

Roots & Routes

Vol 9, No. 10, October, 2020



Photo credit Dr. K. Ranju Rangan

www.grfdt.com



Editor's Note



Contents

Articles
Book Review
Interview

Editorial Information
©GRFDT. Roots and Routes is printed,
designed & circulated by
GRFDT

Editor

Abhishek Yadav

Editorial Committee

Abhishek Yadav
Ani Yeremyan
Arsala Nizami
Feroz Khan
Gurram Srinivas
Kishlay Kirti
Mahalingam M
Monika Bisht Ranjan
Naziya Naweed
Nitesh Narnolia
Olatunbosun Emmanuel
OGUNSEEMI
Parul Srivastava
Pratik Satyal
Paige Fabry
Rahul Kumar
Rajiv Mishra
Rakesh Ranjan
Razia Sultana
Sabah Khan
Sadananda Sahoo
Sharlene Chen
Smita Tiwary
Srnita Bhattacharjee
Zohra Hassani

Design and Production:

Rakesh Ranjan &
Feroz Khan

Email: editorinchief@grfdt.com

Website: www.grfdt.org

Dear Friends,
Greetings!

The entire world is still trying to cope up with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has affected all categories of migration adversely, thereby creating many obstacles for migrants. The pandemic has made all of us realise that there is a need to do a deeper introspection over human conduct and migration policies. During these uncertain times, GRFDT is continuously striving to amplify a migration discourse envisioning safe, orderly and regular migration across the globe. Continuing our tradition, GRFDT's newsletter- Roots and Routes has brought relevant content for October 2020, with a vision to enable better and humane conditions for migrants all over the world. Newsletter has incorporated multiple Global Compact for Migration (GCM) webinar reports being conducted jointly by the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) and Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC). [The Migration News](#) has published these reports.

Our newsletter contains two reports covering Webinar on Objective 6 of the GCM titled "Facilitate Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Safeguard Conditions That Ensure Decent Work" which have been reported by Mohsina Noorien and Subhadip Mukherjee individually in two valuable reports. Objective 7 of the GCM Webinar titled "Address and Reduce Vulnerabilities in Migration" covered by Pooja Priya and Megha Rangaraj in two impactful reports have also been incorporated. The GCM Webinar on Objective 8 titled "Save Lives and Establish Coordinated International Efforts on Missing Migrants" was covered by Snehal Mutha in the insightful report. Moreover, webinar on Objective 9 of the GCM "Strengthen the Transnational Response to Smuggling of Migrants" was reported separately by Angel Valancia A. and Unnikrishnan V in enriching reports.

In addition to the GCM reports, an article titled "Rohingya Refugees and COVID-19: A Challenge without Responsibility" authored by Dr. Ab Hamid Sheikh has also been included in the newsletter to provide a critical perspective on the compelling issue of our times. Newsletter also includes the Review of the Book- "Exploited: Migrant Labour in the New World Economy", which has been reviewed by Naziya Naweed, providing critical perspectives on the migrant exploitation in the Global North.

In the final section of our newsletter, a brief transcript of the interview with Baroness Usha Prashar by Paddy Siyanga Knudsen provides insightful observations.

We look forward to receiving your enriching observations on the content of our October Newsletter and expecting for your valuable suggestions. You may contact us through any of our social me-

dia platforms. Please mail us at editorinchief@grfdt.com for any specific query or suggestions.

Happy Reading!



Abhishek Yadav

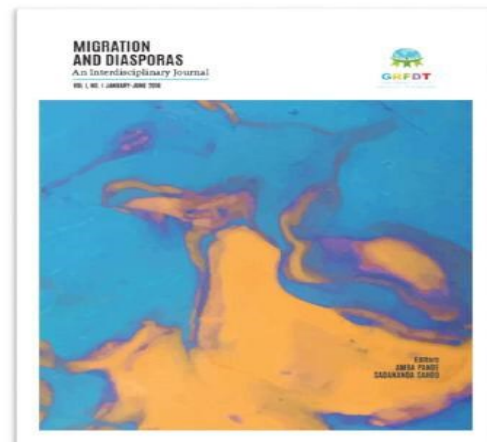


Migration and Diasporas: An Interdisciplinary Journal

ISSN: 2581 9437

CALL FOR PAPERS

- ✓ **Double-blind peer review**
- ✓ **Open access**
- ✓ **Bi-annual release**
- ✓ **Online submission and review process**



We invite submissions for “Migration and Diasporas: An Interdisciplinary Journal”, an organizational journal of Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism, focused on the broader areas of International Migration and Diaspora. The papers should be about 5000-6000 words. Illustrations, figures, maps and graphs should be prepared in black and white and be kept to the minimum. Complete paper with all reference details should be submitted to the editor(s) at: editor@grfdt.com.

Submission guidelines are available at <http://migrationanddiasporas.com/>

For more information please contact editors:

- **Amba Pande, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Email– amba@mail.jnu.ac.in**
- **Sadananda Sahoo, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Email– sahoo@ignou.ac.in**

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

Ensuring Decent Work to Secure Migrant Rights

On 6th October 2020, the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) and Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC), jointly organised a panel discussion on Objective 6 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) which aims to “Facilitate Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Safeguard Conditions That Ensure Decent Work”.

The session was moderated by Ms. Roula Hamati, who is the Coordinator of the Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants, Lebanon. Ms. Hamati gave a brief introduction about the Objective 6 of the GCM and pointed out that it mainly focuses on labour migration and decent work. Around 2/3rds of total migrants are labour migrants. Due to COVID-19, migrant workers, documented or undocumented, have been affected the most by lay-offs, lack of social protection and reduced wages. Incentives do not cover migrant workers who often tend to do dirty, dangerous and demeaning jobs.

