

Annex to the CLC Document on Migrants Issue

Some operational suggestions: a work in progress open for discussion

(for which community initiatives are welcome)

What to do then, in addition to what we suggested as a further step in the fraternal relationship with migrants?

As Italian citizens, as Christians, and as CLC we feel responsible for promoting a cultural environment, a legislative framework and a welcoming organization that sees the other, especially the most fragile, as a brother and sister. Our commitment is inspired by a vision of political action, reminded by Pope Francis in the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*: politics is «a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity since it seeks the common good» (chapter V, "A better kind of politics", par. 180. Note 167: Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 205: AAS 105 (2013), 1106).

We are aware of the complexity of the migration phenomenon, which requires a structural response in a spirit of subsidiarity among the various stakeholders. This is why, as CLC, we think it is important to highlight some points to reflect on, raise awareness of, and take a position on, both at a national and an international level:

1. in compliance with the 1951 Geneva Conference and our Constitution (Art. 10, subparagraph 3), migrants in danger of death must be rescued and welcomed at any cost: by keeping our ports open and simplifying landing and disembarkation procedures. Joint actions at a European level are urgently needed, without further delay;
2. relations and deals with the countries where migrants come from should not implement a border defence strategy. They should rather help people in greatest

- need by enabling "legal channels", that would not risk the lives of those who would reach Europe anyway;
3. it is necessary to seek agreements with Europe, aiming at inclusive migration management, and respect for migrants' rights. It should involve their movement within the Community by revising the Dublin Convention;
 4. at the same time, we must also seek dialogue with migrants' states of origin and invest more funds in international cooperation. That's the only way to reaffirm «the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one's own country» (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2023 (24 September 2023); quoting the message of the Holy Father John Paul II for the 90th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2004);
 5. legislation and organization regarding reception – in compliance with the 1951 Geneva Convention and the Italian Constitution (art. 3, art. 10 subparagraph 3) – must focus on the rights and needs of migrants. First of all, the initial reception must be provided in hotspots and CPRs (Detention and Repatriation Centres), which must be places of protection and first aid, not prisons. In addition, it is necessary to change those measures that do not grant migrants and refugees fundamental human-related rights, including the right to respect for the foreigner's private and family life. Such measures condemn the invisibility of so many migrants living in our country;
 6. it is essential to streamline and humanize the recognition of refugee status procedures, as well as other forms of residence permits under our system. Reception facilities must respond to the rights and needs of asylum seekers. They should guarantee medical and psychological care, Italian language courses and job placement;
 7. the reception system should prioritize facilities with limited guest numbers, to ensure qualitatively high standards of reception and effective integration of

- people into society. For this purpose, widespread reception, launched by Pope Francis in 2013, plays an important role: it involves families, parishes and religious institutions to support migrants towards autonomy;
8. institutions urgently need to take charge of the situation of unaccompanied minors, recognizing the same rights for all minors, regardless of nationality and residence status (see UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). It is necessary to identify clear mechanisms that encourage family reunion, through protected and regulated pathways, to avoid illegal networks dedicated to exploitation and human beings traffics. If family reunification is not possible, it would be important to encourage and raise awareness of the voluntary guardian role, introduced by Law 47/2017. Their task is to ensure respect for the minor's rights and to support their integration into Italian society, even after they reach legal adulthood. (Even after reaching legal adulthood, young migrants should be guaranteed the same rights and opportunities as young Italians, so that they can fulfil their potential as people, in the knowledge that their integration bears positive results for our society);
 9. we aim to build an inclusive society in which everyone, including migrants, is guaranteed the same civil and social rights and opportunities as Italian citizens. People coming from other countries, in search of a safer and more decent life, should also have the same rights and opportunities granted to Italian citizens regarding health care, education, job placement, and housing;
 10. it is necessary and mandatory to build a legislative path for citizenship reform that recognizes, among other things, the presence of more than one million boys and girls who were born grew up and go to school in our country. We need a reform that provides for the acquisition of Italian citizenship as a right, following clear criteria and certain timeframes;
 11. dialogue with institutions: committing with passion.

In carrying out its prophetic regenerative ministry, CLC aims to foster, support and inspire the birth of integrated and supportive communities, where institutions and social volunteers can face different needs in different ways:

- by giving voice in every circumstance, occasion or event to the excluded and the least;
- by standing side by side with other local communities, religious and non-religious, institutional and non-institutional. The goal is to be more and better able to welcome the needs of people living on the edge of society, responding with practicable concrete solutions/actions together with them;
- by interpreting with freedom, wisdom, and understanding, the changes that will affect the future of cities; by recognizing their vocation and by combining the tangible and intangible assets that are differently present and findable;
- by helping the youngest and those living on the edge of our "usual homes" to believe in a new future and welcome it; by strengthening, with words, gestures of trust and selfless help, and the will to keep moving forward.

Finally, it should be always reiterated with conviction and in every context that migrants are human beings and should be treated as such. Because «the presence of migrants and refugees represents a great challenge but at the same time an immense opportunity for the cultural and spiritual growth of everyone. Thanks to them, we have the chance to know better our world and its beautiful diversity. We can grow in our common humanity and build together an ever-greater sense of togetherness» (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022 (25 September 2022)).