



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Action for Justice

The Lutheran World Federation

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Regional Review UNECE 11 March 2024 Geneva, Switzerland

Oral Statement Session 4

Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

lutheranworld.org

Delivered by: Fabián Wilches, Senior Advocacy Advisor

Thank you Moderator.

In this statement we will address issues pertaining to objective 17 of the GCM.

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me”, this practice is part of our faith values at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as a Christian faith-based organization, treating others as we would like to be treated, expressing compassion, mercy, love and hospitality for everyone including the newcomer. We recognize that all persons are entitled to dignity and respect, and no one should be subject to violence or discrimination.

Several reports of independent UN experts such as that of the UN Special Rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, have shown that many migration policies disproportionately affect negatively individuals from certain national origin, ethnic, racial and religious groups.

In many cases these policies involve or are built on structural racism. The widespread practices of externalization of migration controls by predominantly wealthy countries, who seek to pressure and partner with countries of origin and transit to prevent migrants and asylum seekers from leaving their territories and reaching their borders, also significantly contribute to deaths, torture and other serious human rights violations.

The UNECE region must incorporate transnational mechanisms and inter-State cooperation to search for disappeared migrants and to work on the root causes of forced migration addressing poverty, exclusion, global economic inequalities and other drivers like the current climate emergency, the exploitation of natural resources and armed conflicts. These should include cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination.

As a cornerstone of the human rights and non-discrimination guiding principles in the GCM, race and ethnicity, and the systemic link between migration and racial injustice, should feature prominently in GCM review and implementation including actively addressing negative narratives that promote hatred, xenophobia and violence against migrants and their families. States must include administrative and judicial mechanisms for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of violence and discrimination against migrants.

We call on the member states in the UNECE region to systematically and unequivocally repeal all policies that maintain, uphold or institutionalize racial injustice. In addition, States should examine existing social, economic, and political systems for inequalities in both structure and delivery of services, to eliminate xenophobic and racial biases.

In addition, we call on the UNECE governments to:

- Promote positive migration narratives, including evidence-based examples of the contribution of migrants to economic, social and cultural development.
- Ensure an appropriate migrant handling procedure, including addressing root causes of human rights violations and the role of racial discrimination in the management of borders and international migration.
- Ensure access to legal protection and effective judicial and administrative remedies and accountability mechanisms to address any violation of migrants' rights regardless of their status, and to end any practice of xenophobia and discrimination and the climate of impunity surrounding those grave human rights violations at borders and in transit.
- Promote participation of migrants with measurable indicators for governments – including local governments – for a full, participatory implementation of the GCM.

Finally, The Lutheran World Federation will continue upholding the rights of all migrants and call on governments in the UNECE region to increase their efforts to implement the GCM according to human rights standards.

Thank you.