

## **International Solidarity with the world's migrant and refugee peoples**

The migrant, refugee and citizens' organizations and groups that signed this Manifesto reiterate our solidarity with the migrants and refugees of the world and we commit ourselves to continue defending the rights and freedoms that are frequently denied to migrant and refugee peoples.

The UN General Assembly decided in 2000 to proclaim December 18 International Migrants Day, given "the need to continue trying to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants." Almost two decades after that proclamation, we find that these objectives are far from being achieved and that in the richest countries, physical and legal walls are still being erected to prevent people from very different backgrounds from exercising their right to migrate or return to their countries.

It is now one year since the 2018 approval of the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" of the UN and we note that in addition to not being compulsory for States, it only contains control, identification and regulation measures, together with statements of intentions without content, serving to whitewash migratory policies and prioritise the interests of capital and the market over the rights of migrant and refugee peoples.

In April of 2019, the Permanent Peoples Tribunal (PPT) in Brussels identified as "crimes against humanity and system crimes" the systematic violations presented in evidence at the Hearings of its 45<sup>th</sup> Session – held in Barcelona, Palermo, Paris, London and Brussels during 2017-2019.

The PPT identified that the European Union has a grave responsibility in generating a situation throughout Europe that is a "hostile environment" where systematic violations of the rights of migrants and refugees are taking place. The magnitude of what is undoubtedly a serious crisis of human values and political failure is reflected in the following figures: since 2014, approximately 20,000 migrants, women, men, elderly, and children, have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean.

The EU chose in 2016 to sell the rights of migrants to Turkey. The Ankara-EU agreement, to curb migration from Turkey's coasts to Greece, has led 3.5 million migrants to be stranded today in Turkish territory, in exchange for the payment of billions of euros granted by Brussels to the authoritarian government of Erdogan. That shameful 'Deal' allows Erdogan to regularly blackmail his European partners and threaten to 'forward' those migrants to the EU; or as it happened recently, to develop the war against the Kurdish population, using those same migrants as a currency of their warlike ambitions.

The Greek government agreed to use the Greek islands as "holding areas", where about 35.000 migrants and refugees are "trapped" in inhumane conditions, in unsanitary camps, which have turned into a "struggle for survival", and a humanitarian emergency.

The Memorandum Italy-Libya signed in February 2017, and recently automatically renewed, for the purpose of blocking at sea and returning the largest possible number of migrants to Libya, has led to the creation of a Libyan search and rescue (SAR).

Serious violations of human rights documented in reports and testimonies continue to take place throughout the migratory route - from the country of origin, to the countries of destination and permanence: at the external, internal borders of Europe and in the territory of the member countries. These policies, illegal and illegitimate that are manifested especially in border areas, represent in the judgement of the PPT an unacceptable injustice, which results in crimes against humanity. The EU and the Member States have been held directly and indirectly responsible for these 'system crimes' - of torture, mistreatment, for not respecting the obligations to save lives at sea, the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the principle of no refoulement.

Migration is a human right. But on many occasions it is also the product of forced displacement - by wars, ideological, ethnic, sexual or religious persecutions; or as a result of the practices of transnational corporations that, together with the governments of different countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, expel local populations to misappropriate their resources. In this case, the exercise of the right to migrate and cross the borders imposed by capital becomes an act of resistance for individual and collective survival, as well as denouncing the global necropolitics that deprives people of their resources, makes business with repression and genocide at the borders and exploits migrants taking advantage of discrimination and vulnerability imposed by migratory laws.

Governments such as the United States are obstinate in promoting a racist, xenophobic discourse against migrants, in violation of international laws. As a result of this policy, there has been the separation and forced detention of thousands of children from their parents, who in countless cases have been expelled to Mexico and Central American countries. Between October 2018 and the same month of this year, about 1 million detainees were registered at the U.S. border. At the same time kidnappings and extreme violence against migrants have increased on the southern border of Mexico.

More than 1 million Myanmar nationals, known as Rohingya, have been forced to migrate to Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the response of the global communities to this crisis for which Bangladesh took responsibility has been very inadequate in terms of emergency support and in putting pressure on the Myanmar government to ensure safe repatriation with dignity.

We are concerned that climate induced internal migration is still not getting proper attention. It is estimated that by 2050, 140 million people across the world will be forced to migrate internally. Rich countries and their corporations are historically responsible for the climate change and thus they should take responsibility in regard to the climate induced migrants.

We are concerned and denounce the use of the rightist rhetoric of the new European Commission, which seeks to integrate the 'Protection of our European way of life' portfolio in the same position with the issue of migration. Policies against migrants and refugees developed by various governments based on xenophobic and racist arguments promote and facilitate ultra-right forces to continue to expand throughout the EU.

In the face of the policy of governments that deny the rights of migrant and refugee peoples, in many countries, cities, towns, initiatives of support and solidarity are raised with those who have chosen to emigrate. The Permanent Peoples Tribunal 45<sup>th</sup> Session (Barcelona, Palermo, Paris, London, Brussels), the General States of Migration in France, citizen disobedience and solidarity initiatives in Spain, Greece, Italy and elsewhere in Europe as well the solidarity in United States, Bangladesh and Mexico are some examples that must be grown and reinforced.

There is no "crisis of migrants". It is a crisis of the capitalist system and state policies that distort a reality that is part of the history of humankind – the right to migrate!

