



## GCM talk on Legal Identity in the Context of Return, Readmission and Sustainable Reintegration

**1 February 2024 4pm-5.30pm (CET)**  
*Online with interpretation in EN, FR, SP*

[Register here](#)

### Draft Concept Note and Agenda

In the GCM, States committed themselves to “Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration,” (Objective 21). One of the implementing actions detailed for Objective 21 Action (c), is for States to “cooperate on identification of nationals and issuance of travel documents for safe and dignified return and readmission of persons who do not have the legal right to stay on another State’s territory, by establishing reliable and efficient means of identification of our own nationals such as through the addition of biometric identifiers in population registries, and by digitalizing civil registry systems, with full respect for the right to privacy and protection of personal data.” This action ties back to GCM Objective 4, the commitment to “Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.” Proof of legal identity is a prerequisite for entry into legal pathways for migration. For migrants who have chosen to return to their country of origin, or who are subject to removal, a rights-based approach to return, readmission and sustainable reintegration is extremely difficult if they are unable to prove their identity and, thereby, their nationality.

A GCM Talk, to be held online on 1 February 2024 at 4-5:30 pm CET, will explore the intersection of Objectives 21 and 4, as it frames a discussion of obstacles to and options for securing proof of legal identity for persons in the process of return (voluntary or involuntary, assisted or spontaneous) to their countries of origin, readmission to those countries, and sustainable reintegration<sup>1</sup>.

This GCM talk will address ways of removing the obstacles and difficulties that many migrants have in accessing documentation of their identity and nationality, and the implications for protection of their rights at every stage of their return and readmission journeys as well as in their reintegration once they have returned. The particular problems in securing proof of identity faced by women and children will be highlighted. Specific

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<sup>1</sup> Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions as a matter of choice, rather than necessity.



steps that national authorities can take to facilitate access to documentation, promising practices that have been undertaken throughout the return continuum, and the importance of legal identity in reintegration will be topics for discussion, as will opportunities for international cooperation in return procedures.

The UN Network on Migration Workstream on promoting safe, dignified and right-based Return, Reintegration and Sustainable Reintegration (RRR Workstream) is co-led by IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR and MPI, with a number of members from other UN agencies, CSOs and academia. The overall objective of this workstream is to contribute to strengthening efforts of member states to ensure safe, dignified and right-based return and readmission and sustainable reintegration.

The GCM talk will be moderated by one of the co-leads of the RRR Workstream, Kathleen Newland, who is Co-founder and Senior Fellow of the Migration Policy Institute. She will introduce the discussion by presenting a draft “road map” to securing legal identity for migrants in RRR processes. The road map is complementary to a forthcoming policy guidance note on legal identity in the context of RRR and will be circulated to participants in advance of the GCM Talk. Panelists will include representatives of host countries, countries of origin, the International Organization for Migration, and civil society. Discussion from the floor will be encouraged.

The aim of this GCM Talk is to engage with stakeholders to flesh out the road map based on their knowledge and experience and to help shape policy guidance on this sensitive topic.

## Agenda

### Opening

- a. Toward a road map on legal identity in the context of return, readmission and sustainable reintegration **Kathleen Newland, UN Network on Migration Workstream; Migration Policy Institute**
- b. The importance of legal identity in safe and dignified return and readmission, and sustainable reintegration **IOM representative, UN Network on Migration Workstream**

### Removing obstacles to securing proof of legal identity

### Cooperation on legal identity in return and readmission between countries of origin and host countries

### The crucial role of legal identity documentation in reintegration of returnees

**Discussion:** Interventions from the floor

### Concluding remarks