



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, FEBRUARY 27,
2025

LET US DREAM OF A SINGLE HUMANITY, AS WALKERS OF THE SAME HUMAN FLESH (FT 8).

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CLAMOR NETWORK ON THE REALITY OF MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA

The CLAMOR Network, committed to the defense of the rights of migrants and refugees, expresses its deep concern about the recent immigration measures implemented by the administration of President Donald Trump. These measures have a significant impact on the lives of thousands of migrants and refugees seeking a better life in the United States, their communities and families.

We are aware that each country has the right and obligation to guarantee the security and well-being of its citizens, but in the current context of a global world, the problems that affect a given country acquire a special characteristic that transcends national territorial limits, becoming global problems that require global solutions.

This is the case of migratory flows from South America and the Caribbean to the northern part of the same continent, i.e. the United States and Canada. Preferably, due to its economic prosperity, the United States.

We witnessed, thanks to the media, the day President Trump began his presidential term with a Christian prayer activity. A commendable gesture and action. However, knowing the measures adopted by his government, on the immigration issue, since January 20 of this year, we can doubt the sincerity of his religious attitude. This judgment remains in the hands of God in whom President Trump believes.

We would like to list some of these measures:

- 1. Declaration of National Emergency and Military Deployment to the Southern Border:** This measure authorizes the deployment of additional troops to bolster security and expedite the construction of physical barriers along the border with Mexico. Militarization of the borders only generates more violence.
- 2. Massive raids on schools, churches and hospitals:** The revocation of the order preventing raids in protected areas has allowed immigration agents to carry out raids in these sensitive places, creating an atmosphere of panic and rejection of migrants in several cities, violating fundamental human rights.
- 3. Suspension of the CBP One application:** The deactivation and cancellation of this application has affected thousands of asylum seekers seeking to enter the United States on a regular basis and who have been left waiting for an appointment to apply for asylum.

4. Reinstatement of the "Remain in Mexico" program: This program requires asylum seekers to wait in Mexican territory while their cases are being analyzed in the United States.

5. Elimination of birthright citizenship: This measure, although blocked by several judges, seeks to end automatic citizenship for U.S.-born children of immigrants.

6. Impact of USAID Elimination: The Trump administration has also clamped down on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), laying off thousands of employees and closing aid and development programs around the world. This decision directly affects programs that support migrants and refugees, leaving pastoral initiatives on behalf of migrants and refugees and civil society organizations without the resources needed to address the migration crisis.

These and other measures have had a devastating impact on the lives of migrants, creating anxiety and fear in their communities.

We affirm that *"nations have the right and the moral obligation to manage their borders (...). But they do not have the right to close borders and build walls against those in need"*.

As the Church, the Body of Christ in the Americas, we hold firm to the hope that those who can contribute to change these situations will do so. **In this spirit we make the following requests:**

1. Reconsideration of the measures taken by the U.S. government.

2. The governments of the countries of North America join efforts to seek humanitarian and just solutions to solve the migration problem. We are aware that "the most prosperous nations have the duty to welcome, as far as possible, foreigners who seek the security and livelihood they cannot find in their country of origin and to watch over the rights of migrants".

3. Suspension of raids in protected areas, such as Sanctuary Cities.

4. Review and reform of asylum policies to ensure dignified and fair treatment of asylum seekers.

5. Eliminate hate, racist or aporophobic **speech** against migrants and refugees.

6. Re-establishment of USAID's aid and development programs, especially in terms of implementing humanitarian measures throughout the region.



7. Control and enforce the law against organized crime groups that traffic in the lives of migrants and are a blight on any society.

Church Commitment

As a Church, we understand that the presence of vulnerable people on the move in our region is a clear sign of our times². For this reason, we will continue to work tirelessly in communion with our brother bishops in Mexico, the United States and Canada. We thank them and their communities for their pastoral commitment to support migrants and refugees.

We will continue, from our countries, to offer humanitarian assistance, pastoral accompaniment and advocacy for just policies. We commit ourselves to be a prophetic voice in defense of the human rights and dignity of all migrants.

The CLAMOR Network reaffirms its commitment to justice, peace and solidarity.

The member organizations of the CLAMOR Network subscribe

¹Cf. Bishop Mark Joseph Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, Texas, Address to the CLAMOR Network at the Seminary of El Paso, Texas.

²*Scenarios and Challenges Facing Migration Policies*, held on January 31, 2025.

³Pastoral Letter *"He saw him, approached him and cared for him"*, 2024, n. 60.