



Global Governance of Migration

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Circular Migration

At the core of current global migration policy is the framing of *migration and development*, understood as migration *for* development to meet the economic needs of states through managed migration. 'Circular Migration' refers to programs of temporary employment for migrants in host countries to meet labour needs. It does not offer long-term status and assumes that migrants will return home rather than remaining in temporary or irregular status. Countries of destination want women's labor but often do not take responsibility for their political, economic, social and cultural rights or for their integration. The 'Circular Migration' Model alleges a win-win situation for sending nations, which gain remittances, and destination countries which fill critical labour gaps, but too frequently obscures the human rights of migrants themselves. For women in particular, divided families, raising others' children but not their own, heightened risks in transit and workplaces and other factors mean that the necessity to migrate can have deep and harmful impacts.

As the international community shapes a Global Compact on Migration, it must begin with the human rights of migrants and women's human rights at the center, challenging the fallacies of "circular migration." The need to regularize migration, recruitment and employment policies, portability of pensions, and other ways to improve the migration experience are necessary but insufficient. Temporary workers should have access to citizenship along with their families.

Migration and Agenda 2030

Migration must be a choice not a necessity. This requires a rights-based development that secures women's human rights, women's role in decision-making, women's bodily integrity, decent work, social protections and sustainable environmental practices. As such, a focus only on Agenda 2030 indicators on migration, or women migrants, offers too limited approach. The full breadth of sustainable development goals are necessary to make migration a choice, and to guarantee women's human rights and the future of the earth. We call on integration of the SDGs with the new Global Compact on Migration. This must also consider the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Declaration, the need for adequate development financing, and the gendered economic human rights implications of illicit financial flows.

Development agendas will certainly benefit from migrant women's leadership and economic contributions, but the SDG agenda must not assume that resources emerging from women's precarious survival strategies constitute development financing, or could provide any excuse for

not fulfilling national commitments to ODA and shared global responsibility for development financing.

Recommendations

1. States and inter-governmental processes should ensure that organized migrant women are recognized and engaged in the policy spaces that impact their lives. This entails eliciting ongoing collaboration from migrant women's organizations and networks engaged in rights-based organizing.
2. Civil Society should play a central role in governance regarding migration policy, with an ongoing, institutionalized place at the table similar to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
3. Leadership on migration within the UN System must be bound to the normative human rights framework framed through treaties (ESCR, Political and Civil Rights, CERD, CEDAW, CRC, Migrant Rights Convention, ILO conventions) and work to implement them. This body of international law must provide the framework for global governance on migration. The Global Compact cannot in any way undermine or weaken existing commitments.
4. Coherent governance and understanding of mobility practices and aspirations must be responsive to diverse local, national, regional and inter-regional patterns and specificities, including the diverse ways these patterns and specificities are gendered. There is need for coherence in migration governance across national ministries, as well as implementation of international commitments in national law.
5. We urge states to embrace a process for negotiating the Global Compact on migration that fully engages civil society and that involves the expertise of key UN agencies, including UN Women, ILO, OHCHR and treaty bodies in shaping the Compact.