Decent Work-Through Fair Recruitment

Ms. Hamati initiated the discussion by asking Mr. Shabari Nair to reflect upon the critical discussions in relation to decent work and labour migration today. Mr. Nair, who is the Labour Migration Specialist for South Asia at ILO, responded by comparing the recruitment process of 45 years ago with that of today. Mr. Nair highlighted that while low skilled migrant workers were in demand in Gulf countries back then, now, the recruitment system has changed from demand driven to supply driven, with the disproportionate increase in supply of migrant workers.

“Today, it’s almost like an auction of workers... where workers are being auctioned off to the lowest bidder and for which the

***workers themselves have to pay”*: Mr. Shabari Nair**

Objective 6 of the GCM is the only objective which mentions the word ‘Decent Work’ in the title. Fair recruitment is an important facet while considering decent work. Mr. Nair highlighted the need for creating job opportunities in the home country and enabling decent work at home, which are the preconditions for ensuring fair recruitment.

Concerns of Women Migrant Workers

Ms. Jean D’Cunha, UN Women’s Senior Global Advisor on International Migration, shifted the focus towards decent work for women in the context of migration. Ms. Jean highlighted certain issues/hindrances faced by women in recruitment and migration:

- i. Male biased laws and cultural practices
- ii. Immigration policies which discriminate against women migrants based on place, age, country etc.
- iii. Lack of access to education, training and information.
- iv. No or fewer assets than men to pay for the migration expenditure.
- v. Fewer legal/decent job options for women.
- vi. Majority of women are recruited into women specific informal sector jobs which include domestic work, commercial sex sector or agriculture sector, where they tend to suffer gross human rights violations.
- vii. Privatised/isolated nature of domestic work which results in the workers often being trapped with abusers.
- viii. Illegal wage deduction, forced labour, debt bondage and lack of mechanisms for monitoring complaints.

To address these concerns, Ms. Jean suggested:

1. Reformation of the Kafala system and employ-

ment-based visas to ensure that workers are able to change their jobs and renew their own documents, without employers taking unfair advantage of them.

2. More legal migration pathways that protect the rights of women migrant workers.

3. Laws on violence against women- covering all women, including undocumented migrants, as in the case of Spain.

4. Fight against xenophobia, racism, sexism and nationalist othering.

5. Alternatives to detention and deportation such as regularisation programs, or establishing safe, dignified and paid deportation.

6. Discussion of these issues at regional and global forums.

Role of Private sector

Mr. Philip Hunter, the Head of Labour Migration Unit, IOM, threw light on the role of the private sector in promoting safe and ethical recruitment. According to Mr. Hunter, a lot has already been done in the context of supply chains by global brands. Global commitments made by private companies in consumer product space like clothes, smart phones, computers etc, already have a strong focus on fair and ethical recruitment.

“There is a strong focus on fair and ethical recruitment with the entry point for most of these companies being the risk to brand reputation and the risk to legal challenges and scrutiny faced of their supply chains by investigative reporters, civil society, labour movements, over conditions related to the risks of forced labour and human trafficking.”: Mr. Philip Hunter

Leading companies have been involved in conversations about labour migration and the gaps in labour migration governance, since the past few years. Although a lot of work has been pioneered by the private sector in the consumer industries, there are many industries and companies producing for local markets that are completely absent from supply chain strategies and approaches re-

garding fair recruitment, which Mr. Hunter points out as a big gap that needs to be addressed.

Decent work in Informal Economy

Ms. Shalmali Guttal, Executive Director, Focus on the Global South, laid emphasis on the need to address structural conditions of inequality, discrimination, insecurity and indebtedness, which the policy documents failed to address so far. Ms. Guttal also pointed out that corporate globalisation has failed in its promise of creating jobs and economic prosperity. Due to the economic crisis, environmental destruction and land grabbing, poverty has increased, which in turn led to the creation of a mass of workers in the informal sector.

“Factories in South East Asian countries, where workers are forced to work with flexible contracts, have high debts and they work over time so they can take on additional informal work.”: Ms. Shalmali Guttal

Most governments, due to COVID-19, are resorting to corporations for economic recovery programs to recoup their losses, while labour laws have been relaxed across Asia to enable this.

Ms. Guttal provided certain action points to overcome these issues like empowering the public realm, regulation of corporations, addressing the structural deficits to ensure rights-based migration regime, renewal of investment and free trade agreements based on migrant rights perspective and strengthening of the right to form trade unions.

Impediments Caused by Non-Enforcement

Mr. Patrick Taran, President of the Global Migration Policy Associates, highlighted the absence of measures to ensure the protection of human rights of workers. Mr. Taran lamented that rights of migrant workers are not enforced, resulting in denial of justice, welfare and wellbeing of migrant workers. Although there is no official data available,

just by estimates, almost 2000-3000 workers in the Middle East die every year. Countries like Canada, South Korea and Czech Republic, send back injured migrant workers as soon as they can be put on a plane to avoid the responsibility. In Europe, if migrant workers from any neighbouring country get killed, their bodies are often put in the trunk of a car and dumped across the borders to their home country. International Labour Standards apply formally to all migrant workers, but they are not rightly implemented or enforced.

***“If these standards (International Labour Standards) are not in law or in bilateral agreements where conventions aren’t ratified, we end up with 7no’s- No compliance, No effective monitoring, No supervision, No enforcement, No complaint mechanism, No compensation and No data”:* Mr. Patrick Taran**

Therefore, Mr. Taran promoted ratification, implementation and enforcement of International Labour Standards in the destination countries for

all migrant workers.

Ms. Myrtle Witbooi, President of International Domestic Workers Federation, concluded the session by reminding us to remember the voices of the migrants. Ms. Witbooi stressed on the responsibility of governments in keeping a track of migrants and ensuring their safe migration. Slavery and abuse of migrants must be stopped, international agencies must be more proactive and connect to the grassroots, and access to education must be ensured globally. The quest for solutions to the issues of migrant workers should not be hindered and it’s our responsibility to ensure that they are going to survive the pandemic without being driven to the edges of precarity.

