

Borders, Mobility and Immigration Policy

Friday May 11th



Summary of Panel Discussion and Workshop:

- Creation of committees for the defense of migrants' Human Rights
- The border, symbolic of the hopes for development and improvement in quality of life but tainted with the risk of misery and death
- The challenges faced by migrants trying to cross the border
- The new legislation in the U.S. increases the probabilities of death for migrants
- It is urgent to dismantle the trafficking networks at and beyond the border
- The border is a vulnerable zone for the violation of Human Rights
- The need to face the migration problems created by governments, both in sending and receiving countries.
- The inadequate treatment of the migration phenomenon causes other problems like narcotrafficking, organized crime, human trafficking, prostitution rings and child abuse
- The need to demand political rights in both the sending and receiving countries
- The importance of political integration for migrants in the country of residency and in the home country
- Other forms of integration, not just the political, are important for migrants

Measures Proposed:

- Demand that the U.S. stop the militarization of the border. Moreover, there is a need to demilitarize the Mexico-Guatemala border
- Develop an international network to push for favorable public policy for migrants
- Insert the migrant into the politics of the residing country
- A need to reform the laws that criminalize migrants
- Promote public policies in the home countries that will create development and prevent migration
- There needs to be a Human Rights Commission exclusively focused on borders
- Organizations should organize to collaborate with Consulates in the short and long term
- Strengthen the organizations that work at the border
- Generate social policies in both sending and receiving countries to erase the rigid political borders
- Work with integration programs for migrants, developed from migrants