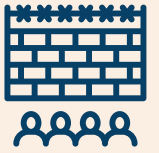




Supporting Migrants at Borders and in Detention



Assistance in Transit and at Borders



At land, sea and air borders around the world, migrants can experience discrimination, violence, prolonged or arbitrary detention, and even death. People around the Mercy World encounter migrants throughout every aspect of their journey and many support migrants who have recently crossed borders. For some, that means providing companionship and immediate assistance, including medical care, food and water, blankets, clothing, sanitary items and an opportunity to rest.



Criminalization of Solidarity



There is a worrying and growing trend of 'criminalization of solidarity' in recent years, as governments try to deter migration by threatening, harassing, and prosecuting people and organizations who have helped refugees and migrants by providing food and water, temporary shelter, or rescue at sea.



Assistance to Migrants in Detention



For migrants and asylum seekers, the experience of immigration detention has many damaging and long-lasting physical and psychological effects. Detention and strict immigration laws perpetuate fears based on systematic intolerance, xenophobia, and racism. Through their advocacy and friendship with migrants, people around the Mercy World have been able to create a 'ministry of presence' that provides migrants comfort, companionship, and access to housing, employment, and legal assistance in times of uncertainty.



Alternatives to Detention



Community-based alternatives to detention better respect the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and prove that detention is not necessary during the immigration process. An end to immigration detention is not only possible, it is beneficial to states, and necessary to ensure the dignity and rights of people on the move.



Take Action!



- Examine the relationship between racism and migration policies
- Raise your voice to make sure policies and practices are human-rights based and non-discriminatory. Call on governments to:
 - Decriminalize irregular migration
 - Demilitarize border enforcement against migrants & asylum seekers
 - Stop and reverse border externalization
 - Decriminalize humanitarian assistance to migrants & asylum seekers
 - Prioritize alternatives to detention, end child immigration detention, and use detention of adults only as a measure of last resort