Mohsina Noorien is an MPhil graduate from the Centre for West Asian Studies Jamia Millia Islamia. Her areas of interest include identity politics, conflict and security, foreign policy, bilateral relations, diplomacy and refugee crisis.

Twitter: @MohsinaNoorien.

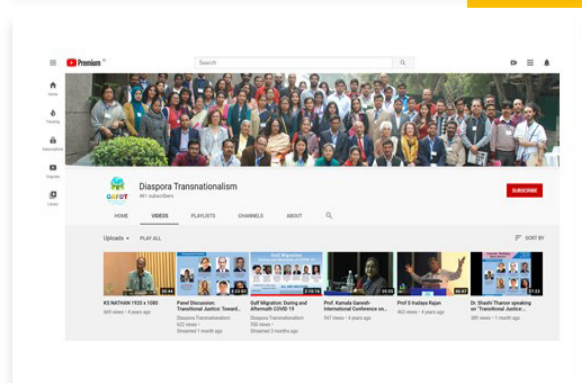
Subscribe to our YouTube channel



Diaspora Transnationalism



Visit www.grfdt.com for more information.



Decent Work for Migrants: Not a Distant Dream with Right Approaches

A panel discussion on the Objective 6 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) was jointly organized by Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Centre for Refugee and Migration (CCRM) and Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC), on 6 October 2020, with the aim of enabling a dialogue on 'Facilitating Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Safeguard Conditions that Ensure Decent Work', by bringing together various experts on labour migration and related issues.

No Decent Work without Right Recruitment

The moderator, Ms. Roula Hamati, who is the coordinator at the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants, Lebanon, initiated the conversation by asking the first speaker, Mr. Shabari Nair, Labour Migration Specialist for South Asia, ILO, to reflect on the critical discussions about decent work in GCM meetings. Mr. Nair pointed that in order to ensure decent work for migrants, there is an immediate need to look into the largely inhuman recruitment systems in place.

***“Recruitment has changed from being a demand-driven system to a supply-driven system. Today, it’s like an auction where the workers are sold to the lowest bidder and for which the workers themselves have to pay”:* Mr. Shabari Nair**

While the demand for migrant workers have increased in the Gulf countries and other regions, the number of potential workers has increased exponentially as well. This presents employers with the opportunity to direct the recruitment according to their benefits and the workers have no option but to comply.

The reason why objective 6 is so important is that it is the only objective in GCM which specifically mentions 'decent work' in the title. Mr. Nair highlights that fair recruitment cannot be isolated from decent work at home. The inability to create jobs at home forces workers to go abroad, creating an imbalance between supply and demand. In many South Asian countries, over 90% of workers are in informal economy and it is imperative to ensure fair recruitment at home as the first step in actualizing decent work conditions.

Victimization of Women

Ms. Jean D' Cunha, UN Women's Senior Global Advisor on International Migration, emphasized the gender aspect of labour migration. Women are subjected to gross inequalities and discriminatory gender stereotypes, and relegated to the domestic spaces. Their work in these spaces is poorly valued, both at home and abroad. The lack of access to education and information leaves them vulnerable to unscrupulous recruiting agents and traffickers. With no or fewer assets than men, they get trapped in debt bondage. Ms. D'Cunha highlighted how the Kafala system heightens dependency and forced labour by tying a woman to a particular employer who often confiscates her travel and identity documents. The risk of being turned undocumented, followed by arrest, detention and deportation without any access to justice, traps migrant worker in abusive work conditions.

Role of Private Sector and Corporate Globalization

The role of private sector in ensuring fair and ethical recruitment is often not focused upon, according to Mr. Philip Hunter, the Head of Labour Migration Unit, IOM. Mr. Hunter said that many of the leading companies have become comfortable over the years in discussing about issues related

to labour migration, including fair recruitment. The global commitments made by these companies often predate adoption of GCM, but more efforts are required to translate them to practice. Most industries are still completely absent from conversations about supply chain strategies and approaches. Also, companies producing for local markets are often completely absent from the private sector strategies and approaches, which Mr. Hunter marks as a big gap in ensuring compliance to internationally accepted norms

The governments are still lagging behind in looking at the role of labour attaches and inspectorates in recruitment systems. Mr. Hunter points out that the General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment prepared by ILO and the Montreal Recommendations on Recruitment from IOM can be used to push governments into tackling these issues.

The role of corporate globalization in aggravating the crisis was emphasized upon by Ms. Shalmali Guttal, Executive Director, Focus on the Global South, who stated that we are failing to address the larger structural issues related to migration while bringing them to the policy documents.

***“The paradigm (of corporate globalization) has failed us in creating jobs and instead we have recurring economic crises and the expansion of environmental destruction and land grabbing. This has led to increasing poverty and deprivation, and has created a huge mass of workers in the informal sector”*: Ms. Shalmali Guttal**

For instance, workers in Cambodia and south-east Asia are burdened with huge debts as they are forced to work with flexible labour contracts. This pushes most of them to resort to additional informal work.

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recovery packages by the governments seem to benefit only the big corporations and businesses by ensuring that they have adequate capital and labour supply. It is alarming that labour laws have

been relaxed across Asia so that the capitalists can recuperate and regain their profits. Meanwhile, the health of workers is risked as they are forced to work in dangerous conditions. Ms. Guttal also brought to notice that their debts have also been increasing as the relief packages aren't reaching them.

Policies Redundant without Ratification

For Mr. Patrick A. Taran, President of the Global Migration Policy Associates, the rights of the migrant workers are either deliberately denied or they are not enforced, and kept confined to documents only. This is evident from the lack of data on the deaths of migrant workers. For instance, about 2000-3000 workers die every year in the Middle-East. In countries like Canada and Czech Republic, injured migrant workers are sent back home to avoid any responsibility.

