



UN Major Group for  
**Children and Youth**  
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

## GFMD Youth Forum Outcome Documents

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## RT 1.1 Migration, Labour and Decent Jobs

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

#### 1. The gig/platform economy and existing structural barriers to labour market

- Existing structural barriers, e.g. restrictive work permit and labour laws, language barriers, documentation including non-recognition of skills and diplomas of migrants and refugees. The *gig economy* is heavily built on technology - not all countries have equitable access to i t-i.e.- internet, innovation hubs, tech;

#### 2. Empowering youth entrepreneurship and self-employment through financial education and employability skills

- Lack of access to credit: start-up initiatives by young migrants always lack funding; Stigmatization of products; lack of alternative and sustainable livelihood options; lack of financial education and employability skills;

#### 3. Labour protection in the context of youth

- Prioritize and facilitate the regularization of migration status for all people, without discrimination;  
- Young migrants and refugees are pushed to the informal economy in the host countries as labour regulation can prohibit their inclusion in the local formal labour sector;

#### 4. Training the next generation of labour: stimulating corporate-youth partnerships

- Key issues: heavy dependency on NGOs to conduct trainings; lack of engagement from government and private sector in conducting trainings; gender bias regarding capacity building; lack of sustainable and relevant skills - there is a disconnect between the trainings that the refugees are provided and the needs in the labour market.

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

#### 1. The gig/platform economy and existing structural barriers to labour market

- Choose yourself - a refugee led organization - are offering trainings and services to young women migrants in linking them with the national economy of Rwanda. Library to offer refugees books to learn English and access online education;

#### 2. Empowering youth entrepreneurship and self-employment through financial education and employability skills

- Latin-American government supports youth through capacity building, mentorships, seed money and monitoring;

#### 3. Labour protection in the context of youth

- Programs designed by civil society to diversify jobs as well as specific services for legal assistance;

#### 4. Training the next generation of labour: stimulating corporate-youth partnerships

- Universities in Canada have refugee pathways as well as a process that facilitates the recognition of foreign degrees.

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

#### 1. The gig/platform economy and existing structural barriers to labour market

- Improve the database of registered employees and companies that work on the gig/platform economy;  
- Accelerate procedures related to work permits and recognition of skills and diplomas, including legal support;  
- Carry out consultations with the population to avoid violence in transition related to the regulation of the gig economy;  
- Develop an independent a monitoring body to follow up the participation of the private sector in the GFMD;

#### 2. Empowering youth entrepreneurship and self-employment through financial education and employability skills

- Improve micro-credit programs as well as the support of the public and private sector in the development of training programs for the creation of new ventures led by immigrants, as well as quotas to hire refugee and immigrants

#### 3. Labour protection in the context of youth

- Make it easier to regulate migrant jobs, reducing associated financial costs. Ensure health insurance for everyone.

#### 4. Training the next generation of labour: stimulating corporate-youth partnerships

- Improve cooperation between government, civil society and private sector to expand capacity building on ICT.  
- The proper and ethical use of technology should be promoted by governments  
- Foster regional cooperation between countries to improve migration governance (such as Pacific Alliance)

## RT 1.2 Migration, Education and Recognition of Skills

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

#### **Increase access to and assistance in educational services and language proficiency:**

1. Educate about the right to education as well as information on the mechanisms to guarantee this access
2. Prioritize education for migrants to participate within the formal workforce
3. Regularization of refugees to ensure access to public services
4. Encourage education of women and girls (particular lack of education on sexuality, gender and reproductive health)

#### **Encourage host, migrant and refugee youth to educate their communities:**

1. Educate the community about migrant people and their intersectional diversity
2. Address mental health stigma in the host community
3. Cross-cultural understanding and socio and economic integration between host and migrant communities

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

- Youth working in Northern Ecuador to provide psychosocial support to Colombian and Venezuelan refugees. Impact was focused on kids but also provides support for the entire family.
- In La Paz (Bolivia), a youth-led program supports migrants in a communal house to access educational services.
- New Canadians Program provides youth-led educational tutoring services for migrants and education for the host and migrant communities.
- Global Voice for Autism in Jordan supports migrant children with disabilities. Local NGOs trains parents and teachers to provide in-classroom support. Migrant youth run programs for the community to generate awareness about their situation.
- Initiative in Sweden led by youth (experienced by migrant herself) helped newly arrived migrants mainly from Arab nations to learn Swedish. The program also provides education for women on sexual and reproductive rights and health.
- Terre des Hommes in Romania works with Syrian refugees and promotes cross-cultural understanding through activities such as museum visits and movie nights.

