



FINAL DECLARATION OF THE V WORLD MEETING OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS

Organizing Hope through an Alliance against Exclusion

Gathered in Rome, from October 21 to 24, 2025, at our Fifth World Meeting held at Spin Time Labs –a community where solidarity and hope become real for those discarded by the system– we recognize ourselves as peoples on a journey, filled with fraternal and communal life, yet also aware of the suffering endured by our brothers and sisters in the world’s peripheries, and of the pain we experience in these difficult times that challenge and call us forth.

We wish to share with the world this message, the fruit of a collective process that began in 2014 with Pope Francis, aimed at strengthening the dialogue between the Church and the Popular Movements. Through it, we have borne clear witness to the need for land, housing, and work for all, as the foundation of social justice.

In today’s context of growing inequality and profound change, we face new challenges that do not leave us indifferent and that humanity must transform so that every person can live in full dignity.

We live in a fractured world, wounded by violence, injustice, and contempt for human dignity.

The signs of the times confront us starkly. Today there are more than 50 armed conflicts active in the world—the highest number recorded since World War II—sowing death and devastation. In just 23 months of war in Palestine, more than 20,000 children have lost their lives.

Economic inequality keeps deepening: the richest 1% of the global population now holds more wealth than the remaining 99%, concentrating power that shapes political decisions worldwide, marginalizing the most vulnerable, and violating the inalienable dignity of every human being.

Labor precariousness is worsening globally, with informality already affecting 60% of workers and reaching an alarming 80% in some countries. This means that the great majority of humankind works without basic rights or social protection.

This is not a residual problem but an active process of precarization driven by the economic system, producing massive exclusion from the formal world of work. Yet millions do not resign themselves;

they create their own work at the margins in order to survive: waste pickers, street vendors, land workers, community caregivers, garment workers, and many others. Even though they create community and sustain life, workers in the popular economy still lack access to fundamental rights.

Unemployment, precarious conditions, occupational accidents and diseases, and miserable wages are not isolated phenomena; they are different faces of the same coin of denial and violation of the right to decent work.

In 2024, more than 2,500 migrants died or disappeared trying to cross the Mediterranean toward Europe, fleeing war, hunger, and despair. Yet instead of hospitality –of welcoming and care– we witness a growing hatred of the poor. European authorities continue to criminalize rescue operations at sea, carried out by the civil fleet of social organizations and humanitarian vessels. The criminalization of solidarity has become a defining feature of the inhumanity holding our world hostage.

Added to this tragedy is that of millions of people without a home, with no roof under which to find shelter.

The annual burning of millions of hectares of forest, water pollution, extractive exploitation, and the urgent need to repair environmental damage caused by a predatory model, as well as an “energy transition” that violates the lands of Indigenous peoples –intensified by the overexploitation of minerals for new technologies and weapon production– show that this model not only harms the planet but also perpetuates gender-based violence, bringing suffering and death to countless women.

At the same time, the criminalization of poverty and of social leaders is intensifying.

We also demand the universal right to health and medical care as an indispensable condition for a dignified life.

The Popular Movements have martyrs: brothers and sisters who gave their lives out of militant coherence and commitment to justice, land, housing, and work, as well as many who are persecuted or imprisoned for defending the dignity of the excluded.

Yet, amid these shadows, we are not alone. Pope Francis accompanied us with his prophetic testimony, whose call for a Church that goes forth—Samaritan and merciful—has encouraged our journey. Now, Pope Leo XIV has assured us that he stands with us, urging us to persevere in the mission of bringing hope to the peripheries.

Next Steps: What We Propose at the Conclusion of the Fifth World Meeting of Popular Movements

In his message to the Meeting, Pope Leo XIV invited us to reflect on the “new things” that we are called to do with and for those living in the peripheries of our communities: “The new things seen

from the periphery, and your effort that does not stop at protest but also seeks solutions,” said Pope Leo XIV.

What are these things—the new strategies and tools we must consider to strengthen our movements, deepen our bond with the Church, meet the material needs of our sisters and brothers in the peripheries, and renew the face of the earth?

1. Commit to Structural, Economic, and Political Actions that Unite Us

Proposals for integral human development identified during this week within the pillars of Land, Housing, and Work:

Right to decent and safe work: recognition of the activities performed by workers in conditions of extreme precariousness, ensuring safety and health at work.

Universal labor and social rights: promote a universal basic income as recognition of unpaid work and as a guarantee of subsistence; advance the reduction of working hours to redistribute labor and improve life. Defend universal access to quality education and public healthcare.

Peace with social justice: reject and actively denounce wars and genocides, which always hit the poor hardest, and promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Economic sovereignty: fight for the cancellation of illegitimate external debts that strangle our countries and condition public policies against the people’s interests.

Gender equality: actively combat male violence and all forms of oppression against women and gender diversities, promoting their leadership in our organizations and society.

Popular democracy: strengthen participation and people’s power to challenge the economic and financial elites that today hold democracy hostage.

Migrant rights: defend the full citizenship and rights of migrants and refugees, opposing xenophobia, poverty-based hatred, and repressive policies.

Ecological justice and sovereignty over common goods: confront the climate crisis from the perspective of peoples, rejecting extractivist models and false “green” solutions that commodify nature, and defending our territories.

2. Strengthen Our Platforms as Popular Movements and Church

Our movements can advance only if we overcome isolation and fragmentation. It is not enough to strengthen our own communities or organizations: we must weave broader alliances, networks of networks that connect the local and the global. Only a truly organized community can sustain long-term transformation processes and a solidarity that leaves no one behind.

We also propose bringing to our local communities, cities, and regions the platform developed here in Rome, together with the message of Pope Leo XIV, to dioceses and local churches. We want to promote new forms of presence and witness that awaken the consciences of broad sectors of our societies and inspire many others.

We affirm the need to renew our global alliance, woven from every territory and local experience, among organized movements, civil society, the Catholic Church, and all religious traditions that share the dream of a world centered on the human person and dignity rather than profit—an alliance capable of uniting women and men of goodwill to build a humanity grounded in fraternity, equality, and justice, where peace and justice embrace.

3. Design New Public Policy Strategies

We propose to develop strategies that always begin from the grassroots: from the needs, stories, and realities of local communities, then expanding into regional and national campaigns capable of influencing inhuman structures and systems.

What is most needed now is to engage our communities –large and small– to act coherently in our towns and cities, approaching the harm done to the vulnerable. This must happen consistently and continuously, expressing an ever-deepening solidarity.

These local actions should interconnect in coordinated manifestations of solidarity at the regional, national, and international levels.

4. Globalize the Struggle of Popular Movements and Strengthen Our Communicative Capacity and Unity

We must raise our voice and make the realities of the peripheries visible, breaking through the media silence that either ignores or stigmatizes us. Our strength lies in organization, but to achieve the transformations our time demands, we must expand our social base and involve new sectors in the struggle for Land, Housing, and Work.

We propose to develop new avenues for participation and communication that shape attitudes and beliefs based on solidarity and care for our Common Home.

We embrace the challenge of implementing a narrative shift that counters discourses of hatred and resignation –affirming who we are, whom we represent, and why we struggle– while connecting with the values and deep aspirations of our peoples.

We must also orient technological development so that it promotes human and integral development, not the interests of financial and speculative capital. We will actively occupy digital spaces, using technology, data, and virtual tools not only to spread our message but, above all, to strengthen organization, mobilization, and participation within our social base, linking online action with territorial struggle.

We deeply appreciate the words of Pope Leo XIV: "I am with you!" A support of immense value for walking together –universal and local Church– in the strategies of active nonviolence we carry out as prophetic denunciation and action against exclusion and inhumanity.

Spin Time, October 24, 2025