

**RESOLUTIONS BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON  
ENHANCING ETHICAL RECRUITMENT AND  
PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS FROM  
UGANDA**

**A**

**PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**

**25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2024**



## **Preamble**

We religious leaders under the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) gathered here at ADMAS Grand Hotel in Entebbe from the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in a three-day workshop supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) of the UN under the theme “**Enhancing Ethical Recruitment and Protection of Migrant Workers from Uganda**”

**Guided** by our calling and compassion to serve humanity and particularly those in need and vulnerable;

**Acknowledging** that migration in its many forms is natural and fundamental to the history of human civilisation

**Cognizant** of the benefits and remittances by Ugandan migrants accounting for approximately 5.65 per cent of Uganda’s GDP;

**Appreciating** the country’s open policy towards migration and refugees with Uganda home to 1.6 million refugees and asylum seekers

**Noting** that migration in Uganda and other areas is caused by many factors including but not limited to; environmental, cultural, political, social and mainly economic factors;

**Deeply concerned** about the migration of young people who continue to leave the country due to inadequate living conditions, unemployment and effects of climate change;

**Concerned and appalled** by the increasing cases of abuse, loss of lives, property both outside and at home of migrant workers and particularly those working in the Middle East,

**Resolve as follows;**

1. That the existing program on migration, migrant workers and refugees at the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda secretariat be strengthened to be more robust, functional, and effective in supporting IRCU member bodies to develop responsive programs that support migrant workers.
2. To support IRCU member bodies to initiate programs that can effectively respond to challenges of migration and migrant workers within their secretariats.
3. To scale out and cascaded this IOM supported capacity building initiative on Safe Labour migration and ethical recruitment at sub-national level so that other religious leaders are skilled and empowered.
4. Call upon all religious leaders to provide safe spaces particularly at places of worship to serve as centers of information on the right pathways towards safe migration for young people intending to migrate
5. To support the government and other stakeholders as advocates and whistle blowers in the implementation of safe migration policies and where religious leaders detect abuse of migrant workers work to protect them
6. To continuously engage government to implement and enforce the various policies, laws and bilateral agreements

that are in place to ensure full protection and availability of consular services for migrant workers from Uganda

7. To call upon the government to put in place a special emergency Fund under the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development to support migrant workers that are in distress either due to abuse, civil conflict or during catastrophes.
8. To encourage all religious institutions to develop and engender policies within their structures that protect their fellow religious leaders and other workers during their tour of duty and other related work.
9. Aggressively use faith-based media to provide platforms for information on safe migrations pathways
10. To develop and strengthen programs that protect refugees and host communities so that both live in harmony and refugees are supported to reintegrate back to their places of origin.
11. To develop use friendly Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) with information on safe migration including pastoral letters to be disseminated through religious structures
12. To encourage religious leaders to identify and support migrant returnees who may face difficulty in resettling back in their communities
13. To identify champions and resource persons from churches and mosques to support young people who would like to migrate so that there is on-going support even when they reach their countries of destination.

14. Dialogue with recruiting agencies so that they are humane and provide services for which they are accredited to and encourage them to open up employment contracts to improve on their levels of transparency.

Finally, we pledge to use our structure of the youth interfaith network and the women of faith, we shall build their capacity so that there is ongoing support to our young people who intend or are in the process of leaving the country for migrant work.

His Eminence Metropolitan Jeroyntos Muzeeyi,

Co-Chair IRCU Council of Presidents/Archbishop Uganda Orthodox Church and the Metropolitan of the Holy Metropolis of Kampala

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE IRCU COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS**