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## **WIMN Responds to Adoption of UN International Migration Review Forum Progress Declaration**

(New York, NY) As the first United Nations International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) concludes, the Women in Migration Network (WIMN) welcomed the reaffirmation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in a Progress Declaration (PD) as an affirmation of a human rights-based approach to migration.

In a [statement issued today](#), WIMN praised the PD's recognition of systemic racism, the work of many states to end child detention, affirmation of migrants' role in policy-making, and commitment to cooperate to help families identify missing migrants. WIMN also expressed its dismay "that there is less ambition for or commitment to bold forward movement. International human rights, women's rights and labor rights are not up for negotiation. While the Global Compact commits to mainstream a gender perspective, women migrants and their contributions have almost been erased in the PD."

"The Women in Migration Network (WIMN) reiterates our 2018 [Marrakech Women's Rights Manifesto](#) assertion that the gender-responsive promise of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) '*will only be possible if women's human rights, (and) international labour standards...are fully incorporated into all national, regional and global migration policy.*' Today we are farther from those goals," commented WIMN Co-Convener Catherine Tactaquin in a UN side event focused on gender-responsive migration policy.

The IMRF has taken place in New York under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to review progress and map forward motion in implementing the GCM, approved in Marrakech in 2018. Today UN member states are expected to adopt the Progress Declaration, a product of intense negotiations at a time when some states would have avoided even reaffirming the GCM, with unsuccessful efforts to roll back key tenets of the Compact including the centrality of human rights.

WIMN's [statement](#) also noted that, "There is not even a stand-alone paragraph on migrant women. Carol Barton, WIMN co-convenor, commented, "When women migrants are mentioned

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only in the context of gender-based violence or only linked to children, a victimization frame gets perpetuated. Migrant women are not only workers, while rights at work are a priority concern.”

WIMN asserts that a gender-responsive approach must be transformative of systemic inequalities and injustices. Rather than a mere mention of women here and there, or small projects supporting migrant women, gender-responsiveness means addressing critical policy concerns with a gender lens.

Commented Barton, “WIMN members agree that states need to urgently address climate-induced displacement and the erosion of labor rights—particularly freedom of association and the right to organize and collectively bargain; as well as the lack of rights-based regular pathways for migration, regularization programs, access to services for undocumented migrants, and the need to shift from criminalization and enforcement to human-rights centered policy. Each of these have significant intersectional gender dimensions and real progress in these areas would transform the lives of women in migration.”

WIMN has made a [Pledge](#) to the UN Network on Migration, urging a focus on migrant women’s agency and leadership and for policy-making and monitoring that centers the voices and experience of migrant women. In the [pledge](#), WIMN commits to center migrant women’s voices and knowledge and to focus on national policy plans from a gender perspective, prioritizing gender policy responses to climate-related displacement and to labor migration. WIMN further pledged to work with member states and the UN Network to prioritize intersectional gender perspectives, including advocating for a strong gender indicator to measure progress in GCM implementation, and the call for a Gender Rapporteur in GCM regional and global processes.

WIMN urges states to “Go beyond ‘building back better’ to transform migration policy at all levels, including addressing systemic inequalities of gender, race, class and national origin.”

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WIMN Statement: <https://womeninmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WIMN-statement-on-Progress-Declaration-FINAL.pdf>

WIMN IMRF Pledge: <https://gendermigrationhub.org/share/pledges-made/>

WIMN Activities at the IMRF: <https://womeninmigration.org/2022/05/on-the-road-to-the-imrf/>

Web: <https://womeninmigration.org/>

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WIMN is a member of the [Global Coalition on Migration](#) and a contributor to the Coalition’s Spotlight Report, <https://spotlightreportmigration.org/>