**Signatures:**

ACATHI, Barcelona, Spain  
Action from Ireland, (AFRI), Ireland  
Alianza por la Solidaridad (Alianza), Spain  
Amis de la Terre (Friends of the Earth), France  
Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe – ATALC  
ARCI-Italy  
Arlac Belgica, Belgium  
Asamblea Constituyente Belgica, Belgium  
Associació Irídia, Centre per la Defensa dels Drets Humans, Catalunya  
Association la Terre pour Tous -Tunis  
Attac, Austria  
Borderline Sicilia Onlus, Italy  
Borderline-Europe, Menschenrechte ohne Grenzen e.V. Germany  
Caravana Abriendo Fronteras, Spain  
Carovane Migranti, Italy  
CEDETIM- Centre d'Etudes et d'Initiatives de Solidarité Internationale  
Centar za životnu sredinu (Friends of the Earth) Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Centre de recherche et d'information pour le développement(CRID), France  
Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos “Segundo Montes Mozo S.J.” (CSMM)  
Centro Filipino – Tuluyan San Benito, Barcelona, Spain  
Centro Salesiano Santa Chiara, Palermo. Italy  
CESTA AT, Slovenia  
Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW) – ITALIA, Italy  
CISS/Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud, Italy  
Climaxi vzw – Belgium (Member FOEI)  
Comitato Verita e Giustizia per I Nuovi Desparacidos, Italy  
Comité pour les Droits Humains ‘Daniel Gillard’, Brussels  
Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers (CFMW) International, Amsterdam  
Coordinadora de Solidaridad con Latinoamerica, Belgica  
Coordinamento Antitratta “Favour e Loveth”, Palermo, Italy  
Diamoci una mossa! contro il razzismo, Italy  
DIWATA - Philippine Women’s Network in Greece  
ECVC/European Coordination LVC Europe  
Emmaus, Palermo, Italy  
Entrepueblos-Entrepobles-Entrepobos-Herriarte, Spain  
Espacio del inmigrante. Spain  
Fédération des Associations de Solidarité avec Toutes les Immigrées, (FASTI) France  
Foundation Academy of Amsterdam (FAA), Netherlands  
France Amerique Latine (FAL), France  
Friends of the Earth International (FOEI)  
Friends of the Earth Europe (FOE-E)  
Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)  
Ground Work, Friends of the Earth, South Africa  
Fresh Eyes – People to People Travel, UK  
Forum Antirazzista, Palermo, Italy

Geneva Forum for Philippine Concerns, Switzerland  
Comitato Antirazzista Cobas Palermo, Italy  
Global Justice Now, UK  
GrIS Sicilia - La Società Italiana di Medicina delle Migrazioni (SIMM), Italy  
HuBB (Humans Before Borders)  
Immigrant Justice Now, US  
Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, UK  
Institute of Race Relations (IRR), UK  
INTERCOLL, International  
Jesus Christ Foundation (JCF), Netherlands  
Jo Si Sanitat Universal, Catalunya  
Justice and Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC- LINKS), UK  
KASAPI Unity of Filipino Migrants in Greece  
Koop Natin, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Kromantse Development Foundation, Netherlands  
Plataforma per una Atenció Sanitària Universal a Catalunya (Pasu CAT).  
La Via Campesina, International  
Mani Rosse Antirazziste, Italy  
Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres (WMM) - Europa  
Mediterranean Hope – Federazione chiese evangeliche in Italia (FCEI)  
MELISSA Network of Migrant Women in Greece  
Migrants Organise, UK  
Missionary Society of St. Columban, UK  
Mouvement Ecologique (FoE), Luxembourg  
Munting Nayon Cultural School, Athens, Greece  
NOVACT, Barcelona, Spain  
Ongi Etorri Errefuxiatuak (OEE), Bilbao, Pais Vasco  
Parroquia San Lorenzo Ruiz – Barcelona, Spain  
Paz con Dignidad/OMAL, Spain  
Platform of Filipino Migrant Organisations in Europe  
RESPECT-Network Europe  
Sisters of St Joseph of Peace, UK  
Sisters of St Louis (SSL), UK  
SMX-Collective, Netherlands  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ), UK  
Social Development Cooperative-Amsterdam  
Statewatch, UK  
Steungroep Vrouwen Zonder Verblijfsvergunning (SVZV), Netherlands  
Stop the Wall Campaign, International  
Takatoul Associatif Tanger Métropole, Tangier, Morocco  
The Voice of Domestic Workers, UK  
Transnational Institute (TNI), International  
Transnational Migrant Platform-Europe (TMP-E)  
Trade Union Langile Abertzaleen Batzordeak (LAB), Bilbao  
La Unión Territorial de Almería-SOC-SAT, Spain  
L'Union Syndicale Solidaires, France  
Unite the Union, Service Sector Regional, UK  
Unite the Union – Cleaners Branch, UK  
UDAPT – Unión de Afectados por Texaco, Ecuador  
UGNAYAN Filipino, Sweden

Union de Ecuatorianos en Holanda, Netherlands

Un Ponte Per, Italy

Università di Palermo, Italy

University of Bristol-Pier-Luc Dupont, UK

Waling Waling-Campaign to Reclaim Rights for Migrant Domestic Workers, UK

Women in Exile, Germany

Woman Health, Philippines

ZUMIFA-Fisherfolks, Migrants and Families Zumarraga, Philippines