



## **Policy Demands: Gender, Climate and Migration**

These Policy Demands have been created by a working group of Women in Migration Network (WIMN) members and observers for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), which addresses *poverty, financing with a gender perspective, and review themes of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality*.

These demands are an advocacy tool for advocates at the UN-CSW 68 and a contribution to WIMN's bottom-up Feminist Migration Policy. They will be launched at an NGO-CSW Parallel Event on March 11, 2024, "*Climate, Gender, Migration: Public Services, Decent Work & Rights-Based Pathways*", sponsored by Women in Migration Network/ WIMN, ACT Alliance, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), International Domestic Workers Federation, International Trade Union Confederation, Migrant-Rights.org, Public Services International (PSI), Solidarity Center, and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

### **The demands:**

1. Climate and migration cannot be seen outside of the **context** of neo-liberal and post-colonial global relations. Issues of debt, trade, taxation, foreign investment, development aid, privatization, extractivism, militarism and resource conflict are factors exacerbating women's poverty and the climate crisis. A critical analysis of these issues that takes into account intersecting discriminations based on race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion and migration status is a prerequisite towards building holistic, people-oriented, gender-transformative and rights-based climate and migration policies.
2. While **migration** may become a necessary choice, it should not be promoted as either a strategy for poverty reduction or a form of adaptation to climate change. These issues should also be addressed through the lens of preventing forced displacement.
3. **Robust social protection systems, decent work, access to public services and protection of human rights** are necessary to prevent displacement and enable women and girls to adapt and build resilience to climate change and conflict. These systems are also necessary in ensuring that any planned relocation efforts in the context of the climate crisis are sustainable and rights-based. States must have **policy space** to fulfill their obligations to these principles and rights.

4. Strong **social protection**, including publicly funded health and care systems must be promoted for all countries. Migrant women must have full **access** to social protection, public services, and labor rights, without discrimination and regardless of their migration status, in countries of destination.
5. **Public-Private Partnerships harm women** around the globe, causing serious social and environmental damage, and are NOT a vehicle for building robust quality public services or financing the Sustainable Development Goals. These forces of privatization operate without accountability or inclusion of social partners, undermining democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.
6. Rich countries must deliver on **climate finance commitments, and on loss and damage support**; grassroots communities, including women, must have direct access to these funds and must have a say in how they are distributed.
7. Climate-related **slow onset and disaster responses** must include the active participation of women leaders and address community needs as expressed by the community itself, including women leaders – and must respect women’s rights, human rights, and communities’ connection to the land. This includes recognizing and addressing **intersecting forms of discrimination** and marginalization.
8. We must have gender-responsive and **rights-based migration pathways** that guarantee labor rights, including freedom of association, the right to organize and collectively bargain, and offer permanent status as people migrate due to climate. Temporary work permits place workers in a situation of vulnerability and are therefore not a viable solution for migrant women workers displaced due to climate-related factors. At the same time, rich countries should not rely on international migration to fill their skills shortages, particularly in the health and care sectors, leaving poorer countries’ health and care systems drained of their skilled workforce while facing the impacts of climate change. Rich countries should also recognize the qualifications, skills, and competencies of migrant women to create more opportunities that will support them to access decent jobs.
9. **Women’s Human Rights Defenders** and their communities who defend community, land rights and nature from environmental degradation, must be supported and protected.
10. **Rebuilding the social organization of care** is crucial in addressing the nexus of climate, gender, and migration. There is an increased need for care, driven by climate disasters, conflicts and staffing shortages. We demand the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work, and rewarding paid care work through decent work, representation, social dialogue, and collective bargaining. Equally important, we reclaim the public nature of care as a human right and as a public good, affirming the fundamental role of the State in its organization and regulation, including of the private sector, intermediaries, and recruitment agencies.