

April 17, 2018

The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico  
PO Box 192018  
San Juan, PR 00919-2018

The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico,

We are writing as you prepare to certify a new fiscal plan for Puerto Rico that takes into account the devastation and immense suffering of Puerto Rico's people due to hurricanes, Irma and Maria. We write to you as Christians celebrate the Season of Easter and after the Jewish celebration of Passover. Underlying these sacred seasons are the themes of resurrection, liberation and new life.

Before the hurricanes came, nearly 60% of Puerto Rico's children lived in poverty. Today, across Puerto Rico, children are struggling to recover from the hurricanes. We are concerned that the current fiscal plan under debate fails to consider the serious impact of these storms. We are concerned that monies Congress authorized for healthcare and hurricane relief could be used to pay creditors.

How can the new proposed fiscal plan pay 40 cents on the dollar for debt service when the previous plan in place before the hurricanes paid much less to creditors? Before the hurricanes, the fiscal plan called for 25 cents on the dollar for debt service. How can there be calls for the same level of public pension cuts that were already in place before the hurricanes?

As the next hurricane season begins in weeks, we are concerned that the current plan under debate, leaves Puerto Rico unprepared for future storms.

A final fiscal plan should meet the following criteria:

- There should be "breathing space" for the island from debt payments. Earlier proposed fiscal plans included a 5 year moratorium on all debt payments. This debt payment moratorium should be part of the new plan. Additionally, during this period interest must not accrue on the debt.
- Beyond this five year debt moratorium period, no debt should be paid until Puerto Rico sees positive economic growth, a reduction in child poverty and the island has rebuilt from the hurricanes.
- Ultimately, the total debt must be restructured and the principle of the debt must be cut. The fiscal plan should reflect the need for definitive debt cancellation of at least 80% of Puerto Rico's debt.
- The fiscal plan should prevent further austerity measures, set goals to reduce child poverty, ensure adequate social protections, defend against corruption and stem migration from the island.

We urge all stakeholders to dialogue and work together for rebirth, freedom and new life for Puerto Rico's people. Puerto Rico can be reborn after the hurricanes. Puerto Rico's people can be free from debt, corruption and constraining economic policies. Together we can ensure that there is new life for people in Puerto Rico.

Daily we continue to hold you and your efforts in our prayers. We pray the Lord bless and protect you and your loved ones.

In the Name of our Merciful Creator,



Metropolitan Archbishop Roberto O. González Nieves, OFM, Catholic Archdiocese San Juan de Puerto Rico



Reverend Heriberto Martínez-Rivera, Secretary General of Puerto Rico's Bible Society and Coordinator of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Coalition of Puerto Rico



Father Enrique Camacho, Executive Director of Caritas (Catholic Charities) Puerto Rico

cc: The Honorable Laura Taylor Swain, United States District Judge, The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York