

This statement is delivered on behalf of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland in cooperation with the Lutheran World Federation.

My statement is the following:

Ensure that asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are welcomed to Iceland and their human worth and dignity is restored from now on.

Stop immediately any deportation of refugees who have arrived in Iceland and are being deported back to the countries they are fleeing from or countries that are listed unsafe from now on.

Stop immediately using the Dublin agreement as an excuse to deport refugees who have received so-called protection in other countries.

Ensure that refugees have timely access to basic services such as housing accommodation, education, health care, employment opportunities and subsistence allowances from now on.

Provide expert interpreters to refugees and ensure that the rights of refugee children are protected.

Never deport families with young children.

Refugees lose many things when they flee, but never their human rights.

Ending poverty is the first SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

We therefore call upon authorities to raise minimum wages and social security benefits so everyone has the means to support themselves and their families in their local community.

Ensure immediately that all citizens will have a possibility to live in affordable and legal housing.

Develop a system to support low-income citizens in an empowering way.

Make sure that food donations to those in need are done in a professional way and with respect.

Eliminate discrimination of children's access to education, healthcare, social activities, and other important rights due to their parents' financial status.

Seek any means to break the generational poverty line and listen to the voices of children that are growing up in poverty.

Educate social workers, teachers, politicians and others on the importance of ending poverty everywhere.