

BELONGING & SOCIAL INCLUSION

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Pre-Departure

Even before migrants, refugees or asylum-seekers leave their countries of origin, they might encounter trauma, such as war, human rights violations, torture, or sexual violence. This is especially the case for people in forced migration flows.



On the Journey

In transit, migrants might experience exhausting journeys, dangerous travel conditions (e.g. exposure to extreme temperatures, perilous modes of transport, lack of basic health necessities, etc.), or traumatic events, abuse and violence.



At Destination

In their host communities, migrants may face exclusion or discrimination from healthcare systems and policies due to their migration status, language and/or cultural values. They might also experience abuse, exploitation, or unsafe working and living conditions.



How Mercy Responds



Mercy hospitals, shelters, and other ministries fill important gaps in healthcare coverage, continuing the long tradition of Mercy care which began with Catherine McAuley and the first Sisters of Mercy. Excluding migrants from a rights-based approach to health is a poor public health practice and a violation of migrants' rights. Addressing the health needs of migrants can improve health status and outcomes, facilitate integration, and contribute to social and economic development.

Take Action!

Contact your elected representatives at local and national level to ensure migrants can access basic services and exercise their human right to health, regardless of their migration status, and without fear of immigration enforcement.



Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move