

Announcement to the Society of Jesus
and the Apostolic Body of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

The **JRS Regional Directors Team**¹ (Senior Leadership Team - SLT) led by International Director, Rev. Tomas H. Smolich SJ, and the Deputy Director, Br. Michael Schopf SJ, we met in Bogotá, Colombia, between November 14 to 19, 2022, including a visit to the Cúcuta territorial team (JRS Colombia) on the Colombian-Venezuelan border.

In this time of grace, we ratify:

1. Our **commitment to accompany, serve and offer a human and quality service to refugees, migrants, and forcibly displaced persons.** To do it, we strengthen our reflection and work on the relevance of linking global and local work as a way to understand and respond adequately to the various migratory flows of people in a comprehensive and Intersectoral way.
2. Our **understanding of the variety of factors that cause forced displacement in the world** (armed conflicts, erroneous economic policies, climate change, armed violence, and the crisis of democracies, among others). They call upon us to broaden our vision and respond to these situations by offering accompaniment to the people we serve and through public and political advocacy actions.
3. Our **gratitude for the lessons learned from the JRS Latin America and the Caribbean region:** a) How they incorporate their work in the apostolic project of the Conference of Provincials (CPAL) and the Provinces of the region, establishing networks with other works of the Society of Jesus and the Church, as it is currently happening with the Jesuit Migrant Service in Peru. b) Its articulation with the global level of JRS, especially from the design of the regional strategic framework and the contextualized appropriation of global tools to improve the service.
4. We feel **invited to continue strengthening the work for reconciliation and hospitality,** attending to the particularities of each place where we develop our mission.

Being so, we confirm our commitment to accompany, serve and defend the people who give meaning to our mission.

Bogotá, Colombia. November 19, 2022.

¹ JRS Regions in the world (09): Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Southern Africa, Europe, Middle East and North Africa -MENA-, Asia Pacific, South Asia, United States and Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.