

110th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
29th SEPTEMBER 2024

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September 29th, 2024

God walks with His People



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
SACBC – Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

Each 26th Sunday of the Year the Church observes World Day of Migrants and Refugees to raise an awareness and understanding of the situation of the more than 120 million forcibly displaced women, children and men today.

In its report of the VII General Assembly of RED CLAMOR and the International Meeting MIGRARED, Caritas International focuses on the root causes of forced migration, as well as the need for protection and integration of migrants.

What are some of the root causes for an increase in forced migration?

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] reports in its *Global Trends* that by the end of 2023, there were 117.3 million forcibly displaced people, or one in every 69 people in the world. This amounted to 1.5% of the entire world population! Furthermore the UNHCR calculated that by the end of April 2024, the 117 million forcibly displaced people will have increased to 120 million.

So, why is there an increase in forced migration? Some of the root causes are:

- 1. Protracted warfare and unresolved conflicts fuelled by the international arms trade lead to humanitarian crises resulting in millions of people world fleeing their homelands in a desperate search for safety and security.**
- 2. Growing inequalities and inadequate social and educational development produce poverty and social injustice in societies that inevitably lead to internal unrest. Where poverty is overwhelmingly life-threatening people are forced to flee in search of food, sanitation, shelter and a perspective for their futures, especially their children's futures.**
- 3. Fuelled by populist political agendas "foreigners" are made the scapegoats for emergent social ills in societies where inalienable human rights are disregarded. Consequently, xenophobia can contribute to multiple forced displacement.**
- 4. Climate crises and environmental degradation due to climate change add considerably to the phenomenon of climate refugees.**

These are but a few root causes, and are very simply put. For the full report, replete with discussions on how "faith translates into a daily commitment to *welcome, protect, promote and integrate* these brothers and sisters of ours", read

<https://www.caritas.org/2024/09/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees-117-3-million-people-are-forcibly-displaced/>

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 110th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
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To read and reflect on Pope Francis's Message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees with prayer click on <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20240524-world-migrants-day-2024.html>.