

POLICIES AND PRACTICE: A GUIDE FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

The Policies and Practice Guide is an online tool providing policy makers and practitioners with concrete guidance on how to ensure that the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is gender-responsive by addressing the specific needs, challenges and situations of vulnerability faced by women and girls at all stages of migration, while taking into consideration the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they may face. The Policies and Practice Guide also recognizes and seeks to promote the positive contributions that women and girls make in countries of origin, transit and destination.

What is gender-responsive migration governance?

Migration has the potential to stimulate equitable, inclusive and sustainable development for countries of origin, transit and destination. The experience of migration differs significantly for women and men: every aspect of migration, from women who remain behind, the decision to migrate, transiting across borders, to settling in the country of destination is influenced by gender equality considerations. For many women, migration can be a positive experience leading to a better life and enhancing their livelihood opportunities, autonomy and empowerment. However, migration can also expose women and girls to serious violations of their human rights. Migrant women and girls often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination at all stages of migration. Labour markets remain highly segregated and women, relative to men, often have limited access to information and lack decision-making power and control over resources. Gender-responsive migration governance responds to the different realities of migrant women, men, girls and boys by promoting and protecting their human rights at all stages

Global Compact for Migration (GCM)

As the first blue print for international migration governance, the GCM is a non-binding set of 23 commitments covering all dimensions of international migration and enshrines human rights and gender-responsive approaches as cross-cutting guiding principles. The implementation of the GCM provides a unique opportunity for Member States to ensure that the rights, needs and situations of vulnerability of migrant women and girls are addressed while promoting their empowerment, by putting in place gender-responsive migration policies, laws, programmes and services.

of migration. It aims to ensure that policies, laws, programmes and services recognize and address the specific needs, challenges and situations of vulnerability of all migrants, and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

What is the situation?

260
million

Approximately half of the nearly 260 million migrants worldwide are women

66
million

Women account for around 44 per cent of the estimated 150 million migrant workers worldwide

11.5
million

Of the 11.5 million migrant domestic workers in the world, approximately 73 per cent are women



Women send back USD 300 billion every year, which is half of all global remittances



Up to 2 million women and children are trafficked internationally every year



Women and girls constitute 98 per cent of all sexually exploited victims of trafficking

Why is gender-responsive implementation of the GCM important?

- To protect and realize the human rights of all migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination, and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- To enable migrant women's full economic and social participation.
- To guarantee that the gender-specific needs, priorities and situations of vulnerability of all migrants are addressed.
- To recognize migrant women's independence and leadership, moving away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.
- To address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that migrant women and girls may experience on the basis of, *inter alia*, sex, gender, age, income, race and ethnicity, nationality, religion, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, health status, pregnancy, place of residence and economic and social situation.
- To ensure that all migrants have access to the full spectrum of physical and mental health services, including sexual and reproductive health, and to education, vocational training, decent work, social protection, justice and due process.

- To enable migrant women and girls to lead lives in dignity and safety, free from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence.
- To ensure that the GCM contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- To stimulate equitable, inclusive and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination.

What will the Policies and Practice Guide provide?

- For each of the 23 GCM objectives, a concise summary of the main issues for migrant women and girls.
- Concrete measures for gender-responsive implementation of the 23 GCM objectives by addressing the specific needs, challenges and situations of vulnerability of migrant women and girls.
- Case studies and good practices of gender-responsive migration governance.
- A checklist of key actions which promote gender equality and the empowerment of migrant women and girls.

Expert Working Group (EWG) for addressing women's human rights in the GCM

The Expert Working Group (EWG) for addressing women's human rights in the Global Compact for Migration is composed of individual experts from UN human rights treaty bodies, Special Procedures mandate holders, UN agencies, civil society organizations and academic institutions. UN Women serves as the substantive secretariat of the EWG, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). This high-level expert group, has been engaged in strategic advocacy for a gender-responsive and human rights-based GCM since 2017, and contributed to the development of the Policies and Practice Guide. More information available at: <https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/who-we-are/initiatives/expert-working-group-migration>

The Policies and Practice Guide will be available on www.unwomen.org in early 2019