

CHURCH WITNESSING WITH MIGRANTS-AFRICA (CWWM-A)

Talking Points on the Migration and Human Trafficking Situation in Africa

Churches Witnessing with Migrants-Africa (CWWM-A) is the African Chapter of Church Witnessing with Migrants and is coordinated by the Council of Anglican Provinces of African (CAPA). It is supported by 5 sub-regional platforms that draws together faith communities, networks, research organisations in Africa.

The rights of migrants, refugees, trafficked and uprooted peoples are primordial and their protections are guaranteed by the international regime of Human Rights and Humanitarian principles, as well as Human Development arising from international and regional treaties, conventions and protocols which generate legally binding obligations that accrue to migrants, refugees, and all uprooted peoples.

1. MIGRATION

Migration can be both voluntary and forced as well as both domestic and international.¹ The median age of migrants in most parts of Africa is less than 30 years. Southern Africa is the only exception to this which gives an indication that most migrants in Africa are the youth. Data also shows female migrants make-up 40- 50% of the total migrants on the continent. The drivers of **voluntary** migration include:

- The growing disparity in development between countries and regions;
- Poor socio-economic conditions, low wages, high levels of unemployment, poverty and lack of opportunities;
- Labour markets and perceived opportunities for a better life, higher incomes, greater security;
- Unemployment in Africa;

While the causes of **forced** migration include:

- Poor governance
- Political instability; conflict and civil strife
- Environmental disasters, such as floods, drought or famine.
- Globalization and improved information technology have also played a part in shaping migration trends by opening new frontiers and avenues for movement.

Our Commitment:

Eliminate the conditions that create forced and enforced migration, feminization of migration, climate migration, human trafficking and especially the root causes and historic injustices, and their contemporary manifestations, that perpetuate such conditions by:

1. Focusing on freeing peoples from poverty and hunger and protecting the planet.
2. Addressing the uneven economic development and structural inequalities within and among countries, including the plunder and exploitation of natural and human resources, and attendant practices and policies of extractivism and development aggression.
3. Providing for the immediate need of migrants, refugees and uprooted peoples for goods and services that tend to their wellbeing and survival (hospitality, accompaniment and acts of mercy).
4. Strategically envisioning how to achieve development justice whose pillars include redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice, and accountability to the people (solidarity and acts of justice).

¹ African Union (AU) Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030),

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Our Witnessing (*with and among migrants*)

1. Responding to assaults on their dignity and violations of their human rights as they negotiate their labor conditions within a heavily capital and the market. Economic context.
2. The rejection of the objectification and commodification of their lives and bodies, as well as the exploitation and commoditization of their labor and services.
3. Rejection of Xenophobia, racial discrimination, intolerance, and the toll on the human body and the planet due to extractive industries, predatory capitalism, and global warming (climate change).

2. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Irregular migration is increasingly characterized by cross-border migration that includes smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Majority of the trafficked and smuggled are youths, including young women and children.

The United Nations defines Human Trafficking as, *the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor and sexual exploitation*. Human trafficking takes several forms which include sexual exploitation (sex trafficking), labour trafficking, trafficking for cultural reasons and for extraction of body parts and/or organs. Child trafficking is featured as the most prevalent form of trafficking at 39%, with trafficking for labour and for prostitution being at 31% and 25% respectively.

Our Commitment:

1. Work in strategic partnership to influence governments and policy makers to ensure migrants are treated with justice and dignity.
2. Supporting our sub regional groups in the fight against human trafficking by:
 - Partnering with local civil society organizations and networks in regional and continental advocacy.
 - Empowering civil society organizations in their protection activities such as shelters, psychosocial and medical assistance
 - Partner with local private sector organizations in to enable successful reintegration of survivors.
 - Develop prayers and sermons that can be used to create awareness on issues human trafficking.

3. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AS A PROTECTED HUMAN RIGHT.

Movement and mobility are natural characteristics of life. Freedom of movement is a universal human right². Migration also has benefits³. Remittance flows have been more stable than other financial inflows and are more countercyclical, thus, sustaining consumption and investment during recessions.

Our commitment:

1. Monitor and hold governments to account for commitments they make, and instruments sign on to. The African Union Commission (AUC) has formulated several treaties, frameworks, that provide

² Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

³ In 2004 remittance flows to the continent amounted to US\$17 billion in 2004, and rose to US\$61 billion in 2013, which amounted to 19% of Africa's GDP that year. World Bank

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MSs/partners with guidelines for managing migration or opportunities for enhancing cooperation, dialogue on migration issues

- The Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2006) / (2018 – 2030)
 - The Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children (2006)
 - The AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (The Kampala Convention) (2009)
 - The African Common Position on Migration
 - The Global Compact on Migration
 - The Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2006) / (2018 – 2030)
 - The Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children (2006)
 - The AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (The Kampala Convention) (2009)
 - The African Common Position on Migration
 - The Global Compact on Migration
2. **Honor the AU invitation** to work in partnership with The AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) to popularise Migration and HT Instruments at the Sub-regional AU Platforms⁴ namely:
- Eastern African Legislative Assembly (EALA)
 - Economic Commission for Western Africa (ECOWAS)
 - Southern Africa Development Commission (SADC)

6. Our call to action is premised on theological and contextual analysis strengthened through strategic regional and global partnerships framed around a grounded appreciation of migrant needs for dignity, hospitality, and companionship. We commit to Human Rights Council Resolution to **prevent, protect, prosecute** and work in **partnership** to advocate for just **policies**.

- **We are resolved** to ensure nothing is done for migrants without migrants and shall champion migrant-led solutions, be accountable, build our skills and expertise to enable us reach-out and meet member's needs;
- **We strive to build** on our existing synergy to ensure migrants are treated with dignity, met with hospitality and have companionship through their journey and,
- **Draw strength** from the assurance that,

“...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”⁵

⁴ In a study carried out by MPFA in 2017, the Regional Economic Commissions (RECS) lack capacity to manage migration. The sub-regions have inadequate data on migration and any available data is lopsided / negatively impacting on evidence based policy formulation/programming.

⁵ Mathew 11:23-24