



January 18, 2017

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, I would like to sincerely welcome the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, and the Ross Institute of New York to Southern California. Together with the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA, your organizations are pioneering critical research into the study of mass migrations in the modern era.

Never has your work been more needed. According to the UN, the number of refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people around the world has topped 65 million, the highest in recorded history. Today, the lives of over a billion people are shaped by mass migration.

We have felt this impact here in Los Angeles, and we have responded. We have re-established our Office of Immigrant Affairs, partnered with nonprofits to clothe and house unaccompanied minors, and developed programs and initiatives to support immigrant integration through the coordination of city services, outreach, and legislative advocacy. Through our efforts nearly 70,000 individuals have been directly informed of their legal right to become citizens. We know that our city, our state, and our country must continue to provide support and compassion for immigrant communities.

Thank you for your continued efforts and dedication. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Garcetti".

ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor of Los Angeles