

## *Declaration of the Greek Catholic Bishops of the Vysegrad Four Group*

### **English (original)**

The Greek Catholic Bishops of Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland want to acknowledge in a joint effort the immense suffering of our brethren in faith who have been expelled from their homeland due to the persecution of Christians and because of military conflict. As a sign of our solidarity and love, we appeal to the representatives of the political powers and to the citizens of the Old Continent to take into serious consideration the migration of these innocent people, who are searching refuge in Europe.

As bishops, we can offer them prayer, compassion and the possibility of living their Christian spirituality in our eparchies. However, in order to fully respond to their needs, it is necessary to take the social aspect of their situation into account as well as to create a positive, welcoming atmosphere for their presence among us.

As the political weight of the Vysegrad Four has been significantly increasing, we, the Greek Catholic bishops of these countries also make a point of stressing the importance of helping those in need, while retaining the Christian identity of European countries.

We acknowledge their need of being received in their dignity and of wishing to live a fully human life. However, it is also necessary to foster the possibility for them to return to their homeland and to live their own identity there. The effectivity of the peace process in the Near East depends on the endeavour of us all and on our deliberate denouncement of all the attacks against their dignity and human rights.

We hope our words will be received with understanding, and each of us will contribute to solve the difficult situation of these people, who have lost their homes and have been persecuted for their Christian faith, so that their needs be met, and they be handled with justice. We wish to all them a deep compassionate understanding as well as peace that is necessary for the progress of these people in as well as to the entire human society.

25.4.2018

Signature:

Fülöp KOCSIS, Greek Catholic Archbishop and Metropolitan, Debrecín, Hungary

Ján BABJAK, Greek Catholic Archbishop and Metropolitan, Prešov, Slovakia

Eugeniusz POPOWICZ, Greek Catholic Archbishop and Metropolitan, Przemyśl-Warszawa, Poland

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