

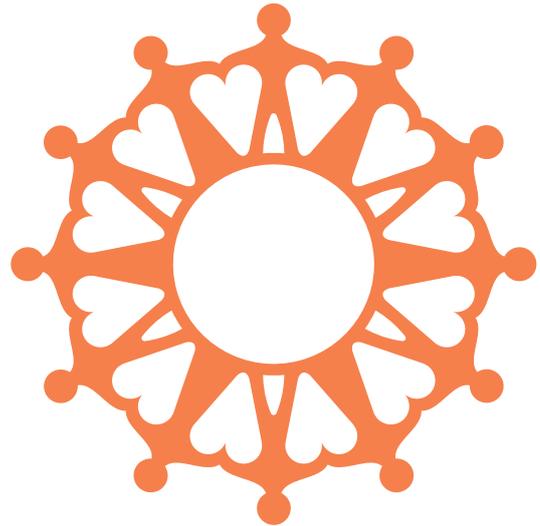
# Share the Journey: a global campaign

War, persecution, natural disaster and poverty force millions of people from their homes. Most come from poor countries and seek safety in poor countries nearby.

We cannot turn away. These are human beings, with hopes, fears, desires and stories to share, just like each one of us.

The Church worldwide is committed to sharing the journey of people on the move. World leaders must be moved to do the same as they negotiate two global agreements on refugees and migration between now and autumn 2018.

Inspired by Pope Francis' special concern for migrants and refugees, we invite you to join the *Share the Journey* campaign. Alongside Catholics worldwide, we call on governments to agree on two global 'compacts' which place the human dignity of people on the move at their heart.



This logo is being used by Catholic organisations across the world, including CAFOD, CSAN and JRS in the UK, to show that we are campaigning together.



Photo: L'Osservatore Romano

## DID YOU KNOW?

- More people are on the move now than ever before. Every minute, 20 people around the world are newly displaced.
- Half of the world's refugees are children, and thousands take flight without the protection of parents or other family members.
- Three out of four of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.

Source: [unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/](http://unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/)

“Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.”

Pope Francis, 104<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees

## What are the global compacts?

In September 2018, world leaders will agree two new global 'compacts' (or agreements) at the United Nations: one on refugees and one on migration. Pope Francis has spoken of this as a 'unique opportunity' for Catholics worldwide to put pressure on governments.

The Vatican hopes Pope Francis' intervention will galvanise action in the same way that the encyclical *Laudato Si'* influenced the Paris climate agreement in 2015.

In response, CAFOD has launched a petition to the UK Prime Minister, urging Britain to ensure the human dignity of migrants and refugees is at the heart of the global compacts. Parishes and schools will join the campaign in 2018.

Add your name at [cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney](http://cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney)

## “I was a stranger and you made me welcome”

At the start of his papacy, Pope Francis visited the island of Lampedusa where thousands of migrants have drowned at sea. Ever since, the Holy Father has shown the Church's concern for this crisis.

In 2017, he released a message to nation states, urging them to “welcome, protect, promote and integrate” migrants and refugees.

This document outlines 20 action points all governments must deliver through the global 'compacts'. It calls for concrete actions, such as rights for people on the move to work and support their families, and special protection for child refugees.

## Case studies

Photo: Graham Gordon / CAFOD



### BUILDING PEACE IN COLOMBIA

In Colombia, Latin America, millions of people have been forcibly displaced from their homes. The country is scarred by over 50 years of armed conflict. It has one of the highest numbers of displaced people in the world, second only to Syria. In addition to the thousands forced to flee their homes within Colombia in 2017, thousands more have fled to Colombia from Venezuela (including six-year-old Dainny, above, and his family).

Church agencies are helping to build peace among communities, promote human rights, and empower women and girls who have faced gender-based violence. They are providing practical support to new refugees and advocating for their rights.

Monsignor Héctor Fabio Henao, director of Caritas Colombia says, "Peace will be possible if the dignity of the victims is restored. It is important for them to receive the solidarity from other countries, to know they are not alone but part of the human family."

Photo: Tommy Trenchard / Caritas



### WELCOMING NEIGHBOURS IN UGANDA

Bidi Bidi was once a quiet village in northern Uganda. Today, it hosts over 270,000 women, men and children from neighbouring South Sudan, and is the second biggest refugee camp in the world.

Caritas Uganda are providing food, water and housing to thousands of people fleeing from the conflict in South Sudan.

Viola Taboo, 22, and her five-year-old son, Charles (above), fled to Uganda last year after soldiers arrived in their village. Eventually she found her way to safety in Bidi Bidi.

Her courage saved their lives. Later, Viola heard that eight members of her family had been killed in her homeland.

Viola and her son are starting to rebuild their lives. "At first there was little food here," she remembers. "Life was very hard. But now we are getting some good supplies."

## What are we calling for?

We call on world leaders to make a united, global response, through agreements which:

### 1 - Respect human dignity

- Give refugees and migrants the opportunity to work in host countries to support their families.
- Ensure rapid routes to citizenship. Grant every refugee child a birth certificate and recognise their nationality by law.
- Adopt alternatives to detention, especially for children.

### 2 - Protect the vulnerable

- Provide safe and legal routes for migrants and refugees.
- Ensure access to education, and provide foster care for young people who have been separated from their families.
- Protect migrants from exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking.
- Ensure all countries host their fair share of refugees.

### 3 - Support host countries

- Secure full funding by the international community for current humanitarian crises, for example to help South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

### 4 - Keep families together

- Ensure family members, including grandparents, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, can stay together or be reunited if separated.

### 5 - Tackle the reasons for migration

- Promote peaceful solutions in war-torn countries.
- Support the Paris climate agreement, to support people forced to flee their homes due to climate change.

## > SHARE THE JOURNEY: CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

### 2017

- > **27 September** Pope Francis launches the *Share the Journey* campaign at the Vatican.
- > **3 - 24 December** Online Advent reflections focusing on refugees.
- > **4 - 8 December** Exhibition in the Houses of Parliament, sharing stories and photos of people seeking refuge.

### 2018

- > **January - June** Parishes and schools across the country join the *Share the Journey* campaign (resources available November 2017).
- > **18-24 June** A week of action for *Share the Journey*.
- > **September** World leaders meet to agree the UN global compacts.