

IV World Meeting of Popular Movements in dialogue with Francisco. Shelter, Work and Land. July and September 2021

Presentation

The World Meeting of Popular Movements (WMPM) is a space of fellowship between organisations based on the five continents, a platform consisting of different popular movements regarding the invitation of Francisco that the poor and organised communities do not become resigned and to become the protagonists of the change process.

This space promotes the meeting's culture with the aim that popular movements fight bravely but without arrogance, with determination but without violence, for human dignity, nature and social justice. In this way our meeting responds to the need to promote the organisation of the socially excluded in order to build from below the human alternative to this exclusive globalisation which seizes even the sacred rights to shelter, work and land. Poor working people do not only endure injustice, but also organises themselves to fight against this.

The three meetings held

The first meeting was held in Rome in October 2014. A hundred representatives from popular movements on the five continents were brought together. It was held in order to confirm the agonising reality of those without rights and excluded: casual workers, temporary workers, migrants... and in order to debate this perspective with Francisco's thinking, especially "from the input of *Evangelii gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel*". It marked a milestone in the process of the movements' organisation and maturation, with the aim of "responding to a desire which should be within everyone's reach, but which nowadays we sadly see further away from the majority: shelter, work and land". Francisco located this now renowned 3 concepts as "sacred rights", proper to the Social Doctrine of the Church (Cfr. *Fratelli tutti*, 127)

> This was the synthesis of the [dialogue of the popular movements](#) and this is the [message which Pope Francisco brought to us](#), which summarises "a large part of our experience, thinking and desires (...) The clarity and strength of his words do not allow other interpretations and reaffirm that the concern for the poor is at the centre of the Gospel itself. In coherence with its words, the fraternal, patient and warm disposition of Francisco towards each and every one of us, and especially the persecuted, also expresses his solidarity with our struggle which has so often been undervalued and prejudged, even persecuted, repress or criminalised".

He joins his voice to the cry of popular movements for shelter, work and land: "No family without a home, no farmer without land, no worker without rights, no-one without the dignity provided by work".

In July 2015, the II Meeting took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. This meeting joined more than 1500 delegates of the popular movements in representation of 40 countries from the five continents, together with bishops and pastoral workers to share experiences, realities and ideas and to advance the problems of the poor from the already internationally-recognised shelter, work and land concept, in light of the encyclical *Laudato si'*.

In their dialogues, the popular movements agree with Francisco that social and environmental issues emerge as two sides of the same coin. A system which doesn't provide shelter, work and land for all, which erodes peace between people and threatens the very existence of mother Earth, cannot continue to dominate the planet's destiny. That's why they emphasise the need to "overcome a social, political, economic and cultural model where the market and money have become the regulator of human relationships at all levels".

> The conclusions constituted the [Santa Cruz letter](#). The [message of Pope Francisco](#), a transcendental text, which is constantly referred to and is catalogued as "mini-encyclical", shares with the popular movements its sense of "fraternity, grit, surrender and thirst for justice" in order to overcome the great injustices. A "real, permanent and committed" collaboration which invites us to continue and strengthen the fight for the sacred rights of shelter, work and land and share three big tasks: 1) to place the economy at the service of the people; 2) to unite our people on the road to peace and justice and 3) to defend mother Earth.

The III Meeting was again held in the Vatican, in November 2016. It was convened for the third consecutive year to express the same thirst for justice and the clamour for shelter, work and land as on previous occasions. If the first encounter served to get to know the different realities for poor and excluded workers, and the second to discern what was happening with the support of the encyclical *Laudato si'*, then this third meeting discussed and concluded with a series of proposals, a shared action for all the movements called to defend these rights. With the participation of 170 delegates from 65 countries, the discussions about shelter, work and land were addressed, as well as new debates about People and democracy; Land and nature; Refugees and displaced persons of the world.

> The popular movements defined a [Document for Proposed Transformative Action](#) The [message from Pope Francisco](#) recognised the importance of the daily commitment of popular movements, how to do this, as well as encouraging them to continue on this road of "slow germination" and this dialogue for justice and for shelter, work and land, "this cry that you make my own". Francisco asks to popular movements to use "this very special solidarity which exists between those who have suffered" and he urges them to get involved in politics, showing an example and reclaiming, by participating socially in public life, "one of the highest forms of charity, love", but not without previously pointing out two risks: limiting themselves, staying away from the big discussions in order not to be reduced to a secondary role. And the second risk, corruption. The antidote against this is to live the vocation of service with humility and austerity "moral, in the way of living, in how I pursue my life, my family", preaching the example of serving your neighbour as "the best way to promote the common good and the project-bridge of shelter, work and land".

IV Meeting. July-September 2021

During the most difficult time of the pandemic, Francisco addressed a [letter to the popular movement](#) (12th April 2020) in order to show that it's "time for a universal wage for the most humble workers without rights" because lockdown prevented them from "earning their daily bread". He condemns the fact that poor workers "have been excluded from the benefits of globalisation" but not their damage: "the bad things which afflict everyone hit you all twice as badly"; he encourages the continued struggle for shelter, work and land and invites them to consider "the project of integrated human development which we desire" for after the crisis with him.

This *thinking about the afterwards* is the starting point of the fourth meeting of the popular movements which **will be carried out entirely on the internet**, by videoconference, and will have two different parts.

The first will take place on the **9th of July** from 14:00 (Rome time). It will reunite the popular movements and their accredited delegates to discuss the **impact of COVID on the most humble and excluded workers** and the **dilemmas which humanity faces today**, including the 3 concepts because "it's possible to long for a planet which guarantees shelter, work and land for all" (Pope Francisco, cfr. *Fratelli tutti*, 127).

The second part of this meeting will take place in **September 2021**. This will be the chance to **share the work and struggle** of popular movements during the pandemic, **discuss** the conclusions of the discussions of the popular movements **with Pope Francisco**, and listen to his message.

It will be broadcast live, simultaneously in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French through the communication media of the popular movements.

Participation

Representatives of the popular movements from all latitudes across the planet, from different religions and cultures will be reunited again. In this IV meeting, delegates from America (North, Central and South), Europe, Africa and Asia will participate.

We are cartoneros, recyclers, street vendors, tailors, artisans, fishermen, farmers, builders, miners, workers in recovered companies, all kinds of cooperative members, workers in folk trades, Christian workers of varied offices and professions, small farmers, neighbourhood and villa workers... who practice the culture of meeting and walking together.

Organising committee

This committee contributes to the organisation and dynamization of the meeting. They maintain the dialogue with the Holy See, through the Dicastery for Integrated Human Development. On behalf of the popular movements, it consists of João Pedro Stédile from the Landless Workers Movement (MST) - La Vía Campesina in Brazil; Juan Grabois, from the Movement of Excluded Workers (MTE) - Union of Workers of the Popular Economy

(UTEF) in Argentina; Rose Molokoane from the National Slum Dwellers Federation in India - Slum Dwellers International (SDI); Charo Castelló, from the Catholic Action Workers Brotherhood (HOAC) in Spain - World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW), Gloria Morales Palos, from PICO Network in United States; and Luca Cassarini, from Mediterranea Saving Humans in Italy.

Communication office

The IV Worldwide Meeting of Popular Movements has a team of activists available who will focus their work on attending to the social communication media which require this, and in building their own story which makes it possible to hear the voice of and make visible millions of people who are being excluded from a good life.

During the meeting, the following communication spaces will be used:

web > www.movpop.org // email > prensa@movpop.org //

Twitter > [@enmovpop](https://twitter.com/enmovpop) // Facebook > [Shelter-Work-Land](https://www.facebook.com/Shelter-Work-Land)

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