

Co-organizers:



## Concept Note:

### Feminist Forum on Migration & Displacement

Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2024 -- Bangkok, Thailand

Prior to the [AWID Forum](#)

*The **Feminist Forum on Migration & Displacement**, an invitational event, will convene in Bangkok at a time of growing displacement due to economic, military, climate and other factors that are also contributing to forced migration over international borders. Anti-immigrant policies, the militarization of borders and the criminalization of migrants, increased xenophobia, and a rise of authoritarian regimes are further undermining human rights, mobility, and gender justice.*

*Given the complex nature of migration and displacement, a holistic intersectional feminist approach to migration governance and policy is needed – an approach rooted in the lived experiences of those most affected, often the most marginalised within communities of colour and those facing discrimination based on race, caste, ethnicity, and sexuality, among other factors.*

*The Forum will build shared analysis and collaboration with feminists across sectors and regions to centre feminist values and reorient migration policy – from exploitation, violence, racism, and criminalisation – to inclusion, justice, peace, and ecological sustainability, while debunking “false solutions.” The Forum is just one step in an ongoing process to strengthen ties among women in migration, build cross-sectoral alliances and fortify feminist movements –contributing to a long-term strategy for action.*

#### Organized by:

[The Women in Migration Network \(WIMN\)](#), Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW), International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Migrant-Rights.org (GCC region), Solidarity Center, Trade Collective (South Africa), Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Wo-Mi Women Migrants (Denmark).

## Expression of Interest in Participation and/or Endorsement of the Forum:

Please complete [this form](#) to express interest in participating in the Feminist Forum and/or becoming an Endorsing Organisation.

### Endorsing organisations will:

- Align with the vision and values of this Concept Note
- Commit to support the event with funds (we suggest at least 1000 euros) and/or with talents/skills (for example, as rapporteurs, technical or resource support, expertise, contacts, outreach, etc.)
- Suggest names of potential participants reflecting issue, sectoral, regional and identity diversity.
- Help to publicise the event through your networks.
- Agree to have your name and logo listed on the event website.
- Consider offering a scholarship to support the participation of grassroots women in the event.

Please note that endorsement does not involve a speaking opportunity or more than one invitation to the event, which has limited capacity.

### Goals:

1. Work with feminists across movements to **build shared analysis** about how migration & displacement come up in their realities and how we can collaborate. **Build cross-sectoral alliances** [labour, climate justice, LGBTQI, youth, economic justice, social justice, race and caste justice, democracy, disability rights, to name a few] towards feminist movement-building to build collective power.
2. Put the realities and rights of women in migration, including the dignity of work and worker's rights, **on the agenda** of global feminist movements. Centre global South and migrant (South in North) women's voices in planning, leadership, and participation.
3. Contribute to an **intersectional feminist migration policy** that prioritises the agency and perspectives of **directly affected women** in migration, explores regional diversity and global realities and articulates a set of demands and alternatives.
4. Highlight and reiterate the key role of intersectional feminist policies in driving a positive and empowering impact for everyone, regardless of gender, enabling all to break out of limiting patriarchal norms.

### Overview:

***Imagine a pluri-feminist proactive approach to migration that cuts across feminist goals and sectors, addresses institutionalised intersecting oppressions and systemic power imbalances and offers a concrete action plan for mobilisation!***

The Women in Migration Network is working to build a **bottom-up, intersectional and intergenerational feminist migration policy**. One that focuses on movement-building while articulating clear demands and forms of resistance that emerge from women in migration around the world.

We want to dream together, strategise and put in motion demands that would trigger change at national and regional levels. This is a co-created, inclusive space for building relationships, building community, and building towards our long-term justice goals. It will be participatory and involve small groups, popular education, plenary conversations, art, and culture. Challenging colonial power dynamics, we seek to affirm multiple sites and forms of knowledge and activism.

Migration is being adversely used as a tool for global capitalist **economic policy** in a way that exploits the labour of women (paid and unpaid), particularly **women migrant workers** in low wage sectors. It also exploits the labour of men, who may migrate alone, leading to family separation and adding to women's societal and financial burdens. At the same time, as populations in the global North are ageing, there is growing demand for **workers in the care economy** – roles often filled by migrants, and in particular, women migrants. In the meantime, **climate change, and the degradation of the environment, biodiversity and ecosystems** are undermining women's livelihoods and displacing women and their communities, while the economics of war and corporate extractivist projects displace entire communities and contribute to migration. Yet those forced to move often do so without human rights protections, including labour rights and access to decent housing, health, education, and access to justice.

How do we build a movement to push back against the exploitation of women in the migration cycle, particularly women workers in low wage sectors? How do we centre the dignity of all work? How do we build a movement that embraces the diversity of women's experiences and the multiple oppressions they face? How do we build a movement that recognizes climate change as an emergency already upon us? How do we build solidarity to end wars and land occupations that cause further displacement? How do we build solidarity across communities and genders, to recognise the value of a feminist perspective? How do we build a movement that understands that our diverse concerns are systemically connected? ***Join us to build this vision and create a way forward together!***

#### **A few details:**

**Languages:** Translation and interpretation in six languages, Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Thai. [We recognize the limitations of colonial languages for many, doing what's possible regarding inclusion with limited resources.]

**Location:** TBD

**Hotel:** Please make your own hotel arrangements in an AWID Forum hotel (see [AWID Registration](#)).

**Funding:** The organisers are not able to pay for participation in this pre-event or the AWID Forum. We anticipate that participants will be self-financed.

**Registration Contribution:** We want this event to be as inclusive as possible, so we have not set a registration fee. However, we encourage a contribution of *50 euros* to cover meeting costs (venue, interpretation, lunch, planning) if you are able to pay. If funders are supporting your participation in the AWID Forum and this pre-meeting, please include this in your travel budget. We also invite larger solidarity contributions to help offset the costs of the gathering.

**Logistics:** Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements, registration for the AWID Forum and the cost of participation. WIMN and AWID will provide logistics notes regarding navigating Bangkok prior to your arrival.

**Visas:** See the [AWID website](#) regarding visa support. AWID is working with TCEB (the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau) to help participants navigate the visa processes and support those who are having difficulty, or whose applications were rejected initially. When you register for the AWID Forum you will be given information about the visa process, as well as a contact email at AWID for visa support. Forum participants who require a visa to enter Thailand can apply for the visa starting in early June (six months before travel). Please add on the additional two days when seeking a visa.

**Transportation from hotel to Venue:** While AWID will provide transportation from the hotel to the Forum venue during the Forum itself, you will need to use public transportation during the two-day pre-meeting. WIMN will provide transportation information prior to the event.

**Number of participants:** Approximately 125, by invitation. Please let us know of your interest in participating!

This is an **in-person event**. We are aware that many participants may not be able to get visas or funding to participate. Depending on the response to this call, we may arrange one hybrid session to integrate their perspectives.

**Contact:** For more information, contact [wimninfo@womeninmigration.org](mailto:wimninfo@womeninmigration.org) to express interest in participating in this event. Please put “Feminist Forum on Migration & Displacement” in the subject line.

[wimninfo@womeninmigration.org](mailto:wimninfo@womeninmigration.org) +++ [www.womeninmigration.org](http://www.womeninmigration.org)