***“There is a clear absence of human rights here and the challenge is to put in place in every country, the domestic ratification and implementation of international labour standards and basic human rights protections outlined in the fundamental UN conventions under the rule of law”*: Mr. Patrick A. Taran**

The role of greater awareness in ensuring the rights of migrant workers was highlighted by Ms. Myrtle Witbooi, President of International Domestic Workers Federation, who reminded about the importance of keeping alive the voice of the migrants by supporting organizations that connect at grass root level and work tirelessly to ensure their voice is not lost amidst corporate interests and unrati-fied documents. Ms. Witbooi considers education to be the need of the hour in ensuring that migrant workers have better access to the documents related to them and can understand their rights properly.

Parting remarks

The enriching talk by the panelists invited a diverse range of questions related to recruitment

and working conditions of migrants. It was strongly emphasized by the panelists that though the Objective 6 has empowered migrant employees, it does not cover all the issues. They agreed that a greater stress on gender equality with regards to issues like sexual and reproductive rights needs to be adopted. It was further stated that the non-binding nature of GCM is stifling migrants' rights. Big corporations and businesses should be subjected to legally enforceable regulations so that they stop earning profits by exploiting the workers. Finally, issues like discrimination on the basis of class, religion, caste, gender and race have to be addressed

and the public realm needs to be transformed to a safe space for the migrant workers. Otherwise, any struggle for the rights of migrant workers will end in futility.

Subhadip Mukherjee is currently pursuing his Master's degree in English at the University of Delhi. His interest areas include Postcolonial studies, Transnationalism, Cosmopolitanism, Diaspora literature, Literary theory, Indian writing in English and Climate fiction.

Twitter ID: @SubhadipMuk.



Roots and Routes

The Newsletter of GRFDT

Invites

- Short Articles (1000-1500 words)
- Book Reviews
- Interviews
- Seminar/ Conference Reports

Area covers: International Migration. Diaspora. Refugee

E-mail: convenor@grfdt.com



www.grfdt.com

Vulnerability: Another Wound in the Lives of Wounded Migrants

A panel discussion on the Objective 7 of the Global Compact for Migration(GCM) was jointly organized by Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrations (CCRM) and Civil Society Action Committee(CSAC), on 13th October 2020, on the topic “Address and Reduce Vulnerabilities In Migration”, by bringing together various experts working on the issues related to migration at the levels of the world organizations.

Rising Questions on Migrants’ Vulnerability

The moderator, Mr. William Gois, is an educator, sociologist and human rights advocate, who chairs the Migrants Rights International (MRI), an international non-governmental organization with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Mr. Gois initiated the conversation by asking the first speaker, Dr. Patrick Duigan, the Regional Migration Health Advisor working with the International Organization For Migration (IOM), a few preliminary questions on the impact of COVID-19 on the vulnerabilities of the migrant groups. Mr. Gois enquired information on how has the global pandemic increased the vulnerabilities of the migrant groups and what are the different types of vulnerabilities that the migrant groups are facing during this period. Dr. Duigan rightly pointed out the urgency to discuss the vulnerabilities of the migrant groups, that have increased in the current times, which otherwise received a comparatively less focus in the migration literature. An important area where the vulnerabilities are reflected is definitely the health sector, wherein due to the lack of sanitation facilities, the migrants had to live under poor living conditions during the pandemic. The access of migrant workers to health services is also compromised. There are also reflections of vulnerability in terms of low rate of remittances being sent

back to the country of origin by the migrant workers due to the rising unemployment in the countries of destination. **The paucity in the flow of income has badly affected households and communities back home and the travel restrictions has further exacerbated these vulnerabilities.**

***“A lot more needs to be done by all stakeholders- by governments, civil society and society at large- to really look at meaningful migrant inclusion because reality is if migrants are not being included in COVID response and if these vulnerabilities are not being addressed, then no one is safe until everyone is safe”*: Dr. Patrick Duigan**

The Migrant Women’s Cry

Talking of the communities that are impacted by either the global pandemic or the generic process of migration, it is the women and children who are the most marginalized and cornered in terms of access to social protections. This is reflected in the insights given by Mr. Ignacio Packer, who is an international expert on human rights and social issues at International Council of Voluntary Agencies(ICVA). Mr. Packer emphasized on the need to enhance legal protection aimed at reducing vulnerabilities of women and children within the migrant communities , which is also embedded in the Objective 7 of the Global Compact for Migration(GCM) formulated in the year 2018. This requirement can be implemented by the state authorities who can be held accountable of these vulnerabilities due to the gender and economic biases that exist within the social policies.

Women have been the most marginalized community in both the pre-COVID and post-COVID situation, as highlighted by Ms. Ellene A. Sana, who is a director of the Centre for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) in Philippines. Ms. Sana pointed out

the low regard of society towards migrant work, which is performed primarily by women migrant workers.

“Migrant domestic workers number at 11.5 million with women domestic workers comprising 8.45 million, or 73.4% of all migrant domestic workers. In the case of Philippines, 56% of our migrants in 2019 were women, with 62.5% in domestic work. These women migrant workers are disproportionately vulnerable to abuse and exploitation because of the nature of their work, more so in COVID times”: Ms. Ellene A. Sana.

Ms. Sana further elaborated on the situation of women migrants in Philippines and how the nature of their work and physical capacity determines their ability to move to a country of destination. Therefore, it is only due to the ties of marriage that most women migrants could move to another country. Ms. Sana also added the importance of imparting information and capacity building among women migrant workers to secure their rights.

Equality For Migrant Children

“Child migrant is a child first”, says Ms. Irene de Lorenzo – Careres Cantero, the Advocacy and Policy Specialist (Child Migration) at United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), who began her address by appreciating GCM for recognizing that children are central to migration management. Ms. Irene added that the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objective 7 focuses exclusively on child protection issues. Migrant children face discrimination at various levels, for instance, by being put under the care of migrant authorities instead of child protection authorities despite their tender age, or by how migration detention is justified as a protective measure for children. Ending practice of child migration detention, promoting child sensitive returns and reintegration, ensuring inclusion of migrant children in national and local systems and services, and strengthening coop-

eration of child protection actors across borders, are measures that can be taken to convert vulnerability into opportunity and this can be ensured by bringing all stakeholders together and encouraging peer learning among them. For instance, encouraging social inclusion of the migrant child through school curriculum and encouraging holistic development of the child irrespective of their ethnicity and citizenship would be more efficient.

