

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, BELEM, 1st of february 2009

THEMATIC ASSEMBLY ON MIGRATIONS

We, organisations and social movements gathered at the World Social Forum in Belém in a thematic assembly on migrations, do remind that, according to article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, migration is a right and not a crime.

Northern governments, with the complicity of their Southern counterparts, bear a heavy responsibility in world disorders. The worldwide ecological, economical and financial crisis and its corollary, the food crisis, demonstrate the failure of the current world system which increases poverty and North-South imbalances.

The patriarchal and capitalistic globalisation, through the exploitation of human beings and environment, as well as the wars, occupations and conflicts are the main causes of forced migrations.

It is unbearable that the only response provided is the generalisation of security-based and utilitarian migration policies, that criminalise migrants and consider them as a mere labour force, which is precarious, temporary and deprived of social rights.

We need to unite in order to fight against the multiplication of racist and xenophobic behaviours, which are worsened by the current crisis.

We refuse the war on migrants and demand a halt to the militarization of borders, as well as to the subcontracting in Southern countries of policies of control and repression of migrants and asylum-seekers.

We demand a halt to the criminalisation of migrants and their defenders and call a de-penalisation of undocumented emigration and stay, as well as the regularisation of all undocumented migrants.

We demand the removal of all disposals aimed at detaining, deporting and turning back migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, regardless of their basic rights and their aspirations.

We refuse that migrant workers remain an adjustment tool for the world capitalistic system promoted by the World Trade Organisation and by all free-trade agreements and we refuse the implementation of temporary migrant workers' programmes that only respond to the interests of multinational corporations.

We appeal to ratify and respect the UN International Convention to Protect the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families and the ILO conventions N°97 and 143.

We ask the governments to comply with their international obligations with regard to the right to development and the right to asylum and we refuse, among others, that Overseas Development Assistance be conditioned to the implementation of security-based migration policies.

We also draw the attention to the necessity to take into account environmental refugees and climate-change-induced migrations.

Building on our past and future mobilisations, we appeal to social movements to forge large trans-national and trans-thematic alliances in order to place the respect of migrants' rights at the heart of policies that are of concern to them.

We call for a joint collective mobilisation at key dates on the world alter-globalist agenda, especially:

April 2009 : Mobilisation during the G20 summit and the NATO summit

17th of May 2009 : Mobilisation against European migration policies before the European elections

May 2009: Counter-summit EU - Latin America

20th of June 2009 : Mobilisation on the occasion of World refugee day

June-Sept 2009 : Inter-ministerial summit on migrations in Latin America in Ecuador

July 2009 : Mobilisation on the occasion of the G8 in Italy

November 2009 : Global Forum on Migrations and Développement in Athens in Greece

December 2009 : Copenhagen summit on climate change

18th of December 2009 : International Day of Migrants