

UN Women’s contribution to the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration

KEY MESSAGES (18 January 2018)

The global compact should build on the strong commitment made by Member States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1) to “ensure that [our] responses to large movements of refugees and migrants mainstream a gender perspective, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and fully respect and protect the human rights of women and girls” (para 31).

A. Make gender equality and the empowerment of all migrant women and girls and the realization of their human rights an integral part of all responses to safe, orderly and regular migration

This should include measures to:

- Address and respond to the economic, political and social drivers of migration from a gender perspective
- Mainstream a gender perspective in all migration-related legislation, policies and programmes, national action plans and strategies, planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes
- Protect and respect the human rights of women and girls at all stages of migration in accordance with international human rights standards and mechanisms, including:
 - Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and General Recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers
 - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW)
 - International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
 - ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (No. 189)
- Provide financial resources and support gender-responsive mechanisms that address the rights and needs of migrant women and girls

B. Commit to the elimination of all forms of violence against migrant women and girls throughout all stages of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination

This should include measures to:

- Put in place prevention efforts, ensure effective remedies, access to services and means of redress for victims/survivors of violence, and hold perpetrators accountable
- Prevent and combat trafficking and exploitation of women and girls in line with international human rights law
- Promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes

C. Ensure women's and girls' leadership and full, equal and effective participation in all migration-related decision-making processes at all levels

This should include measures to:

- Enable migrant women to fully participate in the public life of countries of destination and origin, including in the labour market, in political life and through social inclusion and the building of inclusive and peaceful societies
- Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors, including migrants' and women's organizations, so that they can fully contribute to the development and implementation of the global compact

D. Recognize and support migrant women's economic rights, roles and contributions to the well-being of their families, communities, and countries of origin and destination

This should include measures to:

- Provide access to accurate information on labour migration for women at pre-departure and post-arrival stages
- Ensure that employment policies promote equal opportunities for decent work for migrant women in the labour market
- Ensure that women migrant workers have recourse to effective complaints mechanisms and to legal aid as necessary, regardless of migration status
- Develop and strengthen social protection policies that benefit migrant women and their families, especially children
- Ensure the effective promotion and protection of the labour rights of women migrant domestic workers
- Reduce remittance costs in line with commitments made under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

E. Ensure equal access for migrant women and girls to human rights-based and gender-responsive services

This should include measures to:

- Provide access to services, including education, health care services, including sexual and reproductive health care services, social services, and access to justice
- Provide access to gender-responsive healthcare services, including reproductive and sexual health care and specialized care for survivors of sexual violence
- Provide access to justice for women at all stages of migration, including access to legal aid

F. Ensure that international cooperation and migration governance respect the rights and needs of migrant women and girls

This should include measures to:

- Provide information on the rights of women in all stages of migration that is available and accessible in countries of origin, transit and destination
- Ensure that migrant women have independent residency status to enable a regularized and legal stay for women independent of their husbands
- Ensure that the immigration status of women migrant workers, including domestic workers, is not conditional on the sponsorship or guardianship of a specific employer
- Ensure that all migrant women and girls are provided with individual identity documentation
- Address the impact of migration policies on migrant women and girls in all follow-up and review processes at all levels

G. Strengthen data, knowledge and evidence on migrant women and girls

This should include measures to:

- Undertake and support robust qualitative and quantitative research to better understand the realities and contributions of migrant women and girls, including the drivers of migration (such as conflict, persecution, extreme poverty, discrimination, violence and exploitation, climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters)
- Build capacity to collect, analyze and use high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age, income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts