



*A virtual side event on*

**Gender-responsive approaches to migration:  
the Global Compact for Migration as a guiding framework**

**Date: Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Time: 9:00-10.30am Santiago, Chile**

**Concept note:**

*Gender-responsiveness* is one of the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (Article 15)<sup>1</sup>.

Gender affects *all* migrants at *all* stages of migration, however, gender can have uneven, and often deleterious impacts for some - particularly for migrant women and girls and marginalized groups such as LGBTI persons. Deeply entrenched gender inequalities which manifest in gender-specific forms of discrimination, for instance, in terms of access to education, decent work and social protection, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), are major drivers of migration. Women and girls on the move are more likely to experience violence, abuse and exploitation while migrating. Gender produces differential opportunities, impacts and outcomes for migrants, and these uneven outcomes have been especially evident in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Around the globe, and in Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>2</sup>, the pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities, with migrant women in the region (roughly 50.4% of 11.7 million migrants) being disproportionately impacted by increased unemployment, poverty, and the overload of unpaid care, as well as increases in SGBV and risks of exploitation.

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<sup>1</sup> *Gender-responsive: The Global Compact ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly understood and addressed and they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.*

<sup>2</sup> <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/noticias-y-eventos/articulos/2020/11/impacto-economico-covid-19-mujeres-america-latina-y-el-caribe>



Gender-responsive migration policies provide an opportunity to support migrant women and girls, and empower them to thrive in their host communities. As governments move towards realizing the objectives of the GCM, it is vital that stakeholders and governments come together to build capacities and share guidance on how to design, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-responsive migration policies, programmes and services.

This side event, co-sponsored by the governments of El Salvador and Canada, brings together governments and civil society from the region and beyond, with the aim of sharing good practices, resources and guidance on mainstreaming a gender perspective in migration governance, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the GCM. Particular areas of focus addressed in this side event include: responding to the gendered impacts COVID-19 in the region; integrating a gender perspective into migration and settlement policies; strengthening capacity and fostering partnerships for enhancing gender-responsive migration governance.

## **AGENDA**

**Date and time: 28 April, 9:00-10:30am (Santiago, Chile)**

### **Link:**

#### **I. Opening (15 min)**

- Diana Echeverria De Vega, General Director of Liason with Salvadorians living Abroad, Government of El Salvador
- Stephanie Leung, IRCC, Government of Canada

Moderator: ECLAC

#### **II. Panel: Tools and resources for enhancing gender-responsiveness: (30 min)**

- Diana Echeverria De Vega, General Director of Liason with Salvadorians living Abroad, Government of El Salvador
- Jenna Hennebry, IMRC - Gender+Migration Hub
- Inkeri von Hase, UN Women - Policies and Practice Guide on gender-responsive GCM implementation
- Paola Cyment, WIMN - No Borders to Equality: Global Mapping of Organizations Working on Gender and Migration
- CSO in the region, TBD



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- III. **Discussion, Q & A: Invite participants to share specific gender-responsive migration policy examples or needs (30 min)**
- IV. **Concluding Remarks (15 min)**
- Marcelo Pisani, IOM Regional Director for South America
  - CSO in the region, TBD
  - Jonathan Prentice, Head, UN Network on Migration Secretariat

**Meeting Links:**

**Session Name: Gender sensitive approach to migration: the GCM as a guiding framework**

**To join as PARTICIPANT:**

<https://live.kudoway.eu/k8/240212293259/join>

**Meeting ID: 240212293259**

**To join as VIEWER:**

<https://live.kudoway.eu/k8/770214562933/join>

**Meeting ID: 770214562933**

**Languages: French/English/Spanish**

**Recording: YES, Spanish channel**

**Mode: request to speak**