



The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS)  
Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales  
Oral Statement (3 minutes) Presented by: Patricia Sayers  
51<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development  
United Nations New York, New York April 9-13, 2018  
Theme: Sustainable cities, human mobility, and international migration  
CICIAMS Representatives: M. Arvonio, M. Nowak and P. Sayers.

**Commission Chair, Distinguished Panel Members, National Representatives, and Guests:**

Thank you for this opportunity to address the United Nations, 51<sup>st</sup> Commission on Population and Development. CICIAMS's Oral Statement speaks to the health and well-being of migrants and host nation citizens.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES: DISASTER, POVERTY, & VIOLENCE

The World Bank Group (2018) cautions that 90% of current urban centers are hurricane, flood, earthquake, and/or other natural disaster prone. Compounding disaster vulnerability is the plight of impoverished urban poor. City slums home nearly 1 billion persons (Habitat for Humanity, 2017). Civil war and urban terrorism are spreading violence. This year saw an increase in crimes by migrants against women. Police warned women to not leave homes alone or at particular times in Sweden, Finland, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Rape is a physical, mental and emotional assault under any circumstance.

Health care delivery concerns include: breakdown of childhood immunizations programs, drug shortages, insufficient time to develop refugee health systems, lack of health records, occurrence of HIV, Hep C, TB, internal parasites, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Many nurses caring for sick and infirmed are at risk due to religious intolerance. This must stop.

Remedies include 1) disaster preparedness with an adequate nurse workforce 2) academic and vocational pathways to prosperity for the materially impoverished 3) "Love of neighbor in action" and religious liberty for the spiritually impoverished, and finally 4) world-wide respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

HUMAN MOBILITY & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Human mobility refers to voluntary and involuntary movement of populations within and across national borders. In 2016, weather related disasters displace 24.2 million people. An estimated 6.9 million internal displacements were due to conflict (Yamamoto, L.,2017). Migration includes mobile persons seeking a better life who voluntarily leave their country of origin to another. Policies to protect migrants and citizens of host countries are needed.

Nurses respond to these events, yet often feel underprepared or lack authority or resources. Disaster-focused instruction and employer policies to engage staff in disaster drills are indicated.

### INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: RECEIVER & SENDER COUNTRIES/CULTURES

Annually from 2015 to 2050, “more than 100,000 migrants are projected to enter USA, Germany, Canada, the UK, Australia and the Russian Federation. Sender countries losing more than 100,000 migrants annually include India, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, and Indonesia”. Jayaraman (2014) stated “...70% of the population ... limited access to hospitals and clinics... relies on alternative medicine.” The National Institutes of Health (USA, 2018) reports that, traditional energy therapies lack curative evidence. Some traditional methods transgress Catholic beliefs (i.e. Reiki). Culturally competent scientific care must remain standard.

In closing, Pope Francis reminds us that

*“Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.”*  
-Pope Francis, *World Day of Migrants and Refugees (2014)*

Thank you and may efforts of this 51<sup>st</sup> Commission foster health and strengthen faith, hope, and love among people and nations.

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