

Global Compact on Migration Online Consultation Report: June

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Red Dot Foundation (RDF) has received special accreditation to the Global Compact preparatory process for Migration by the United Nations Member States. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/1, the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,” a preparatory process is underway for the intergovernmental negotiations of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018. As part of this preparatory process, the President of the General Assembly is organizing a series of informal thematic sessions between April 2017 and November 2017, as well as four days of informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings between April 2017 and June 2018, in accordance with the organizational arrangements adopted by the UN General Assembly.

RDF has since been conducting online consultations to gather inputs from varied stakeholders on pertinent migration related issues in keeping with themes assigned. June's consultation dealt with policies around the theme of, "International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration". This report is a compilation of responses from participants and research undertaken by Nikunj Morarka.

What are the governmental/national level frameworks that are needed to improve equity in migration for jobs/employment opportunities?

There has always been discrimination based on race and ethnicity in migration policies of countries, even when such discrimination is no longer mandated by law it is practised by officers in charge of migration, so the best way to ensure equity for potential migrants is to have an objective and merit based standard for

selecting migrants for employment opportunities, this can be done through standardised tests and other quantitative educational and work criteria.

How does the lack of international cooperation on migration policies affect the lives of migrants fleeing from conflict zones?

Countries facing an influx of migrants from a conflict zone may bar the entry of these migrants by sealing their borders which could have devastating consequences for the migrants, this can be prevented if neighbouring countries reach an agreement to accept certain quotas of refugees and other countries agree to compensate the affected country or provide material support. Furthermore migrant families may get split and reach different countries during the conflict, in such a situation not having international cooperation would make it impossible to unite these families.

How does the lack of international cooperation on migration policies affect the lives of female migrants specifically, fleeing from conflict zones?

Female migrants are even more vulnerable in such a scenario, they are almost always less educated and mostly dependent on male members of their family, in case they are separated, not having international cooperation to help find their family will put them in grave danger. Furthermore if there is no cooperation and refugee camps and other infrastructure is not created the absence of lavatories and lack of access to sanitary pads can have serious health consequences for women.

What are the additional ramifications that the business of transporting migrants illegally has for female migrants? How do we address these issues?

Mostly the women who take the help of these illegal traffickers are in a desperate economic position, any agreement they have with these traffickers is totally one sided in favour of the traffickers and even then these women have no way to enforce any agreement and are totally at their mercy. The transport and work conditions are extremely unhealthy and many times they may be forced into slavery or be exploited

sexually.

All nations must co-operate to strengthen their borders and use the latest technology to detect illegal border crossing and smuggling, it is very important that they share intelligence and crack down on complicit officers and have harsh laws against these traffickers and a humane rehabilitation policy for the female migrants.

How will an internationally accepted policy on cooperation towards migrants help reduce the business of transporting migrants across borders illegally?

Intelligence sharing between the countries will help track the routes used by these businesses and so help crack down on them, such cooperation will help expose rogue states that refuse to co-operate and help harbour such traffickers, sharing of advanced technology by the more developed countries will help the less developed countries secure their borders.

How can we build migrant policies that are inclusive and multicultural?

All nations must agree to a migration policy that is based on merit and doesn't discriminate against anyone based on their religion, race or ethnicity. Such a merit based system may help the migrants of advanced economies and so to make sure that the less developed countries are not left out there must be certain quotas for these countries.

How does the lack of a clear internationally accepted policy on citizenship rights of migrants affect their lives post displacement?

Not having a clear internationally accepted policy on citizenship rights of migrants makes the live of these migrants unstable and leaves them open to exploitation. They can be deported for relatively minor offences if they aren't citizens, they are also unable to get proper access to education and healthcare facilities and are often paid lower wages and exploited by their employers.

How does the lack of a clear internationally accepted policy on immigration of migrants affect their lives post settlement in a country?

The absence of an international policy on immigration of migrants makes it possible for countries to put harsh restrictions on migrants like restricting their movement. They can force them to learn the native language, allow employers to pay these migrants low wages and also deny them access to certain education and healthcare facilities. These migrants are also vulnerable to being deported for minor mistakes without an international agreement.

Should the governance of migration policies for migrants driven away from their homes by climate change be entrusted to the countries the migrants emerge from or to the other countries? Who should bear costs of such migration?

Climate change is the responsibility of every country in the world and so all countries must create a climate fund specifically for migrants displaced by climate change, the more advanced countries must contribute more money since they are not only in a better financial condition but have also historically caused the highest levels of emissions. The country that has received the migrants should support these migrants and if they don't have the capacity then they must distribute the migrants among neighbouring countries and they must be compensated by the climate fund, which should be overseen by the United Nations.

Would compelling refugees to learn the native language of the country they migrate to, help or further alienate their integration process?

If there is a compulsion to learn the native language then it might cause further stress to the migrants who are already under tremendous pressure. The best approach would be to provide them free classes to learn the native language without there being a compulsion to clear a language test.

What steps should be taken to rehabilitate the refugees in their country of origin after the crisis which caused the migration has ended? Who should bear the costs for the same?

Such rehabilitation should take place only after the crisis has ended and the country is stable, with the approval of the government in charge of the country. This must be done in a systematic manner, first the country of origin must build the required infrastructure to house the migrants and provide educational and medical facilities. The United Nations must do a thorough investigation of the conditions and only then must the migrants be transferred to their country of origin. The costs must be borne by the country of origin and the countries that caused this crisis if this is economically viable, or else other countries through the United Nations must help these countries either materially, through low interest loans or donations.

What is the viability of safe zones for refugee camps in conflict zones like Syria and who should provide funding and security for these camps?

These safe zones are only viable if the major powers on either side of the war agree to not attack these safe zones otherwise they can't work. The funding and security should mainly be provided by the countries that are involved in the crisis and the support of international organisations like the Red Cross must be allowed.

How do we tackle the rise of religious profiling of refugees with rising acceptance of anti refugee sentiment in politics?

Educating the public through advertising and public programs by informing them about the fact that the overwhelming majority of Muslims are peaceful and that Muslims are the largest victims of terror attacks is very important. While all countries have the right to do a background check of the migrants there must be an international agreement where all countries agree to that they won't disallow migrants entry based on their religion alone.

How can we make a universal standard of entry in emergency situations that expedites allocation of visas?

All countries with diplomatic relations must agree to provide visas on an expedited basis for medical emergencies, in case the person who is asking for the visa is suspected of some crime or the place where he/she comes from is a terror prone zone then the country can monitor this person when they arrive in the country but they should be provided with the visa for their medical emergency. After the person is operated upon he/she can then be detained for questioning.

How do we become more innovative in protecting paths and roads that we know are taken by migrants to ensure their safety in transit?

We can monitor these paths through drones and have military aircrafts on standby to respond to threats in minutes and also provide material help to the migrants by dropping food packets.

How do we engineer a new framework that tackles the UN administrative conventions in conjunction with the International Organisation of Migration, in practise, as it relates to national sovereignty

The reality is that the United Nations by itself doesn't have the power to enforce any migration policy without the support of member states, so the IOM must continue to provide consultation to countries and push for more rights for migrants without interfering in the politics of any country because that is the only way member states of the United Nations will trust the IOM and take its help to expand migration rights or facilitate migration at times of a crisis.

Connect with us?

Write to us at info@safecity or vanditamorarka@gmail.com, you can also follow further online consultations at <http://safecity.in/global-compact-on-migration/>