



## **Each One of Us is Called to Strive**

### **to Ensure Respect for the Dignity of Every Person**

*International Catholic Migration Commission's Statement on World Refugee Day*

*20 June 2025*

On World Refugee Day, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) stands in deep solidarity with all those who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, human rights violations, or environmental disasters. Today, we lift up their stories, honor their courage, and reaffirm our shared responsibility to uphold their dignity.

Rooted in the Gospel and guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we proclaim the inherent worth of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. The plight of refugees and forcibly displaced persons calls each of us, as individuals, communities, and nations, to respond not with fear or indifference, but with compassion, justice, and love.

“No one is exempted from striving to ensure respect for the dignity of every person, especially the most frail and vulnerable, from the unborn to the elderly, from the sick to the unemployed, citizens and immigrants alike,” Pope Leo XIV reminded us in his first address to world diplomats, on 16 May 2025. Thus, we urge the international community to work tirelessly for policies and practices that protect the rights of refugees, ensure their access to basic services, and support their full participation in society. **We call for safe pathways for migration, robust resettlement programs, and investments in peacebuilding and development that address root causes of displacement.**

ICMC reaffirms its commitment to walk alongside refugees and displaced persons, not as passive recipients of aid, but as protagonists of their own lives and communities. Together, with local churches, national episcopal conferences, and all people of goodwill, we strive to build a more just and inclusive world, where no one is forgotten and every person can flourish in safety and hope.

On this day and every day, may our faith move us to action, and may our actions reflect the mercy and solidarity that God calls us to live.

**"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)**