

## Call for a Europe that leaves no one behind

The European Union (EU) is a project founded on the key values of solidarity, democracy, equality, social justice, respect of human dignity and human rights.

The next EU institutions carry the responsibility of living up to these high moral standards and values by putting them into practice when shaping and implementing policies that impact on millions of people, both within and outside of Europe.

Caritas Europa calls on future EU leaders to build a caring and responsible EU that leaves no one behind, by adopting the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as the guiding framework for all policies.

We call for an EU that:

- fully respects human and social rights and empowers each person, family and community;
- places solidarity and the common good at the core of its actions;
- cooperates with all members of society, paying particular attention to the voices of the poor and most vulnerable; and
- respects human dignity and equality of all.

Concretely, for a truly caring and responsible EU, we call on the next EU institutions to build:

- **An inclusive Europe**

The EU must promote policies that take into consideration the vulnerability and potential of people in situations of poverty and social exclusion. EU policies must ensure the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable, to ensure they can thrive, and be active in our communities and contribute to the common good. In particular, families and children suffering from poverty must be the focus of the EU's robust social policies. Risks like unemployment, insufficient housing, poor health, ageing, and loss of income are leading factors that can push people directly into poverty. Social protection systems should be inclusive and protect people against these unexpected or unavoidable risks. The EU and its Member States have a crucial responsibility in ensuring the respect of human dignity and social rights of all by ensuring solidarity in an inclusive and empowering way.

- **A welcoming Europe**

The EU must strengthen the development of secure, welcoming, vibrant and cohesive societies, where migrants and receiving communities work together, reaffirming mutual commitments to participation, inclusion and justice. This collaboration is based on the mutual recognition that migrants make a key contribution to the development and well-being of societies. In line with this principle and with the Sustainable Development Goals, human mobility to and within Europe should be facilitated. The EU should foster and encourage everyone's active participation in communities, in particular by facilitating labour market integration and providing access to basic social and economic rights. The EU, both within its internal and external actions, should fully respect the human rights and human dignity of all migrants

regardless of their status. Solidarity should be the guiding principle of all EU actions: solidarity between Member States to welcome people in need of protection and solidarity as an expression of humanitarian action, which should never be criminalised.

- **A Europe championing global solidarity**

The EU must strengthen its role also as a *global* solidarity champion. It should live up to its development aid commitments and ensuring its development policies are geared towards the eradication of poverty, prioritising people and communities furthest behind. Moreover, the EU should not outsource its protection and human rights responsibilities to countries and regions with fewer resources. The EU must ensure that all of its policies are coherent with the Sustainable Development agenda and not harm development efforts in the Global South. Such commitments should not be traded for or made conditional on other EU political priorities, such as migration management and control, international trade or foreign and defence policy. The EU must also continue to respond effectively and provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable every time an emergency strikes.