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

- UN Human Rights Treaty outlines migrants' right to education despite their undocumented status, it's necessary to encourage more countries to sign and implement.
- Promote the creation of spaces for host, migrant and refugee youth to learn from each other, share their opinion and self-advocate for policies in educational spaces.
- Promote fund programs focused on the integration and education of newly arrived migrants. Policies should be introduced to promote programs on cross-cultural understanding between migrant and refugee youth and host communities.
- Foster fund and support for young leaders working on the ground and provide support to communities to prepare for a large influx of migrants particularly in the education sector.
- Recognition of skills and education qualifications of migrants to support both host and migrant communities.



### RT 1.3 Push and Pull Factors of Migration

#### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

**Education:** Value/recognition of degree; ability (or lack thereof) to use their degrees in host countries; impacts on mental health; e.g., international students who do not perform well enough (precarious education); specific regional academic requirements vary; difficult to regain capacity; accessibility, language, universality.

**Rights:** Access to fundamental rights (e.g., jobs, healthcare), impacting security of person

**Conflict/Violence:** Security and protection, criminal violence and gangs

**Inclusion:** Social and economic inclusion; accessibility to employment, salary, and wage; fight discrimination (e.g., institutional and social); impacts towards identity

**\*Climate Change:** youth identified climate change as a priority.

#### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

**Grassroots organizations:** local, community-based groups who focus on local language advancement and inclusion of migrants.

**Social & economic inclusion:** through scholarships for education and sports (e.g., boxing & self-defense courses for migrant women, sporting events between migrants and locals to strengthen social cohesion); supporting refugees through programmes such university students hosting refugees.

**Focus on in-country migration:** public services such as stipends for food/transportation for IDPs.

#### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

**Education:** If a nation-state accepts labour migrants (highly skilled, educated migrants), they must provide avenues of accessibility → for example, internships/work experience specifically dedicated for migrants.

**Rights:** Working towards policy in countries of origin to improve security of person. Focus on the protocols for unaccompanied minors, where responsibility lies not only in international organizations but in political actors→ strengthen the responsibility of governments and hold them accountable; action on the part of governments in ensuring populations are aware of available resources/rights.

**Conflict/Violence:** Establishment of security of person in countries of origin (e.g., establishment of safe havens); establishment of sanctuary cities in host countries.

**Inclusion:** strengthening of programs; taking localized initiatives and making them widespread through government sponsorship (e.g., the support of refugees through community sponsorship).

## RT 1.4 Climate Change and Migration

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- More disaggregated data and information by age, locality (rural/urban) and by vulnerable groups are needed for better migration policies and to understand how climate change is interacting with migration patterns.
- The key priorities of the youth are access to education, informal education, vocational training, skills development and access to the job market, as well as resilience building, disaster preparedness and adaptation to climate change.
- Establish a common understanding and definition of climate change and migration triggered by climate and environment-related factors.
- Marginalized youth such as women, LGBTQI+ and people with disabilities are in need of inclusive strategies and policies to address their situation and include them into decision-making mechanisms.
- Ensuring safe and orderly migration as well as short- and long-term integration strategies in the host community and the possibility of safe return.

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

- Young people are effective in advocating for their vision and in providing awareness raising, information sharing and empowerment for their peers.
- Establish youth networks, self-mobilize and use the full potential of social media and online platforms.
- Young people can provide formal and informal education, vocational trainings, skill development.
- Youth can self-mobilize as the first responders to provide immediate response in the aftermath of disasters.

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

- Governments have to recognize climate change and migration as an issue area.
- Local government entities and civil society need to accelerate and scale up existing local projects and mechanisms.
- Governments need to support humanitarian services provided by other stakeholders regardless of their legal status.
- Foster research and promote climate action in order to prevent migration.
- Include and be more specific on climate change-related migration in National Adaptation Plans and NDCs.
- Recognize that development and climate change mitigation and adaptation should go hand in hand with migration policy planning.
- Ensure alternative livelihood options in climate change-hit areas and regular, safe and orderly migration pathways.
- Recognize the nexus between security, climate change and migration in order to provide appropriate preventive measures
- Support and promote education on climate change and climate action among young people and ensure opportunities for young migrants to speak up about their experiences of migration due to climate issues.
- Put in place effective coordination mechanisms, data management systems, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning mechanisms for climate change and migration-specific projects tackling youth.

