



**Presentation of the
PASTORAL ORIENTATIONS ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE**

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From the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has been urging the Church to accompany all people who in one way or another are forced to flee. He established the Migrants & Refugees Section (M&R) and directs it himself for the time being. Since early 2017, the M&R mission is to assist the Church's Bishops and all those serving vulnerable persons on the move.

In 2017, M&R produced **20 Pastoral Action Points**, for use by Catholic dioceses, parishes and religious congregations, by Catholic and other organizations of civil society, by schools and groups catering to migrants and refugees. The 20 points are pastoral priorities for local programs and key points for homilies, education and media. Notably, they were the outcome of a thorough process of consultation and reflection with a great many leaders and practitioners in the field. The Holy See offered the **20 Action Points** as its contribution to the drafting, negotiation and adoption of the United Nations Global Compacts on refugees and for safe, orderly and regular migration, adopted by the end of 2018.

In 2018, following a similar process, M&R prepared the **Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking** to provide key considerations and proposals which Catholic and other actors can use in their pastoral ministry, responding to what Pope Francis called "an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ" (2014).

Last year M&R again held two consultations with Church leaders and partner organizations, with practitioners and scholars working in the field of internal displacement. Today we are happy to present the **Pastoral Orientations on Internally Displaced People**, approved by the Holy Father and meant to guide the Church's ministry to IDPs in planning and practical engagement, in advocacy and dialogue.

In this time of pandemic, the virus does not distinguish between those who are important and those who are invisible, those who are settled and those who are displaced: everyone is vulnerable, and each infection is a danger to everyone. The **Pastoral Orientations on Internally Displaced People** want today's more than 50 million IDPs to be recognized and supported, promoted and eventually re-integrated, so that they can play an active, constructive role in their country even if powerful causes, both natural and unjust human causes, have forced them to flee from home and take refuge somewhere else. In the post-COVID-19 world that is emerging, their contribution will be very much needed.

In the name of all IDPs and of those who generously and selflessly accompany them, may God bless every effort of reconciliation and every work of mercy to "gather the outcasts [and] the dispersed [...] from the four corners" of every land (cfr. Isaiah 11:12).