We all have a migration story

- What is your story?
- Who can you welcome and support?
We all have a migration story

Today, migration is changing our world in ways that we cannot ignore. The number of international migrants – persons living in a country other than where they were born – reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole, a 41 per cent increase compared to 2000, according to the 2015 data presented by the United Nations.* In 2014 almost 60 million people had been displaced by war worldwide.

Some migrants are forced to leave their home to escape death and violence; others choose to leave their country in search of better opportunities for themselves and for their family. Global inequality and conflict drive many to seek a better life in other countries. Migrants and refugees challenge us to consider how we respond to our changing world in the light of the Gospel of Mercy.

We can be guided by five Catholic social teaching principles that remind us how we can support and welcome migrants and refugees:

**Human dignity:** All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Every person has a story to tell and has an innate human dignity – te tapu o te tangata – that no-one can take away.

**Solidarity:** We should recognise others as our brothers and sisters, including refugees and migrants, and seek to actively work with them for their good. In our connected humanity, we are invited to build relationships – whakawhanaungatanga – to understand what life is like for others.

**Common good:** Working for the good of all – hei painga mō te katoa – means we cannot refuse asylum to people in need just because we want to preserve our traditional lifestyles. The common good means weighing up the needs of those seeking a new home and those already living in a country.

**Participation:** Promoting participation – nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou – means recognising we each have something unique and important to contribute to society. Welcoming new migrants and enabling them to participate fully in our parishes, schools and communities, means that we are all the better for their contribution to society. We are all called to give and receive from each other.

**Preferential option for the poor and vulnerable:** Having a preferential option for the poor – he whakaaro nui mō te hunga rawakore – compels us to think first of the needs of those who are most vulnerable like refugees and migrants who sometimes come to New Zealand with very few possessions, little money and no family connections. People in this situation should receive our help.

---

How to use this poster...

Display on the wall to promote Social Justice Week.

Use as a worksheet for individuals or as a group to...

- Show migration journeys
- List all of the countries and cultures that are represented
- Identify people who could be supported
- Decide on future actions to support others
Go to www.caritas.org.nz to access all of the school resources for Social Justice Week this year.
Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand responds to the global refugee humanitarian crisis through our emergency relief, development, advocacy and education work. As part of the global Caritas Internationalis confederation we support our local member organisations and work with communities to support humanitarian and development programmes. We advocate on issues affecting refugees and migrants, both in New Zealand and internationally. We work to build awareness of refugee issues, through building local relationships with refugee and migrant groups, and through our international partnerships responding to the needs of displaced people. Each year resources are produced promoting the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants.

**Parliamentary Advocacy**

In 2015 the New Zealand Catholic Bishops called for an increase in New Zealand's intake of refugees. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand wrote to the Minister of Immigration outlining policy options, including increasing the refugee quota, and also consideration of other immigration options that will enable New Zealand to take more refugees. An increase in the refugee quota has recently been announced. In the past Caritas has made submissions to Select Committees considering immigration issues, such as the 2007 Immigration Act.

**Support for Refugee Family Reunification**

Caritas supports refugee family reunification through ongoing assistance for organisations working to unite refugee families. Since 2002 we have made an annual grant/contribution to the Refugee Family Reunification Trust, and also have supported similar organisations in Auckland and Hamilton.

**Awareness and Connection**

Caritas works with parishes, schools and the wider community to support learning about issues affecting refugees and migrants, and to support ways to increase celebration of cultural diversity in our communities. This includes resources for Social Justice Week and the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants.

**Caritas Global Response**

The global Caritas Internationalis confederation of 165 Caritas organisations, is responding to the Middle East refugee crisis, particularly through the leadership of the most affected countries – Caritas Syria, Caritas Iraq, Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Jordan and Caritas Turkey. Most refugees and displaced people are continuing to be supported within these countries – only a minority are in a position to seek asylum abroad, and of these, only a small proportion will be resettled to third countries like New Zealand.

**Supporting Syrian Refugees**

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand worked with Caritas Lebanon to provide assistance to more than a million Syrian refugees who are currently living in Lebanon. The focus was on providing healthcare, emergency supplies and shelter to refugees, as well as support for host communities under stress. Caritas is committed to continuing to respond to this crisis through supporting a programme in Jordan that focuses on providing healthcare for refugees and support for the host communities.

**Peace in the Middle East Campaign**

Our current Peace in the Middle East campaign enables New Zealanders to stand in solidarity and show support for the most vulnerable in the region, while ensuring that Caritas is able to continue working with partner organisations to make a difference. Donations for the campaign are collected in the Peace in the Middle East Fund and are used to support our ongoing programmes and emergency humanitarian aid responses in the region. Find out more at www.caritas.org.nz/emergency-relief/peace-middle-east.