## RT 1.5 Human Trafficking and Child Detention

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

#### Regarding human trafficking

- Root causes of trafficking, such as poverty, should be addressed.
- Every effort should be made to prevent trafficking, protect the victims and prosecute the perpetrators.
- Every victim of trafficking should have access to the protection system regardless of their migration status, including psychosocial support.

#### Regarding child detention

- Migrant children should always be treated as children and not be discriminated against due to migration status.
- Unaccompanied minors should be integrated into the national care systems and not put in detention. Families should not be separated nor detained.
- Community-based alternatives to detention and adequate care arrangements should be used.

#### Regarding reintegration of trafficking victims

- There should be extra funding for social, economic and political reintegration of victims.
- There should be better monitoring of the reintegration programs.

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

#### Regarding human trafficking and smuggling

- Civil society and youth raising awareness about trafficking and smuggling within the communities, especially before people leave the country.

#### Regarding child detention

- Engage with multi-stakeholder platforms working to end detention and to support States in developing alternatives.
- Conduct advocacy, strategic litigation, as well as research on the long-lasting mental health impacts of detention

#### Reintegration of victims

Address social stigmatization of victims of trafficking.

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

#### Regarding human trafficking/smuggling

- Quality capacity building for State officials to detect trafficking, paying special attention to local authorities.
- Improved coordination of State actors / authorities.
- States to acknowledge the existence of human trafficking, to create public policies to address this crime and to comply with the decisions of international bodies.
- States to monitor where the development funds go, fight against corruption and to pay attention to “follow the money” investigations on trafficking
- States to fight against poverty and inequality as the main root causes of human trafficking.
- States to adapt national laws to the needs of child migrants, especially unaccompanied.
- States to provide psychosocial support for victims of child trafficking and improve mental health.

#### Regarding child detention

- States should improve protection systems for children, especially unaccompanied, and provide adequate psychosocial support, as well as build capacity of immigration authorities on children’s rights.
- States should implement non-custodial alternatives to detention within the community.
- States should improve data collection on immigration detention of children and youth and be more transparent.
- States should improve participation of children and youth in the decisions that affect them, and improve coordination among protection actors.

#### Regarding reintegration of victims

- States to increase funding for reintegration programmes and fights against mismanagement of funds.
- Need for community-based approaches to reintegration, in coordination with international organisations..
- Economic inclusion as a way for victims to reintegrate and be empowered. This could be done through trainings or support for them to start small businesses.

## RT 2.1 Providing Regular Pathways from Crisis to Safety

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- Discrimination and xenophobia in public institutions to access rights. Having regular status facilitates the exercise of rights but it's not sufficient and is often so costly it creates barriers to regularization.
- Inability to obtain documents from the home country, which makes it impossible to leave.
- Lack of access to information, training and decent work conditions for public officials that deal with migrants, lack of access to counseling for migrants during the procedures for regularization, including barriers in language and translation.
- Barriers for accessing justice.
- The prerequisite of visas for entering a country, for most migrants in vulnerable situations, which generates irregular pathways that encourage human trafficking and smuggling and work in inhumane conditions.
- Difficulties in the child protection and adoption system to recognize migrants by the national system Difficulties to access regularization for migrants in situations of vulnerability, like unaccompanied children, separated families, detained children and people in need of international protection.
- Children who become stateless because of nationality laws in the host country.
- Absence of a gender perspective and gender-based approaches.
- Centralization of mechanisms and institutions at capitals and difficulties to access them in rural areas.
- Lack of consideration of a broader definition of family in host and origin countries
- Lack of regional mechanisms for regularization.
- Criminalization of migrants in irregular situations and fear of being deported because going through the regularization process.
- Prohibition of deportation that causes separation of the child from their family

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

- Regularization procedures at the border.
- Consultations and workshops about the rights of migrants and the migration process.
- Access to services such as health and education for migrants in rural areas.
- Apply to best interests of the child into practices by listening to what the child wants with respect to the right to family and liberty.
- Apply the Restoring Family Link project by the Red Cross that coordinates the process of returning migrants with IOM and provides unique services and medical support, free of charge for the family reunification.

