

INTRODUCTION

Javier Castañeda Monter
Board of Directors,
Familias y Sociedad

The subject of migration is usually studied from the perspective of the migrant as an individual, with only indirect reference to his family. However, concern for the family's welfare is often the initial motive for migration.

For this reason, healthy migration will only be achieved when the welfare of the family of the migrant worker is taken into account, when migration is no longer forced upon them through marginalization, hunger or lack of opportunities in their place of origin. The problems of well-paid employment for the breadwinners in each family throughout the world, food self-sufficiency, health services for all, educational opportunities, comprehensive scientific applications for the development of the family, must be addressed. Otherwise, migration, with its uncertain future, becomes the only viable option for survival.

This Colloquium will look at the way migration affects the family structure of the migrant worker, with the aim of promoting and strengthening government and private projects that protect the rights of the family of the migrant worker, as well as seeking the reunification of its members and their personal development.

In order to achieve this, we will analyze the impact that migration has on the lives of not only those who migrate but also on the members of the family who painfully are

left behind. It considers ways in which the human rights of children affected by migration are violated, and how their personal, physical, emotional and spiritual development is affected.

We will consider the role Mexico plays as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants.

The cultural, social and economic contributions of migration will be highlighted.

We will address the dilemmas posed by multiculturalism, the formation of a new family in the host country, and the ensuing disintegration of the family which was left behind, or is already on its way to join the family member.

We will analyze some of the risks posed by ideologies and the barriers that break up a person and the family, which not only prevent their own fulfillment, but also provoke the disintegration of the social fabric of society.

We will refer to the international conventions and treaties that protect migrants and their families.

We will present certain aspects of how social and family networks operate as part of the survival strategy for migrants. We will see how the family remains an essential element in their survival strategy; proof that mankind as a whole is but a family.