

Mexico City, a space of rights for migrants and asylum seekers

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México is a country of migrants that go to the United States, also has internal migration; lives the return of immigrants, thousands cross from other countries trying to go to the United States and receive refugees.

Since 2014, about 400 thousands migrants of Central America crossed trying to arrive to the United States, most of them in risk mainly from organized crime. And although the Migration law states it's not a crime to be an undocumented migrant in our country, most of them have been deported to their countries.

Regarding Mexico City, in 2011 was approved the Law on Interculturality, Attention to Migrants and Human Mobility. In its article 2, states that: It's "**a hospitable city**, it recognizes as **a guest any person who comes from different nations** regardless of their migratory status, and has the protection of local

Recently, the Constitution of Mexico City published on February 5, 2017, states in his article 2: **Mexico City is enriched with the transit, destination and return of national and international migration**; and in his article 4: "The City is a space open to foreigners to whom the Mexican State has recognized the status of refugees and granted political asylum or complementary protection."

On April 6, 2017, the Governor of Mexico City, Miguel Angel Mancera, issued a Decree in the Official Gazette, declaring Mexico City as a "**Sanctuary City**" for migrant workers (and their families), certainly for those deported from the United States –almost 3 millions in President Obama term-; and those who arrive to Mexico City International Airport handcuffed on three weekly flights sent by the present administration of that country; they wish to remain in the city instead of returning to their hometown, or they are to Mexico City, they benefit of all social and work programs and public services.

Ratifying the commitment of Mexico's City Government, On August 25 of this year, the head of Government, Miguel Angel Mancera and the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

That was preceded by an agreement among the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion of the CDMX with UNHCR on June 20, and since then refugees and refugee applicants are incorporated to training programs and employment insertion.

Mexico City is the only entity in the country that has an unemployment insurance program for unemployed workers, which is granted up to six months, and includes training:

certification of labor skills and labor insertion, oriented to achieve economic Independence and social inclusion. Migrants and refugees also have access to it.

The aim of Mexico City Government is to guarantee workers –mexican or migrants-, not only social welfare, but also public policies of labor inclusion and programs.

Regarding mexican migration to the United States, approximately thirty millions are second or third generation. Other twelve millions were born in Mexico, although six millions of them are undocumented migrant workers and their families. The main cause has been the desire for better work and income; it is the economy.

Just speaking of wages, the asymmetry between Mexico and his neighbour at the north, explain migration: while a mexican worker with minimum wage earns the equivalent of 4 USD per day – a salary below the poverty line, and only above the minimum wage capacity of purchase of Nicaragua and Haití-, a United States worker earns between 8,9, 10 or 15 dollars of minimum wage per hour (it differs in each state).

Undoubtedly, the asymmetry on wages is a fundamental cause that explains Mexican migration.

In the same way, the Central American migration is in search of better work and salary; but far the more they flee from violence.

And this is a regional issue, because if we speak of drugs and violence, it is necessary to remember that the biggest drug market in the planet is in the U.S.A and that is part of the problem.

It is clear that the cause of migration must be addressed, attending at the structural factor.

One one hand instead of offering cheap labor to attract investments, the government of the North Triangle of this of Central America, must invest in quality training of human capital, in research, knowledge, science and education.

Must guarantee decent work and decent wages.

And most assume that only a regional vision and responsibility involving the governments of Mexico, The United States, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, forward or inclusive and sustainable development, will stop immigration.

Because surely it is not with a persecutory vision or building walls, that the motives that make millions of human being leave behind their homes and loved ones, will end.