

4. Human Mobility: A Right that Involves Risk



DEFENSORES
DE VIDAS
COLOMBIA



Reflection #4

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Defenders of Life Network

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TRAFFICKING OF MIGRANTS TWO FACES OF POVERTY IN THE WORLD: A NEW CHALLENGE FOR AIC



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VISUALIZE (SEE)



A group of five young people from El Salvador have to abandon their country because they fear being recruited by armed gangs. During their journey on foot:

- They beg for alms in some cities and sleep on the street.
- At another place they decide to seek employment in order to have some money to continue their journey.
- There, Raquel, a minor, is exploited sexually by one of her companions who forces her to become involved in prostitution.

↔ One of the fundamental rights of every person is that of free movement, that is, the right to move freely within and outside of one's country. This is a universal right that has always been part of human history, a right that is referred to as **human mobility**.

↔ This movement can be either voluntary or involuntary and might last for a brief or a long period of time... a decision is always involved.

↔ This movement can also involve risks that place other human rights in jeopardy.

↔ This movement involves three moments, each of which involves certain risks.

Place of Origin



Travel

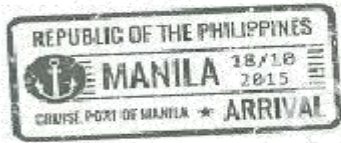


Destination

- What were the risks for these five young people from El Salvador?
- What rights were violated?
- Do you know of other cases... what happened?
- At some time we have all had to move: why did we decide to leave our place of origin? What do we remember about that move? What did we learn?



Reflection #4



UNDERSTAND (JUDGE)



Human mobility is a right, a complex process that can be motivated by various personal, family, financial, work related issues. There is also the right to remain in one's place of origin.

Those two rights are intimately related to one another and in order to be freely exercised certain other conditions are necessary, conditions that are not always present. Therefore, we can affirm:

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO MOVE ABOUT IN DIGNIFIED CONDITIONS AND/OR TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMELAND IN DIGNIFIED CONDITIONS.

In the last two centuries the phenomenon of human mobility has become problematic and has increased as a result of wars and conflicts and issues related to finance, religion, and culture... thus creating **the massive waves of migration that presently define our world.**

Internal and external migration **involves real people and faces and means family and cultural uprooting...** situations that AIC cannot ignore. This reality is happening very close to home, in our own country, in countries that share a common border.

What is the relationship between human trafficking and trafficking of migrants?

IN A PERSON'S HOMELAND:

The recruitment of trafficking victims usually occurs at the time at which a person, for one reason or another, expresses an interest in migrating. At that time employment offers, the promise of marriage or bettering one's life are just some of the strategies that are utilized by traffickers in order to establish a relationship with their victims.

DURING THE JOURNEY:

As a person travels to another place, he or she can become trapped in situations of exploitation in order to arrive at his or her destination, e.g., forced labor, sexual exploitation, begging, sale of organs, etc.

AT A PERSON'S DESTINATION:

In the place of destination, a person can be exposed to other risks, especially if he or she is lacking legal documentation that enables him or her to gain access to healthcare, education and employment.

How can we protect people moving from one place to another?

- ↔ Inform them of their right to move from one place to another in a secure and dignified manner. Speak with them about the risks from traffickers.
- ↔ Assume an attitude of protecting the rights of migrants rather than revictimizing people as though they were criminals.



REACT (ACT)



What can AIC do?

When we hear of people who are traveling from one place to another, a situation that can lead to human trafficking, we must be sure that we are in a situation in which we as Vincentians can offer them our services: humanitarian assistance, clear and precise information, accompaniment and solidarity.

Suggested Exercise:

Create a poster with caricatures (a comic) and place it next to the poster that outlines the Vincentian services with regard to the right to migrate and the right to remain in one's homeland:

- Chose a maximum of five characters and draw them.
- Show five different scenes.
- Create a dialogue between the characters that expresses:
 - The risks in the place of origin.
 - Reasons for leaving one's homeland.
 - Risks during the journey.
 - Risks when arriving at one's destination.