



AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

What is AMMPARO?

It is the **holistic, whole church** commitment by the ELCA as a church in the world, AMMPARO is the ELCA strategy to accompany children and families today and in the future who are forced to flee their communities. This strategy was adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, 2016.

Our commitments are to: 1) uphold and **guarantee basic the human rights and safety** of migrant children and their families; 2) **address the root causes** of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and **the treatment of migrants in transit**; 3) work toward **just and humane policies** affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and 4) **engage as a church body** with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation as a whole context and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

How are funds allocated?

Important work in countries of origin, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala assisting deported children and youth to find encounters. Additional funding supports work throughout Latin America for advocacy for migrants and humanitarian assistance to people fleeing countries of origin in several countries. Seventy percent of AMMPARO funds support this work. Our companions work with children and youth deported from the US and Mexico to make sure they have a safe place to live, a way to generate income and psycho-social trauma counseling. Our companions report an 88%-95% success rate. To see a video, go to www.elca.org/ammparo. The video is entitled AMMPARO Impact.

In the US, AMMPARO funds legal services for unaccompanied children and supports our congregations who provide shelter to families released from ICE custody.

International advocacy takes place in our ELCA Advocacy office and around the country to protect migrant children and families. A recent faith leaders letter generated 1223 signatures calling on the Department of Homeland Security to respect the human rights and safety of migrant children.

For more information about the work, see:

www.elca.org/ammparo or connect with Mary Campbell, Program Director AMMPARO at mary.campbell@elca.org