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

- Education and dignified work conditions for public officials
  - Strengthen the partnership with civil society and all stakeholders, including civil society of the receiving and host country.
  - Create regularization mechanisms that are free of charge, easy, do not re-victimize, do not discriminate with gender perspective, including in rural areas and borders.
  - Implement mechanisms of regularization for children and youth together with their families, with a broad definition of family. This mechanism should be expedited for migrants in vulnerable situations (like unaccompanied minors).
  - Guarantee shelter while reunification with family happens.
  - Create regular pathways for family reunification for humanitarian reasons.
  - Create regional mechanisms that will smooth migration processes (such as Mercosur, EU and ECOWAS).
  - Prohibition of deportation in cases where it might lead to separation of families.
- Creation of transnational mechanisms to access regularisation that would avoid the separation of families and persons at risk, in particular children on the move in a particular region.

## RT 2.2 Shaping Public Narratives about Migration and Migrants

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- **One-dimensional narratives are dehumanizing & oversimplifying:** Lack of complexity in current narratives on migration & refugees → “victimization” & “stealing jobs” → humanizing migrants in debates. Polarized narratives drive fear.
- **Communications & tailored messaging:** New narratives that are more inclusive; messaging around migration should be tailored to specific audiences and take into account public concerns
- **Language & unhelpful categorizations:** Clarity of youth migration; Language is political
- **Need for better data:** More data on youth needed; data that disaggregates youth categories (eg, age)
- **Intersectionality & inclusivity:** Need for the recognition of intersectionality; lack of focus on migrant woman/or portrayed as victims (what are they doing for the country)
- **Ensuring migrants have a platform:** Spaces for new migrant voices/perspectives; consent
- **Localising frameworks & campaigns:** localizing conversations, supporting community-based initiatives

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

- **Emphasizing commonality and shaping values through universal languages:** sports; networks; arts & culture; drum circles with indigenous populations (internal migrants); migrant women for migrant women; mask-making & character creation for migrant expression; sporting events between migrants and host communities
- **Community engagement:** Human libraries; storytelling; connecting host communities and migrants both online and in-person → digital platforms & campaigns
- **Awareness through education:** Raising awareness at institutions → e.g. Student Unions raising awareness through advocacy, sponsorship and peaceful demonstrations emulating the lives of refugees/persecuted minorities; school level initiatives → eg, children from migrant and host communities to bridging barriers in elementary schools

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

- **Language:** Using person-first language (eg, migrant person vs migrants)
- **Frameworks:** Creating international frameworks which focus on shifting narratives towards unbiased, neutrality; local governments to establish frameworks in partnership with civil society to gather better data; creating permanent youth spaces within data gathering → data focused on youth and youth disaggregated categories (age, etc); adequate, inclusive complete consultation with youth → policy at a national level (eg, creating advisory councils--regulations on what inclusive consultation looks like)
- **Grassroots youth action:** Governments to subsidize public spaces for contact between migrant people and host communities; GFMD → for local governments to engage in conversations with youth in policy
- **Law:** A whole of government approach in involving youth in defining and implementing law regarding migration → establishing a universally recognized definition of *youth* and *migrant* which is inclusive and upheld not only at the international level but also by nation-states; harmonizing international and national frameworks for coherence



## RT 2.3 Facilitating Social and Economic Inclusion of Migrants

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

**Decent work:**

- Addressing the intersectionality between discrimination, race, gender, people with disability, lack of legal status, type of working permit that impacts access to decent work. In Canada, Mexico, Australia, etc. people on temporary permits have generally lower wages, no access to public services, long working hours, and are victims of xenophobia.
- Forming a sense of community which can lead to good economic opportunities.
- Enhancing skills assessment and the recognition of academic degrees.
- Raising awareness among migrants about support mechanisms available to them and about their rights.

**Family reunification:**

- Helping migrant communities already at destination to provide private sponsorship (self-advocacy).
- Lowering health requirements to have access to family reunification programs.
- Ensuring that children crossing borders alone have access to family reunification procedures adapted to their needs. In Uganda, they are living in refugee camps alone and have no access to such procedures.

**Education:**

- Including diversity / intercultural activities in education programs (culture-friendly curriculum).
- Encouraging education focusing on the language and cultural practices of host societies.

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

**Decent work:**

- In Canada, the *New Canadians program* links communities with newly arrived migrants to create a sense of community, connections that can lead to internships or jobs, etc.
- In Australia, the Royal Commission for Disabilities allows people to anonymously make a complaint and investigations are conducted.
- In Mexico, civil society organizations work with migrants to develop social and economic projects.

