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**Venezuelan International Migration and how a Welcoming  
Colombian Migration Policy Fostered Integration into Society  
Magaly Sánchez**

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## **Venezuelan International Migration and how a Welcoming Colombian Migration Policy Fostered Integration into Society**

**Magaly Sánchez**

### **HRF Presentation Summary**

*Professor Sanchez-R began her detailed account of the successful reception and integration of Colombian migrants in Venezuela by noting how important terminology is in the discussion of these issues. The distinction between chosen and forced migration is not binary. Similarly, non-binary are temporary and permanent states of displacement, when many migrants spend decades in refugee camps. The Colombian policy recognises the variety of stories, skills and needs. It is based on generosity and identity but does not deny the challenges to generosity by the receiving communities in the face of such a diversity of world views/culture/politics/economic status - bearing in mind that 97% of Venezuelans live in extreme poverty.*

*Shared language is a great aid to integration and in re-establishing a sense of home in a new homeland. Sharing housing has also proved effective and well-received by both Colombian hosts and Venezuelan migrants. Many activities relate to household chores and sharing this work has been good for integration. The high proportion of younger migrants has been seen as a demographic bonus and as a contribution to Colombian society. The equally high-proportion of self-employed migrants also indicates a determination to contribute to the livelihood of their shared new home.*

\*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.