

Public Statement

US Withdrawal from Global Compact on Migration

Roman Union Ursulines of the United States

The Roman Union Ursulines of the United States are deeply troubled by the recent announcement of our present administration to quit participating in talks in the United Nations to improve and regularize the handling of the global flows of migrants and refugees.

The Global Compact on Migration will be a vehicle for the safe, orderly, and regular migration of all people. It is a significant opportunity to improve the governance on migration, to address the challenges associated with today's migration and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

The United States, according to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, "cannot in good faith support a process that could undermine the sovereign right of the United States to enforce our immigration laws and secure our borders."

Louise Arbour, special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration, speaking at a meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, as part of the preparatory process around the world to inform the development of the global compact stated: Migration is truly a global phenomenon, neither a unique gift nor a burden on any one set of countries." She then added that migration's inherent international nature necessitates a global response and at the same time does not contradict a State's sovereign right – subject to both international and domestic law – to manage who enters and stays within its borders.

"An unwillingness even to negotiate international principles for the safe, regular, and orderly migration is a head-in-the-sand denial; of basic human history" said Bill Frelick, refugee rights program coordinator at Human Rights Watch.

At our International Chapter of 2013, the Ursulines of the Roman Union committed ourselves, "in solidarity and compassion and compelled by the Gospel, we open our hearts to the cries of the earth and its people. A particular focus for us is refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.

Thus, we stand with the member states of the United Nations as they seek to ratify the Global Compact on Migration during 2018. We will continue to speak out against the America First policies of the present Trump administration.

For more information on the Global Compact for Migration go to:

<https://unofficeny.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

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