/USA’s April 17 Advocacy Day in Washington, DC!
What Can You Do?

• **Pray** - Pray for protection for refugees as well as for personal transformation as we face the needs of refugees everywhere.


• **Volunteer** - Find a local refugee resettlement agency office and help a refugee learn a new language, meet friends, or even find employment and housing.

• **Fundraise** - Gather your local community or parish and raise funds for refugees around the world.
#Do1Thing
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Campaign for Hospitality

• In August 2017, the Ignatian Solidarity Network launched a two-year campaign to bring the Jesuit and broader Catholic network together on the topic of global migration.

• Goal: To get to know people in our countries with recent stories of migration.

• Together, we will reflect on our common human dignity and values to create more welcoming communities and nations.

www.campaignforhospitality.org
#CforH
Share the Journey

• In September 2017, Pope Francis announced a two-year campaign to stand in solidarity with refugees and migrants.

• **Share the Journey** is an opportunity to raise awareness about the global refugee crisis within our own communities and encounter our own neighbors who are on this journey.

www.sharejourney.org

#sharejourney
Thank You

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