Affirmative Shield towards Migrants’ Vulnerability

The need for pragmatic measures to fight the vulnerabilities of migrants has increased tremendously since the past decade, especially with the advent of the pandemic. The social exclusion towards the migrant groups was made visible when they were targeted as the carrier of the virus in the country of destination from the country of origin. In order to tackle this, world organizations such as The Red Cross, have taken the initiatives in the areas of providing food , health coverage and proper documentation to assure legal protection of migrant workers. This was highlighted by Ms. Helen Brunt, Senior Regional Migration & Displacement Officer at International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies. Ms. Brunt stated that the Philippine Red Cross has launched a web-based application called the Virtual Volunteer, that “puts vital information directly into the hands of those who most need it.” The organization has also worked towards introducing an online library to promote availability of crucial information on COVID-19 in several native languages of the migrant groups.

Another crucial step towards bridging the gap in the case of vulnerabilities of the migrant groups, especially children, is through the encouragement of youth regional cooperation in the country of destination, with a focus on peer learning to promote social interaction between the children, i.e. migrant child and citizen child, as stated by Ms. Irene Lorenzo. Communication and sensitization are other manners by which vulnerabilities of the migrant groups can be reduced if not eliminated. Ms. Sandra Federici, editor in chief at Africa e

Mediterraneo, added as to how in the year 2019, a 3 years project, funded by the European Union, had put together 19 municipalities and border territories of European countries working at the forefront of migration in terms of integration of the migrants coming in from the countries of the Africa. Ms. Federici talked about how the project had developed two kinds of activities to spread awareness, sensitization, in order to recollect and communicate situation on websites, along with advocating how one day in the year, i.e. 3rd of October, can be remembered as the European day in the memory of the migration diversities. These projects have been promoted by the organization

in order to encourage border, town and island network for the migrants coming in from underdeveloped countries of Africa.

The webinar concluded with panelists expressing solidarity with migrant workers and emphasizing on the need to address these vulnerabilities.

Pooja Priya is a postgraduate in sociology from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. She holds research interests in: migration within the Global South, marginalization for ethnic minority groups and racialization in India. Twitter id : poojapr92856063.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

UK Government

MIGRANT FORUM
in ASIA

UNPAID WAGES AND REMITTANCES: Deconstructing the Impact of COVID-19 and Ways Forward

WEDNESDAY
09 DECEMBER 2020
01:00PM LONDON TIME

Register in advance here:
<https://bit.ly/3poKAX8>

MODERATOR:

 **MR. WILLIAM GOIS**
Regional Coordinator
Migrant Forum in Asia

SPEAKERS:

 **DR. DILIP RATHA**
Head of KNOMAD
World Bank

 **MS. ELLENE SANA**
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines

 **PROF. RAY JUREIDINI**
Professor of Migration Ethics and Human Rights
Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

 **PROF. FRANCOIS CREPEAU**
Full Professor, Faculty of Law
McGill University

Addressing Vulnerabilities and Empowering Migrants

A virtual panel discussion on the GCM Objective 7: “Address and Reduce Vulnerabilities in Migration” was held on 13th October 2020, hosted by Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism [GRFDT], Migrant Forum in Asia, Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) and Civil Society Action Committee.

Migrants Highly Vulnerable to Health Risks

Dr. Patrick Duigan, the Regional Migration Health Advisor at IOM, highlighted the increased health related vulnerabilities as a key concern, since unlike regular citizens, the migrant workers were at much higher risks of COVID-19 infections, considering the fact that they are staying in crowded, unhygienic living conditions with lack of water and sanitation facilities and diminished access to health services.

***“Because of lack of access to services, because of language barriers, cultural barriers, because of stigma and discrimination, because of either unintentional or intentional exclusion from health care services, financial barriers and other different factors, migrants have a disproportionate vulnerability”*: Dr. Patrick Duigan**

Dr. Duigan warned that “if migrants are not included in the COVID-19 response process and if their vulnerabilities are not addressed, then no one is safe until everyone is safe”, and concluded his address by stating that public health of society at large shall improve if these vulnerabilities are addressed.

Increased Vulnerability Due to Government Inaction

Mr. Ignacio Packer, the Executive Director at International Council of Voluntary Agencies, divid-

ed the crises relating to vulnerabilities faced by a migrant into 3: the health crisis, socio-economic crisis and protection crisis.

***“Apart from the vulnerability of the migrants owing to their conditions, there were also vulnerabilities created by the state authorities themselves”*: Mr. Ignacio Packer.**

While acknowledging that some destination states have addressed the legal and practical impediments linked to work abuse and irregular migration, Mr. Packer lamented that the vulnerable situation of the migrants has only increased, especially for the irregular migrants and particularly those working in the informal economy. Mr. Packer further reaffirmed the prevalence of gender-based violence amongst the vulnerable groups, internally displaced people, and asylum seekers as being the greatest concern today.

Women – the Most Vulnerable of Migrants

Ms. Ellene A. Sana, the Executive Director at Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines, began her address by stating that even before COVID-19, migrants were considered a vulnerable group.

“While their (migrant workers) human and labor rights remain intact, the laws and policies that express them are not always present”: Ms. Ellene A. Sana.

Further Ms. Sana mentioned that even if the policies exist, the effective implementation of these policies remain a challenge.

Talking specifically about Philippines, Ms. Sana indicated that 56% of migrant workers were women as per ILO reports of 2019, with 62.5 percent employed as domestic workers. Owing to the na-

ture of their work, these women were the most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, especially in COVID-19 times. Despite the measures and initiatives taken at all stages to aid women migrant workers, Ms. Sana stated that women domestic workers are still vulnerable to abuse, due to the following reasons:

1. Gaps in information for women migrants in rural areas
2. Gaps in accessibility to programs and services for women workers.
3. Gaps in coordination between services providers.

