NO BORDERS TO EQUALITY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REALITIES OF WOMEN IN MIGRATION

- Women in migration’s access to services—including housing, health care, and education—is the top priority for respondents.
- Violence against women is a major concern for women in migration. Almost 60% of the organizations surveyed work with survivors of violence.
- Black and Indigenous women migrants face particular challenges. The surveyed organizations saw multiple discriminations as a top concern for women in migration.
- The organizations surveyed work mostly with undocumented migrant women. Irregular status keeps migrant women in fear, living and working in precarious circumstances, limiting their access to jobs, services, safety, and justice.
- Women migrant workers are highly concentrated in domestic work, while also participating in services, agriculture, and manufacturing, according to those surveyed.
- Climate change is an emerging issue driving migration, noted by respondents in several regions.
- COVID-19 has meant a loss of livelihoods, intensification of poverty and hunger, and the rise of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence for women in migration, according to those surveyed.
- Most of the organizations surveyed are aware of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM), though few are working on implementation of the compact.

TAKING STOCK

Based on survey data, WIMN and FES have made the following assessments:

Challenges Faced by Civil Society Organizations:

- Limited resources and lack of capacity make it hard for the organizations surveyed to go beyond addressing immediate needs.
- Feminist movements have only begun to put migration on their policy agenda. More can be done to make migrant women’s voices heard within feminist networks and organizations.
- LGBTQI+ migrants’ issues are not on the agendas of most mainstream migrant civil society organizations. Specific organizations that defend and promote the rights of LGBTQI+ migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees at national levels, along with international LGBTQI+ rights organizations, have begun to change this.
- The report also assesses public policy challenges affecting the lives of women in migration based on the responses of the organizations surveyed and makes recommendations for governments in this sense (see Taking Stock chapter).

Moving Forward: Recommendations for Strategy and Organizing

- Build cross-sectoral alliances based on the multiple identities of women in migration as
well as their diverse locations and concerns to bridge feminist, labor, migrant, climate justice, economic justice, and other sectors.

» Integrate LGBTIQ+ migrant’s, asylum seeker’s, and refugee’s concerns into both migrant and feminist organizational agendas and spaces and recognize the leadership of LGBTIQ+ people on the move.

» Recognize and address the particular realities of Black and Indigenous migrants, beginning with deliberate, inclusive outreach and alliance building with Black and Indigenous migrant organizations.

» Create spaces for dialogue among grassroots migrant women’s organizations and feminist movements within countries.

» Recognize women’s urgent survival needs while also supporting migrant women leaders in roles of organizing and advocacy to claim rights.

» Make use of the Global Compact for Migration’s Whole-of-Society Approach to advocate for the rights of women in migration by documenting women’s lived experiences and building a common advocacy agenda led by women in migration.

» Utilize ILO Conventions 189 (Domestic Workers) and 190 (Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work) in global campaigns that center women in migration and build cross-sectoral alliances.