Migrants and Discrimination: Lessons for the Future

Concept Note and Agenda

Thursday 27 April 2023, 15:00 - 16:30 CEST

Registration link [here](#)

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in **English, French and Spanish**

The UN Network on Migration (the 'Network') invites all to this GCM Talk on Migrants and Discrimination: Lessons for the Future, to launch their Anti-Discrimination advocacy tool and discuss ways in which to combat discrimination against migrants.

1. Background

The early years of GCM implementation and review during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the existing inequalities faced by migrants including discriminatory barriers to access services and exacerbated the narratives of intolerance focused on migrants and diasporas. At the same time, public discourses on the contributions of essential workers highlighted the ways in which migrants and diasporas have significantly contributed to recovery efforts yet were excluded in accessing services and relief.

In the [Progress Declaration](#) of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, Member States' committed to "*eliminating all forms of discrimination, including racism, systemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, hate crimes targeting migrants and diasporas as well as negative stereotyping and misleading narratives that generate negative perceptions on migration and migrants.*" This follows their commitments to the GCM's objectives and guiding principles, particularly to "*eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance, against migrants and their families*" and to "*developing national gender-responsive and child-sensitive migration policies and legislation in line with relevant obligations under international law to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrant women and children,in particular girls, regardless of their migration status.*"

In support of these efforts, the Network established workstreams on 'Enhancing the application of anti-discrimination dimensions, including against racism, xenophobia and intolerance into the work of the Network' and 'Enhancing the application of anti-discrimination dimensions, including discrimination based on gender into the work of the Network'**.**

In 2022, the workstreams jointly developed the [Anti-discrimination and COVID-19](#) advocacy tool through multi-stakeholder and inter-agency leadership. Though emerging from inequalities exposed during the pandemic, the tool addresses structural discrimination and other barriers to equality faced by migrants and provides forward-looking solutions. It contains a regionally-balanced mapping of discriminatory issues across gender, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, race and other characteristics that were thrown into stark relief by the pandemic, principally with regards to access to services and measures taken to address the impact of COVID-19.

The Network [statement](#) marking [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) also recognizes the urgency of addressing racial discrimination in the context of migration through an intersectional lens.

This GCM Talk seeks to explore combatting discrimination against migrants including ways in which the Anti-Discrimination advocacy tool can be used to ensure that the challenges faced by migrants at the height of the pandemic are not repeated again, and that all migrants are able to fully realize their human rights, and live free from all forms of discrimination.

2. Objectives of the 27 April GCM Talk

The objectives of this event are to:

1) Present the Anti-discrimination advocacy tool to start a discussion on intersectional discrimination towards migrants, both to understand what this means on the ground and to offer advocacy strategies;
2) Discuss ways in which an intersectional lens, such as racial justice, gender, and LGBTQI+[1] rights, among others, can be taken to strengthen migration policies at all levels; and
3) Highlight and explore ways to strengthen a UN system-wide and multi-stakeholder approach to achieving non-discrimination and equality in keeping with the 360-degree vision of the GCM and fulfilling its objectives within the sustainable development framework of 2030 Agenda.

Guiding questions:

1) How can an intersectional lens be used in policymaking to better address the multiple intersectional forms of discrimination faced by migrants?
2) What are examples of promising practices and solutions to combat discrimination against migrants?
3) How can the Anti-discrimination advocacy tool be operationalized at country levels by governments and stakeholders to address intersectional discrimination as part of GCM implementation?

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[1] An acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people. The plus sign represents people with diverse SOGIESC who identify using other terms or none.

3. Draft Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker
15.00	Opening remarks	Jonathan Prentice, Head, UN Network secretariat
15.05-15.20	Presentation on the Anti-discrimination Advocacy Tool	Stella Okupu-Owusu, Africa Foundation for Development (AFFORD) Jenna Hennebry, Wilfred Laurier University and Gender+Migration Hub
15.20-15.35	Key discussants	TBD
15.35-16.20	Interactive discussion	Moderator: Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Senior Advisor on Anti-Racism, Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights UNDP
16.20-16.30	Key take-aways and next steps	Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Senior Advisor on Anti-Racism, Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights UNDP