Ms. Sana concluded by stressing on the challenge to develop and offer more job options for women –

***“The main challenge is how society, in general, regards women and women’s work. Women have agencies and capacities just as any other beings; household work must not only be the domain of the women but by all members of the household”:* Ms. Elene A. Sana**

Child Migration Issues – Not Addressed Enough

Ms. Irene de Lorenzo-CareresCantero, an Advocacy and Policy Specialist (Child Migration), at UNICEF, began her address by questioning what puts migrant children at risk, and answered the same by regretting that it is nothing but discrimination because of which the child ends up under national authorities monitoring migrants and not under child protection authorities.

Ms. Irene highlighted that while 2 sections of GCM’s Objective 7 address children issues, sections A, H and I, do not mention children and stated that the discrimination faced by migrant children calls for reviewing policies addressing vulnerabilities and for establishing pathways for migrant children to attain regular status.

Ms. Irene suggested four priorities that need to be addressed and acted upon, viz:

1. Ending child immigration detention
2. Promoting child sensitive return and integration
3. Inclusion of child migrants into the national and local system
4. Strengthening of child protection acts across the border.

On the role of UNICEF, Ms. Irene stressed that UNICEF is keen on collaborating with local players like youth groups and child rights activists in formulating actions to address the vulnerabilities of child migrants in the respective countries.

Migrants Camped at the Lampedusa Island, Italy

Ms. Sandra Federici, the Director at Africa e-Mediterraneo, spoke on the topic from the point of view of migrants camped at the Lampedusa Island in the southern most territory of Italy. Ms. Federici highlighted that the project she and her team were working on, had developed two kinds of responses – first is ensuring communication on and sensitization of the migrant’s issues, and second involves the collection and communication of relevant information through their website aptly titled “Snapshots From the Borders.”

Ms. Federici insisted on the support from central governments and the European constitution to ensure the welcome of migrants into the communities. This is particularly important as thousands of migrants land up every year at border cities like Lampedusa.

Ms. Federici lamented that vulnerabilities amongst these migrants are seen too often and are produced by the dangerous and traumatic voyages that they undertake. The vulnerability is further exacerbated by prolonged stay in the border regions.

“Irregular migration creates vulnerability. We (irregular migrants at borders) see violation, violence, inhuman treatment, injuries, diseases, slavery and death”: Ms. Sandra Federici

The Red Cross Way to Solve Migrant Issues

Ms. Helen Brunt, the Senior Regional Migration & Displacement Officer at IFRC, put the subject in perspective by stating that their advocacy focused on humanitarian priorities, with emphasis on ensuring the protection of migrants and refugees throughout their migratory experience, especially from violence, abuse and other forms of vulnerabilities.

Mr. Brunt stressed on the need for migrants, irrespective of their legal status, to have effective access to social services and humanitarian assistance. The rights and needs of children must be prioritized and detention must be the last resort in handling with migrant children. Ms. Brunt further appreciated the recognition of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as a key stakeholder in Paragraph 44 of the GCM, and urged partnership from States.

There is the need for a robust understanding of vulnerability and its risks, particularly in disaster and crisis, and many national societies are already co-operating with local authorities to help identify and understand the vulnerabilities and risks faced by migrants, as pointed out by Ms. Brunt. This becomes even more important with the advent of COVID-19 and the consequent increase in the negative narratives towards non-citizens, mi-





grants and refugees.

Ms. Brunt noted that ensuring all people have access to services will help address vulnerability and dwelt on how Red Cross advocates for the necessity of “humanitarian service points”, i.e. safe and protection spaces to ensure a firewall between authorities and service providers to enable migrants to have safe and affective access to the humanitarian services that they need.

“There are areas of improvement and gaps. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements and all other stakeholders must also coordinate to address humanitarian needs of migrants.”: Ms. Helen Brunt


The webinar concluded with the panelists agreeing on the immediacy of addressing these vulnerabilities, especially in the backdrop of COVID-19, which has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of migrant workers.

Megha Rangaraj is an under graduate student with Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune, India. She is an avid advocate for the emancipation of women and passionate about social issues. She can be found on twitter handle @MeghaRangaraj







Date: 13 October 2020
Time: 05:30 PM Indian Time (GMT + 05:30)


**GCM OBJECTIVE 7: ADDRESS AND REDUCE
 VULNERABILITIES IN MIGRATION**



William Gois
Regional coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
(Moderator)



Ellene A. Sana
Executive Director, Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines



Ignacio Packer
Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies



Irene de Lorenzo-Cáceres Cantero
Advocacy and Policy Specialist (Child Migration), UNICEF



Dr Patrick Duigan
Regional Migration Health Advisor, IOM




Helen Brunt
Senior Regional Migration & Displacement Officer, IFRC



Sandra Federici
Director, Africa e Mediterraneo

All are Welcome. The event will be organized using ‘Zoom’ App. Send an email to convenor@grfdt.com in case of any difficulty in registration. Livestreaming: www.grfdt.com.



REGISTRATION
 Kindly scan the QR Code or click on this link to register:
<https://forms.gle/6iG2BtfZthPNWi4A9>

The Unheard Voices of Missing Migrants

A panel discussion on the Objective 8 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), ‘Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants’, was jointly organized by Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM) and Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC), on 20th October 2020.

The moderator, Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, Migration Governance Analyst, initiated the conversation by asking Dr. Elisa Ortega-Velázquez, Professor at Institute of Legal Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), to give a critical view on the gaps and challenges in achieving international cooperation for realizing Objective 8 of GCM.

Negligence of Missing Persons and Mismanagement of Deceased Bodies

Dr. Elisa Ortega-Velázquez said, “The three elements that Objective 8 consist of are- saving lives of migrants and preventing their deaths and injuries, identification of the missing and the dead, and provision and assistance to their families”. Dr. Velázquez, from the perspectives of Mexico and the United States, stated that despite the commitment of these states to international laws and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provide everyone right to life, liberty and security, and the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution, they have failed to implement these laws.

