



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Planning
and Operations

lutheranworld.org

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Further information

Rev. Arni Svanur Danielsson
The Lutheran World Federation
Tel. +41 78 929 9686
Email asd@lutheranworld.org

New Danish law exposes asylum seekers to peril

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The Lutheran World Federation is deeply concerned by amendments to the Danish Aliens Act which were passed by the Danish parliament on 3 June. The law authorizes the move of asylum seekers from Denmark to a third country for processing.

If implemented, the amendment effectively sanctions the forcible removal of refugees and asylum seekers. This goes against the spirit of international law and commitments on the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the more recent Global Compact on Refugees.

The LWF expresses dismay at the Danish government's decision, which risks exposing refugees, migrants and asylum seekers to uncertainty, peril and unwarranted gaps in their human rights and protection.

Refugees lose many things when they flee, but never their human rights. The protection of refugees and asylum seekers is enshrined in international law and Denmark is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. With this new law, the Danish government is seriously undermining its solidarity with the most vulnerable, its international commitments, and its reputation as a nation respecting the rule-of-law and human rights.

The Lutheran World Federation was founded with a mission of serving and protecting refugees. To welcome the stranger is a core message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a call we share with other religions, and it is a humanitarian imperative. We are called to welcome strangers, not send them away for processing.

The LWF calls on

- The government of Denmark to urgently reconsider this decision
- The international community and the European Union to ensure that international law and commitments are upheld
- Its member churches to advocate with their governments to uphold the rights of refugees and asylum seekers

The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.

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