

**V World Meeting of Popular Movements
Land, Housing and Work
Spin Time, Rome, October 21-24, 2025**

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Presentation

The World Meeting of Popular Movements (WMPM) is a space of fraternity among grassroots organizations from five continents, a platform built by various movements around Pope Francis's invitation for the poor and organized peoples not to resign themselves but to become protagonists of change.

This space promotes the *culture of encounter*, aiming for popular movements to fight—without arrogance but with courage, without violence but with tenacity—for human dignity, nature, and social justice. Our gathering responds to the need to strengthen the organization of the excluded in order to build, from below, a human alternative to this exclusionary globalization that deprives us even of our sacred rights to housing, work, and land. The poor and working people not only suffer from injustice but also organize and struggle against it.

The Meetings

The **first meeting** was held in **Rome in October 2014**. It brought together about one hundred representatives of popular movements from the five continents. It was convened to confront the painful reality of workers without rights and of the excluded—precarious, temporary, migrant workers, etc.—and to discuss this reality in light of Francis's thinking, especially his exhortation *Evangelii gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*).

It marked a milestone in the process of organizing and maturing the movements, to respond to a longing that should be within everyone's reach but which we sadly see growing more distant: land, housing, and work. Francis defined these well-known "3Ts" as *sacred rights*, rooted in the Church's Social Doctrine (*cf. Fratelli tutti*, 127).

Francis's message captures "a great part of our experience, thought, and longings (...). The clarity and strength of his words leave no room for misinterpretation and reaffirm that concern for the poor lies at the very heart of the Gospel." The Pope joined his voice to the cry of the popular movements in the 3Ts: "No family without housing, no peasant without land, no worker without rights, no person without the dignity that work provides."

The **second meeting** took place in **Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in July 2015**. It gathered more than 1,500 delegates from 40 countries across the five continents, together with bishops and pastoral agents, to share experiences and ideas around the 3Ts in light of the encyclical *Laudato si'*.

The movements agreed with Francis that the social and environmental crises are two sides of the same coin. A system unable to provide land, housing, and work for all—that undermines peace and threatens the very survival of Mother Earth—cannot continue governing the planet's destiny. Hence, they emphasized the need to overcome a social,

political, economic, and cultural model where the market and money have become the main regulators of human relations.

The conclusions became the *Santa Cruz Letter*, and the Pope's message—considered a "mini-encyclical"—shared with the movements his sense of "fraternity, passion, dedication, and thirst for justice." Francis proposed three major tasks: Put the economy at the service of the peoples. Unite peoples on the path of peace and justice. Defend Mother Earth.

The **third meeting** was again held at the **Vatican in November 2016**, with the participation of 170 delegates from 65 countries. Beyond the 3Ts, new themes were addressed: People and democracy; Territory and nature; Refugees and displaced persons.

The movements drafted a *Document of Proposals for Transformative Actions*. Francis recognized the value of the movements' daily commitment and encouraged them to continue this "slow germination" process and dialogue for justice and for land, housing, and work: "That cry of yours, I make it my own."

He urged them to exercise special solidarity "among those who have suffered" and to engage in politics, "one of the highest forms of charity," while warning against two risks: rigidity—distancing from major discussions—and corruption. The antidote: to live the vocation of service with humility and austerity, preaching by example.

During the pandemic, Francis sent a letter to the popular movements (April 12, 2020), proposing "a universal salary for the most humble and unprotected workers," denouncing that the poor have been excluded from the benefits of globalization but not from its harms.

The **fourth meeting**, held entirely **online**, took place in two sessions: **on July 9 and September 2021**. It discussed the impact of COVID-19, the struggles of the movements, and the agenda of Land, Housing, and Work.

Francis called to "emerge better" from the crisis, warning against the logic of a system "that, in its greed for profit, escapes all human control," and proposed building a shared future "in harmony with humanity and with creation."

The Pope suggested two concrete measures: establishing a *basic income or universal salary* and promoting the *reduction of working hours* to share work and dignify life. The movements presented the document *Save Humanity and the Planet!*, calling for a new paradigm of integral human development based on life, solidarity, and harmony with nature.

V World Meeting of Popular Movements

The meeting will be held at **Spin Time, Rome**, from **October 21 to 24, 2025**, in a global context marked by war, inequality, and ecological crisis.

Popular movements have defined two key axes: **strengthening relationships** as a force of community and solidarity against individualism, and **building stronger organization** to transform that energy into collective action. With a firm conviction: *we exist, we resist, and we organize* to build a more just world, after eleven years of joint work with the Church and the encouragement of Pope Francis.

It will be the **first meeting with Pope Leo XIV**, who will receive the delegations in audience on **October 23** in the Paul VI Hall, opening a new phase of dialogue between the Church and the movements.

Discussions will focus on three main themes: Land: agrarian reform, food sovereignty, and ecological justice. Housing: decent housing and popular habitat. Work: employment with rights, the popular economy, self-management, and the organization of excluded workers. Other issues to be addressed include the democratic crisis, authoritarianism, migration, and climate change.

The meeting will culminate with the **Jubilee Pilgrimage of Popular Movements**, on **October 25 and 26 in the Vatican**, reaffirming the shared commitment to walk together with a synodal Church in service of social justice, peace, and the common good.

Participation

Representatives of popular movements from all latitudes, religions, and cultures will once again gather at this fifth meeting: delegates from the Americas (North, Central, and South), Europe, Africa, and Asia. The delegations are accompanied by representatives of local Churches, coordinators of diocesan or episcopal conference Justice and Peace commissions.

We are people: waste pickers, recyclers, street vendors, seamstresses, artisans, fishers, small farmers, builders, miners, workers from recovered factories, cooperativists, Christian workers from various trades and professions, neighborhood and village workers fighting for a roof, young people yearning for a better world... We practice the culture of encounter, walk together, and create hope.

Organizing Committee

The committee contributes to the organization and coordination of the meeting and maintains dialogue with the Holy See through the **Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development**.

It is composed of **Alejandro Gramajo**, Unión de Trabajadores de la Economía Popular (UTEP), Argentina; **Ayala L. Dias**, Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra (MST) – La Vía Campesina, Brazil; **Rose Molokoane**, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Africa; **Charo Castelló**, Hermandad Obrera de Acción Católica (HOAC), Spain – World Movement of

Christian Workers (WMCW); **Gloria Morales-Palos**, PICO Network, United States; **Luca Cassarini**, Mediterranea Saving Humans, Italy; **Mattia Ferrari**, Coordinator of the World Meeting of Popular Movements (WMPM).

Communication Office

The V World Meeting of Popular Movements has a team of activists focused on media relations and building a shared narrative. During the event, the following communication channels will be used:

Website: www.movpop.org **Instagram:** @movimientos_populares
Facebook: Tierra-Techo-Trabajo **X (Twitter):** @enmovpop

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