Dr. Velázquez claimed that the migrants and asylum seekers die as a result of multiple failures of the States in protecting their right to life. The government responses towards the migrant deaths are manifested in strict border control policies and anti-smuggling strategies, which turns a blind eye to the deceased or missing migrants and their families.

For instance, the names of the deceased and their families are not traced. Several times, the dead bodies are often found piled in morgue or buried in unmarked graves without family’s knowledge. The pain and suffering of the migrants and their families are the result of inadequate or antagonistic State practices, Dr. Velázquez pointed out.

***“Objective 8 recognizes that it is not solely criminalization of humanitarian assistance that undermines the rights of migrants, but the deliberate and disproportionate use of civil law and legal obstacles to render humanitarian assistance, unlawful for non-compliance”:* Dr. Elisa Ortega-Velázquez**

Need for Establishment of Protocol for Identification

Mr. Eduardo Canales, Secretary & Executive Director of South Texas Human Rights Center, focused on migration from perspective of the South Texas, which is close to Mexican border. According to Mr. Canales, South Texas is the hotspot where the high numbers of deceased and missing irregular migrants can be compared to that of Mediterranean regions, which is aggravated by hot and humid climatic conditions and thick vegetation. The major inflow of migrants is from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. There are 128 border checkpoints which the migrants try to circumvent in order to get into big cities and find the essential work. However, these checkpoints are hard to pass due to strict surveillance, leading to displacement of migrants.

Mr. Canales highlighted the contributions of his NGO in providing relief to the migrant’s families. Protocols were established to identify the dead bodies in South Texas, and process to follow protocol after bodies were recovered was instituted, by taking them to medical officers and establishing

a forensic border coalition for identification and repatriation purposes. The water stations were installed and made accessible to migrants to help them survive in humid climatic conditions. A hotline was also started so the migrant families could report missing persons.

“113 dead bodies were recovered from Brooke county just 75 miles away from the border, and were buried without DNA being taken in 2013.... 200,000 people have been expelled since March this year without hearing asylum cases after Public Law 42 was imposed by Trump administration”: Mr. Eduardo Canales

European Migration Policy is not Saving Life.

Mr. Filippo Furri, PHD Candidate in Anthropology at University of Montreal, exclaimed that the European Migration policy is not helping to save life. Mediterranean, being the natural network between Europe and West Africa, is popular among migrants who look for an escape from unfavorable conditions in African countries, such as Libya, by entering the European countries. However, these routes are dangerous and risky, as shown by the rise in shipwrecks claiming the lives of migrants. Another issue Mr. Furri pointed out was the criminalization of civil societies which are providing humanitarian assistance to these irregular migrants. Civil Society Organizations provide vital services to aid the migrant workers, which includes provision of guides as tools to the families of migrants and associations to search the missing persons. Mr. Furri traced upon the Catania project, in which burials of migrants were being mapped in Catania. During the investigation, a local database was created by collecting information of 270 bodies buried by Catania municipality.

Mr. Furri suggested measures that can help identify the missing migrants. First, there is a need to strengthen the capacity to collect information and to organize it in the forensic system. This information is to be made accessible to all the concerned bodies. Secondly, provide protection to the wit-

nesses and survivors as they have maximum information. Third, make connections with the diaspora to build the trust of migrants. Last, to create a firewall, a platform to enable communicate between the families and illegal migrants.

Why do Migrants go Missing?

Mr. Rafeek Ravuther, Founder & Executive Director of Centre for Indian Migrants Studies (CIMS), India, stated the reasons behind missing migrants in context of Keralites migrating in large numbers to the Middle East. There are three stages of migration during which migrants go missing- during transit, after migration and post migration. An important reason is forced labor or Kafala systems in which employers keep all documents of migrants with them. If the migrant tries to escape abusive conditions, he ends up in an absconding situation. In majority of times, they are lost in desert or isolated regions. Owing to the fear of ending up in jail, they do not appear in front of society and remain invisible. Similar is the case with the female domestic workers, as they have a very limited chance of communicating with their families. The migrants also come to the Middle East with forged documents and remain invisible on purpose throughout their journey, which makes it difficult to trace their whereabouts. Along with trafficking, the biggest challenge posed is the lack of co-ordination between the origin and host countries regarding migrant issues.

“There is no coordination between origin country and destination country. The data regarding the number of migrants are not matching between sending and receiving countries. There is a mismatch in data and no sharing of data between embassy missions and the destination country”: Mr. Rafeek Ravuther

Mr. Ravuther also emphasized on the motivations of migrants who are alive but living invisible. According to him, the migrants do not wish to contact home from the destination country, due to miserable conditions back home and shattered hopes of building a better life in the destination

country. Often giving up, they refuse to share their experience with their family and want to remain absconded.

Countries Failing to Act Upon Missing Migrants Issue

Ms. Julia Black, Project Coordinator of ‘Missing Migrants Project’ (MMP), IOM, emphasized on the need of collecting data on missing migrants, which shall counter the invisibility of people who die during the migration and provide information to the families. Ms. Black stated that the MMP defines the ‘missing migrant’ to constitute deaths at the external borders during transits as well as disappearances during migration in which people are presumed to be dead. However, Ms. Black also acknowledged that there are a lot of challenges in collecting data.

“Data on fatalities during migration is challenging to collect due to invisible nature of irregular migration, under-reporting of deaths and disappearances, remote topography and missing infor-

mation in case of deaths in rivers, lakes or at seas, where remains are not recovered”: Ms. Julia Black On the dynamics of the government’s role, Ms. Black criticized the resistance of destination countries to look into these issues, with a few countries unaware about the missing migrants’ issue. This does not feature in their priorities list, with some countries even receiving funds to work against interests of migrants. These States lack the acknowledgement that missing migrants is a human rights issue, Ms. Black concluded.

