

**UN Women and UN Network on Migration Launch of Policies & Practice Guide
Remarks, Carol Barton, Co-Coordinator, WIMN
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The [Women in Migration Network](#), WIMN, welcomes the UN Women Policies and Practices guide. WIMN has been a part of the *Expert Working Group* since its inception and provided input to this Guide.

As a global civil society organization involving labor, feminist, migrant and human rights organizations from around the globe, WIMN has a ten-year history of bringing a gender perspective to migration policy. Through a new *UN Network Thematic Priority Area on Gender*, we are eager to work with Governments and the UN system to explore how this Guide can be used to engender migration policy at the national level.

WIMN brings an intersectional feminist perspective to our policy work. Racism is a central element of migration, compounded by gender, poverty, and other factors. All of these elements must be addressed in migration policy. We celebrate the fact that the new Policies and Practice guide also addresses the rights of gender nonconforming people in migration. [No Borders to Equality](#), a 2021 WIMN & Fredrich Ebert Stiftung report mapping civil society organizations that work on gender and migration, found that LGBTQI migrants experience multiple rights violations and are often invisible to states and civil society alike. We salute the effort to center their experience.

Women in migration are bearers of rights and agents of change, not vulnerable populations. Frequently they are *made* vulnerable by dangerous migration policies. Rather than attempt to protect migrant women, they need space to claim their rights.

We continue to lift up the wisdom of a 360-degree approach to migration policy. Such policies must be holistic, comprehensive and systemic. It will not work to have a project here about women, a project there about Black migrants, another project about climate migration. Migrant women, in all of their diversity, are impacted by flawed managed migration policies that rely on their precarious labor without extending long term status, full labor rights and human rights in their chosen country. Projects that merely tweak this reality at the edges without addressing the economic, climate, finance, trade, development, racial, and gender causes of migration and migration realities in destination countries, will NOT ultimately improve the lives of women in migration or guarantee their human rights.

Together, we must embark on a much bolder initiative, particularly as much of the globe is *still living* in the COVID pandemic and as we seek to collectively and *equitably* emerge from that pandemic. We cannot return to flawed migration policies that rely on migrant women's labor without guaranteeing decent work and social protection, regardless of migration status.

We want to recognize the many governments who are attending this launch today and thank UN Women for your leadership. As we gear up for the 2022 International Migration Review Forum we hope that the *UN Network Thematic Priority Area on Gender* can work with you to take assertive steps to center the rights of migrant women who experience multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization. We also look forward to an ongoing collaboration with the *Migration Network Hub* of the UN Network, and the *Gender and Migration Hub* hosted by the International Migration Research Centre in Canada.

We have the Compact, we have this important Guide and online platforms, we have your presence and your commitments, we have strong migrant women leaders in civil society. In the lead up to the IMRF, *this* is the moment for governments to act, and to act boldly!