**Family reunification:**

- In Maine, USA, cities are funding an organization called ILAP that provides many services such as access to lawyers for free, to help family reunification, but the waiting lists are long.

**Education:**

- The New-Brunswick multicultural council educates women, gives loans, and runs youth camps.

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

**Decent work:**

- Hold countries accountable for the political and economic factors that push people to migrate.
- Governments should change their discourse and policies toward migration to a more positive narrative that acknowledges the potential of migration for development.
- Create a commission / mechanism for migrant workers to report discrimination and poor work conditions anonymously (online or through an app) so that action can be taken against their employers.
- Realize the right of migrant workers to create unions that can hold the private sector accountable on working conditions and request investigations by governments on this issue.

**Family reunification:**

- States should have transnational procedures to protect children and foster family reunification.
- Government should quickly give migrants or refugees regular status for them to have access to services.

**Education:**

- Governments should have multicultural policies and implement mechanisms for accountability to make sure those policies are adhered to and implemented.
- Governments (especially in Latin America) should increase their education expenditures.
  - Governments should not ask children about their migratory status to access school.

## RT 2.4 Supporting arrival locations (cities, ports, nations) and sending places (including rural areas)

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- Data collection on access to services, living conditions, location, demographic information, protection needs.
- Access to information about services and human rights
- Increase capacity of local governments to address migrant needs at both arrival and sending places.

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

- Peer-to-peer guardianship program to include migrants in the educational system (programs in Italy and Romania).
- Training to local community leaders such as church leaders to create actions and give training of funding and support for migrant community inclusion (program in Ethiopia).
- Access to information and technology services through schools and libraries to provide equal access to information and education (Program in Canada).
- Community initiatives to increase youth (migrant and local) participation under cultural engagement (program from Perú).

### Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?

- Co-create youth friendly data collection methodologies for local governments and key stakeholders and partners regarding migrant status.
- Improve technical capacities of local governments, and promotion of their autonomy to manage funds and increase accountability through international organizations.
- Promote public policies to include youth migrants in anti-discrimination policies for equitable access to resources and services at the local level.

## Regional RT 1 South America

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- Regarding **Education**, difficulties were identified in access to education, due to lack of information and promotion of this right by the State, as well as discrimination. There is also concern about the lack of permanence in the educational system of migrant children, due to lack of integration and because education in survival situations is not a priority.
- In **Health**, there are difficulties in accessing health services due to racism, discrimination and lack of training of officials. As well as lack of institutional capacity of countries to provide health services and adequate treatment for the entire population, whether national or migrant.
- In terms of **Participation**, it is important to recognize restrictions related to migration status for social and political participation. And the existence of structural gaps in different countries to access existing and new spaces for participation.
- When observing **violence** suffered by migrants in the region, the socio-economic vulnerability and revictimization that they suffer at destination are concerning. And the lack of awareness in the education system about the violence that migrants face is also very worrying.
- Regarding **Regularization of Migration Status**, States have a ‘fear approach’ and not a ‘protection approach.’ The lack of training and awareness of migration officials about key vulnerabilities in migratory contexts is also a worry from the group.

### Youth Action Plan and Policy Recommendations

- The proposal to advance the access and permanence of migrants in the education system, is to promote complementary training processes by and for the community, involving personnel from the education sector, with special emphasis on children in human mobility but not excluding nationals.
- To improve access to health, it is considered essential to direct existing resources to promote the strengthening of the public health system with a focus on integration of migrant communities.
- To promote participation, local governments and civil society are invited to open safe and accessible spaces for the integration and participation of the community as a whole, both national and migrant.
- To address the violence suffered by migrant populations, it is recommended that a regional database be developed to avoid revictimization of migrants who are survivors of violence.
- And in the matter of regularization, it is proposed to focus on advocacy to distinguish sanctions related to irregular stay or work from procedures for the regularization of migrants.



## Regional RT 2 North and Central America

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- Creation of policies and protocols for transit, reception and return, with a focus on human rights at the national and regional level.
- Consider mixed flows (intra-regional and extra-regional migration: Afro-Caribbean and indigenous), migrant workers and migrant children.
- Increase youth advocacy initiatives with government actors.
- Shaping narratives on migration to promote social and economic inclusion.
- Creating mechanisms for the recognition of skills and the education of migrants.

