



co-steered by:



Call to Local Action on Migration

Through the Call to Local Action launched by the [GFMD Mayors Mechanism](#) in November 2019, local and regional governments can pledge to take concrete action to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and Global Compact on Refugees in unison, and to report on their progress in the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 and in the Global Refugee Forum in 2023. For info, please contact info@mayorsmechanism.org.

City of Bristol, United Kingdom

SUMMARY:

- Mayor Marvin Rees pledged in November 2019 to improve internal, vertical, and international governance cooperation; to ensure inclusive economic integration and development; and to prevent and counter discrimination and xenophobia.
- Among other efforts, the city will establish a cross-city Taskforce on Migrant Inclusion, made up of key stakeholders from across the city (business, universities, and civil society organizations) and in collaboration with other UK cities. This Taskforce will develop and oversee the implementation of an Action Plan for Migrant Inclusion, in line with GCM Objective 16 and UN Migration MPTF thematic cluster 5.
- Bristol established the #WeAreBristol communications campaign to support social cohesion, promoting an inclusive local identity and preventing discrimination and xenophobia in line with GCM Objective 17. Launched just prior to COVID-19, this expectedly, became the perfect vehicle for positive messages around COVID-19 community solidarity and volunteerism.
- The city also pledged to establish bespoke programs to facilitate refugee entrepreneurship with local business and civil society, facilitating decent work, in line with MPTF thematic cluster 4.

- After the city pledged, but in response to the COVID crisis, Bristol took more than 300 homeless people into emergency accommodation. Within this group were several migrants with “No Recourse to Public Funds” status, which prevents them from accessing mainstream State support. Bristol therefore set up a “One City Task Force” made up of representatives from Local Government, civil society, and others to identify the necessary support and longer-term pathways for everyone in emergency accommodation, including migrants and those seeking asylum.

DETAILED 2019 PLEDGE

PRIORITY 1: IMPROVE CITIES INTERNAL, VERTICAL AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND COOPERATION

- Increase local administration capacity for inclusion
- Improve dialogue and cooperation with different stakeholders and Increase our partnership to facilitate migrants’ spatial, social, economic and cultural integration
- Improving data collection and measurement of progress

Brief Description:

Establish and maintain a cross-city Taskforce on Migrant Inclusion, in collaboration with a number of other UK cities through the Inclusive Cities initiative

Concrete Actions:

Establish and maintain a Taskforce made up of key stakeholders from across the city, including business, universities and civil society organisations. The Taskforce will develop and oversee the implementation of an Action Plan based on the Inclusive Cities Framework devised by the University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society.

Expected Results:

Greater strategic alignment across sectors on migrant inclusion, greater collaboration between the Local Authority, business, universities and civil society, identification of key areas for improvement and catalysing new initiatives to address these.

PRIORITY 2: ENSURE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote economic integration and access to work in order to minimize economic drivers that compel migration and to favour economic integration of migrants and refugees
- Support migrants in their integration (skills recognition, capacity assessment, job coaching, administrative counselling, language training)
- Create awareness among the city population of the importance of collective action for migrants’ and refugees’ integration and engage business community leaders
- Promote migrants’ and refugees’ entrepreneurship

Brief Description:

Supporting refugee entrepreneurship through bespoke support programmes

Concrete Actions:

Work in partnership with civil society and business support organisations to deliver a bespoke support programme to refugee entrepreneurs to establish and grow businesses in Bristol

Expected Results:

New businesses established by refugees, and the growth of existing businesses in terms of staff numbers, turnover and profit, resulting in wider economic benefits for communities

PRIORITY 3: PREVENT AND COUNTER DISCRIMINATION AND XENOPHOBIA

- Raise awareness to prevent discrimination and xenophobia
- Empower and engage local community leaders to prevent, denounce and act against incidences of intolerance, racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination against migrants and diasporas
- Promote awareness raising campaigns targeted at communities of origin, transit and destination in order to inform public perceptions regarding the positive contributions
- Play a critical role in shaping a better-informed narrative on migration, through incubating solutions and generating evidence on 'what works' for migrants, families, communities and Cities

Brief Description:

Establish and develop the We Are Bristol communications campaign, promoting an inclusive local identity and preventing discrimination and xenophobia.

Concrete Actions:

Commission and promote videos and other We Are Bristol campaign media, using the latest research on public attitudes to migration in order to target the 'moveable middle' and encourage the development of an inclusive civic identity that encompasses difference and emphasises commonality.

Expected Results:

Large-scale public engagement with the campaign, through watching and sharing the videos and taking opportunities for interaction and participation. Our hope is that this will lead to a decrease in hate crime.