

Human Dignity and Deportations

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, April 15, 2024

It is imperative to recognize the great current migration challenge, which affects much of the world and the Dominican Republic. However, we should not approach this crisis as an isolated problem, but as an opportunity to strengthen the social and economic fabric of our country.

We firmly believe in the ability of our people to overcome this immigration challenge.

The history of the Dominican people is marked by resilience and solidarity, values that today call us to act with justice and compassion. The actions taken in any crisis situation must always respect human dignity and comply with national and international laws. This includes humane treatment for all migrants and their descendants and fair and transparent processes for the regularization and renewal of documents.

As a community of faith, we believe that each person is created in the image of God and worthy of respect and love. The mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves drives us to seek just and compassionate solutions that reflect the values of our Creator.

In their message of February 27, 2021, the Dominican Bishops, quoting Pope Francis, told us: ***“I understand that when faced with migrants, some have doubts and feel fear. I understand it as part of the natural instinct of self-defense.***

But it is also true that a person and a people are only fruitful if they know how to creatively integrate openness to others within themselves.” Addressing this issue again in their message of February 27, 2022, our Bishops stated: ***“We cannot turn a blind eye to the hardships suffered by many immigrants in our country.***

We invite our authorities to continue working to achieve a clear policy on this matter, and that firm and transparent decisions be made based on it, with strict respect for human rights and the dignity of people.”

The cries for justice and equity resonate loudly in the streets of our town.

Cries of indignation against the immigration operations in our bateyes, such as the case of March 15, 2024 at 2 am in the communities of Seibo (Villa Guerrero, Santa Lucia, Km 4 and Km 8). Where there was physical and psychological violence against children, pregnant women and vulnerable people. Cries of pain, for the detained people who must pay exorbitant sums to return to their homes. As a country, we are obliged to act within a legal framework that respects human dignity. It is clear that a dozen peasant families or a marginalized neighborhood in Santo Domingo are not the ones who endanger “National Security”, the gap that causes the greatest insecurity on our border is Corruption.

The distinction between migrants and their descendants and those who in recent years have resided in the country regularly is essential for a fair and effective immigration policy that guarantees full compliance with Law 285-04 and as established by Law 169. -14 of May 21, 2014, for regularization and naturalization. As priests, consecrated women and pastoral agents we raise our voices on behalf of families, workers, the elderly, pregnant women who already live among us and all those who have found a home in the Dominican Republic. For Haitian students, enrolled in our universities through formal and valid channels, who are being denied the possibility of renewing their visas and are being prevented from continuing their studies.

We call on the President of the Republic Luis Abinader Corona and the competent institutions to serious reflection, dialogue and actions, based on human rights.

Its acceptance is an important and significant way to defend "the inalienable dignity of each human person regardless of their origin, color or religion" (Declaration Dignitas Infinita #40).

The conditions of total violence and insecurity of our neighbors challenge us to be compassionate and force us to stop deportations and provide an ethical and legal response to the immigration crisis. Dominicans are a noble and hospitable people and the abuses that we have pointed out destroy the most fundamental values of our identity.

We entrust Our Lady of Altagracia, Mother of this Island, to take care of her sons and daughters.

Amen.

They sign:



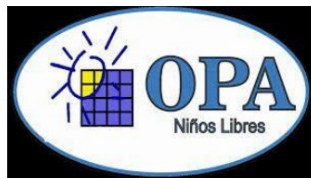


Clarkson-Montesinos
Institute

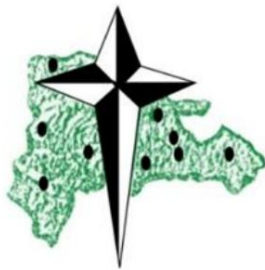


Red de Entidades para el
Desarrollo Solidario









Peru





Brazilian Justice and Peace Commission



Dominican Family Spain



Chili



Brazilian Justice and Peace Commission

Sisters of Saint John the Evangelist