### Youth Action Plan and Policy Recommendations

Youth Network for Migration (NCA):

This project will be a platform for youth-led organizations involved in migration advocacy to connect to one another. This will allow youth to discuss good practices, challenges, lessons learned, and allow organizations to raise awareness about their respective initiatives and events. This will address youth priorities identified above: 1) increase youth advocacy initiatives; 2) shape inclusive narratives; 3) share information about good policies and protocols regarding different stages and dimensions of migration; 4) share resources that help ensure social and economic inclusion. This is attainable, as its initial contacts will be the youth-led organizations that have participated in the Youth Forum and relevant organizations identified through the UNMGCY mapping project.

**Activities:**

1. Create a database with contacts from youth-led organizations interested in participating (Youth Forum participants and others).
2. Create a WhatsApp Group or a Facebook group for members use -- and a Blog for external use.
3. Upon receiving grants, transition the WhatsApp Group and the Blog into a centralized platform.
4. Blog: Create and share posts, news and promising policies on migration with a focus on youth and a cross-cutting approach. Organize monthly webinars on migration and other relevant topics.

**Participants accountable:** UNMGCY, IOM, participants of the Youth Forum, identified volunteers to code and moderate the platform through grants and stipends.

## Regional RT 3 Asia and Pacific

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

1. Migrants and refugee youth’s access to education is relatively low to both their country of origin as they don’t have the right to work, it allows space for labour exploitation - including unsafe working conditions, fraudulence, unpaid or forced labour, scared of police force, fear of deportation, blackmailing and xenophobia
2. Undocumented migrants and refugees do not have the right to open bank account, and this impacts how they save their money and how they manage their day-to-day transactions - Irregular migration is either passive or voluntarily chosen lack of awareness about regular pathways for migration, and the complexity of migration policies exposes youth to the risk of human trafficking, smuggling, etc. - Nepal is the only country in South Asia that has ratified the UN COR. Human Rights Convention is rarely ratified and adopted in Asia-Pacific Countries. Bangladesh does NOT recognise ‘refugees’ and instead, uses terms like ‘displaced Myanmar nationals’ that lets them get away from their responsibilities without any implications
3. There is a lack of effective coordination amongst Asia-Pacific countries
4. Most countries are not on the same page and do not have a common understanding about migration and its process.
5. There is no Asia Pacific Coalition for youth, they have to travel to Geneva, San Francisco, etc. to attend these and limits their participation. Asia-Pacific has less representation and is usually invisible in these high-level dialogues
6. Terms such as ‘migrants’ and ‘refugees’ are highly politicised and has a negative undertone to it, this is further exacerbated in media and academia.
7. Youth in South East Asia are traditionally discouraged to participate in high-level dialogues as themes such as ‘discipline’, ‘seniority’, ‘patriarchy’ and ‘respecting elders’ are deeply entrenched in certain Asian communities
8. Youth with disability are highly discriminated in migration policies as they don’t meet the health requirement and in almost all cases, their tourist, student and work visa are rejected - Young migrant women are bound by cultural and traditional barriers that prevent them from taking actions against domestic and family violence. This is especially true for those from LGBTIQI+ backgrounds.

### Youth Action Plan and Policy Recommendations

- Work with governments and local NGOs to improve access to education, legal aid and legal literacy
- Western-centric approach in migration overlooks other regions to a certain extent, the approach should be decentralised to strategically address necessary concerns - Set up a regional mechanism such as stronger partnerships with regional offices of IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF in regional areas to address crucial issues that young migrants and refugees face regularly - Have a stronger regional UN MGCY Charter that supports Regional and Thematic Focal Points in collaborating with new partners even if that means providing mentorship, and monetary support.
- Diversify the locations of international youth gatherings, conferences on migration to increase the participation of youth workers and leaders

## Regional RT 4 Europe

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

- **Safe Access to Territory:** a sustainable and effective framework based on the principle of solidarity and on promoting safe pathways to Europe
- **Access to Education:** youth migrants arriving to Europe need to have access to both compulsory and higher education. Problems regarding access to school vary from language barriers and devaluation of their levels of education.
- **Access to employment:**
  - Long procedural times to obtain a legal status in Europe affect the ability to access the job market.
  - Working exploitation of irregular migrants and subsequent risk of being persecuted or even deported if labour rights violations are denounced.
- **Guardianship:** To guarantee services and protection needs for unaccompanied minors, a guardianship mechanism is needed. The guardian can follow the minors in each step of the procedure and help them navigating the bureaucratic system.
- **Family Reunification:** Every child has the right to be with her family. Family reunification mechanisms do not always work in Europe. There is lack of uniformity regarding actors involved in registration and implementation procedures. As a consequence, minors rely on different stakeholders (mainly NGOs) without a specific national structure.

### Youth Action Plan and Policy Recommendations

**Access to education:** we have identified peer to peer projects that could have considerable impact on giving young migrants equal chances and the support needed to integrate them into the educational system of the host country.

- The peer to peer initiative (STAR movement in the UK) consisting of mentors in universities, mainly young people assisting young migrants coming to Europe to assure access to services.
- The MINT Project by Terres des Hommes in Romania focuses on working with young volunteers supporting young migrants to learn the language of the host community.
- The buddy programme for migrant youth in UK schools consisting mainly of linking arriving young migrants to other students in the schools, also possibly older young migrants coming from the same geographical areas.

**Access to employment:** youth led coordination awareness campaign to inform young migrants about the available opportunities to access the labor market and their rights within it. This campaign should focus not only on information, but also on linking young migrants to focal points in their local communities which could support them. Another suggestion could be allying with private sectors actors to enable skill-building traineeship for young migrants.

**Guardianship:** Building on the Palermo Model of Guardianship and the necessity of implementing this kind of initiative at a broader level, the focus is on implementing and strengthening already existing initiatives like the VESTA project, consisting of university students hosting young migrants in their homes. Another important goal is the creation of networks between NGOs and organizations working on the same issues across Europe, based on the model of federation-like organizations in Spain working together across the country to support young migrants (Redoje). Another plan is the creation of a unified database on existing initiatives (such as [childhub.org](http://childhub.org)).

**Family reunification:** the presence of a trained guardianship is essential to facilitate the family reunification procedure.

## Regional RT 5 MENA and Asia

### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

#### Fulfillment of Migrant Rights:

**MENA:** 1a) Vast challenges stemming from lack of documentation; 1b) lack of definitions - first of the terms *migrants* and *migrants rights* - these should be based on international frameworks; 1c) discrimination of various groups (“second class citizens”, gender discrimination, ethnic groups, LGBTQ, labour migrants in Gulf etc); 1d) IDPs also suffer from lack of protection and services.

**AFRICA:** 2a) Movements within and out of Africa and represent mixed migration flows, including climate migrants; 2b) lack of information on arrival destinations; 2c) lack of effective migration laws; 2d) lack of data to drive evidence- based policies; 2e) good examples, free movement protocol- ECOWAS.

**COMMON:** 3a) Lack of awareness on rights, 3b) lack of access to services and reliance on UN/CSOs

#### Socio Economic well being of migrants in society:

**MENA:** 4a) Ensure frameworks which encourage cooperation between states; 4b) lack of access to education, jobs and livelihoods for young migrants; 4c) high rates of radicalization (in both male and female populations); 4d) health and psychological needs to be covered.

**Africa:** 5a) Needs transformative jobs, use of technology, digital livelihoods; 5b) consider driving factors of migration - including demographic changes and lack of job opportunities at home; 5c) education systems not accessible, not progressive enough.

**COMMON:** 6a) isolation of refugees, 6b) lack of access to education & livelihood

#### Safe and fair migration:

**MENA:** 7a) Establishment and strong implementation of frameworks for durable solutions - with gender and child lenses; 7b) high rates of unaccompanied minors; 7c) high rates of radicalisation and recruitment into armed militia/terrorist groups.

**AFRICA:** 8a) Irregular migration channels with high risk factors; 8b) gender diversity issues - both in countries of origin, and in migration patterns and vulnerabilities

**COMMON:** 9a) high rates of human trafficking

### Youth Action Plan and Policy Recommendations

Important factors: that youth voices are heard; and that the voice is inclusive - youth from ALL backgrounds.

1. Defining relevant terms based on UN guidelines - links to priority 1b
2. Creating frameworks (national, sub-regional) - 4a/ 7a
3. Providing pathways for youth voices to be heard: such as youth consultation agencies, regular youth events - at national, regional and international levels 6a
4. Explore funding sources for youth initiatives (multi-partner trust fund; UN network on migration, UN agencies; crowdfunding sponsorship): “Sustainable funding for sustainable interventions”.
5. Connect with main actors at regional/national level about these discussions: embassies, National Youth Councils, international actors present in host countries, nation-States, civil society, private sector.