The webinar thus brought the vital issue of missing migrants to the center of discussion and called for measures to protect them.

Snehal Mutha is a Pune based journalist doing her little and loves to read books, finds her peace in food. Her areas of interest are gender studies, international migration and social issues. She wants to be a pantomath who loves to explore and travel the world. She loves to express herself in the form of creative writing and digital art. <https://twitter.com/SnehalMutha?s=08>

Date: 20 October 2020
Time: 05:30 PM Indian Time (GMT + 05:30)

**GCM OBJECTIVE 8: SAVE LIVES AND ESTABLISH
 COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON MISSING MIGRANTS**

	Paddy Siyanga Knudsen Migration Governance Analyst (Moderator)		Eduardo Canales Secretary/ Treasurer, South Texas Human Rights Center
	Julia Black Project Coordinator, Missing Migrants Project, IOM		Filippo Furri PHD Candidate in Anthropology (Université de Montreal)
			Dr Elisa Ortega-Velázquez Tenured Professor, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
			Rafeek Ravuther Founder & Executive Director, Centre for Indian Migrants Studies (CIMS), India

All are Welcome. The event will be organized using ‘Zoom’ App. Send an email to convenor@grfdt.com in case of any difficulty in registration. Livestreaming: www.grfdt.com.



REGISTRATION
 Kindly scan the QR Code or click on this link to register:
<https://forms.gle/fKEDkYJ2BAukDH6r8>

The Flawed Measure of Criminalization of Smuggled Migrants

On 27th October 2020, a panel discussion was jointly organised by Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism [GRFDT], Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants [CCRM] and Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC) on the Objective 9 of the Global Compact for Migration, “Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants”. Various speakers from different organisations shared their views and opinions on smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, drawing distinction between both.

Mr. William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia [MFA], chaired the panel and kept the session engaging throughout by asking follow up questions and sharing views with the speakers.

Humanising the Victims

The first speaker, Mr. Kevin Hyland, Chair, Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, Institute for Human Rights and Business [IHRB], was asked to share his understanding of smuggling in the context of migration, as well as the gaps in the migration regime that needs to be addressed. Mr. Hyland, focusing on the state of victims of smuggling, stated that in his opinion, most approaches on smuggling were of a single lens which looked only at the protection of borders, and hence failed to look into the other side of smuggled migrants, who were clubbed with criminals who broke the rules, and remained vulnerable. They placed this issue of smuggling in the category of crimes without looking into various forces that led to migrants resorting to being smuggled across borders, and hence they failed at seeing smuggled migrants as victims. Only a coordinated response at addressing the core vulnerabilities can keep migrants away from smuggling and exploitation.

“We need to be coordinated at the same time from essential transit and source

countries. They need to look at all elements; of rule of law, vulnerability, human rights, prevention, prosecution, and bringing all that together... we turn this into humanities to look at it more collectively and more coordinated”: Mr. Kevin Hyland

Importance of Accessible Legal Pathways

Mr. Donato Colucci, Regional Immigration and Border Management Specialist at the International Organization for Migration, explained about the various measures undertaken internationally to effectively deal with migrant smuggling, including the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea or Air, that accompanied the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which acts as important source of reference in regard to migrant smuggling. Today, the Protocol is ratified by 149 States, with 112 signatories. These measures aim at preventing and countering smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants, in order to end the impunity of smuggling networks.

“There a lot of violations, not occurring only around the legal framework or on the procedures to enter or to leave a country, there are number of violations that are occurring also when the migrants refer to the irregular, to organized crime to cross the borders because the legal pathways are either very much limited, or sometimes hardly accessible. So, the countries need to work on reaching out the migrants on providing the legal pathway procedures and opportunities”: Mr. Donato Coluncci

Smuggled Migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution

Ms. Morgane Nicot, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], has had a career that evolved around international criminal justice and protection issues, and providing guidelines to the organization and the member states on issues related to organized crime, migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Ms. Nicot started her address by briefing about the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea or Air, which states that: “migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution under this Protocol for the fact of having been the object of smuggling”. This issue is further clarified and reiterated in other instruments like the UNODC Model Law and the Legislative Guide. The latter expressly notes that “the fundamental policy set by the Protocol is that, it is the smuggling of migrants and not migration itself that is the focus of the criminalization.” This non-criminalization of being the object of migrant smuggling is a core component of the protection provisions of the Protocol. The Compact and the Protocol do not engage with the question of whether “illegal entry” should be criminalized or not, and leaves this to the discretion of individual States.” Identify smuggled migrants to protect their human rights, taking into consideration the special needs of women and children, and assisting, in particular, those migrants subject to smuggling under aggravating circumstances,” the protocols specify. This commitment finds parallel obligations in the International Convention on the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families as well. These international conventions require the States to take all appropriate measures, consistent with their international obligations, to protect smuggled migrants’ right to life and their right to not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

“Historically, 20 years ago, when the protocols were adopted on trafficking persons and smuggling of migrants, the discus-

sions actually started with a joint instrument, as there was no willingness to do something on trafficking and something on smuggling (distinctly). But through discussions, the states realized that they were talking about two different things. In one situation, exploitation was the purpose of criminals and in the other one, there was provision of services to cross the border illegally”: Ms. Morgane Nicot

Ms. Nicot concluded by stating that the measures against smuggling must be taken by keeping in consideration the impact on the rights of migrants, their families and children, and the refugees.

Criminalization of Humanitarian Assistance

Ms. Lina Vosyliute, Research Fellow at the CEPS Justice and Home Affairs unit, EU, explained how the ‘facilitation of regular migration’ by the EU has resulted in intentional humanitarian assistance provided to be recognised as a crime. Based on a research conducted in 2015-16, it has been identified that at least 171 cases of humanitarian assistance were criminalized as facilitators of irregular immigration within 14 different EU member states, even when they were helping and assisting without any financial motive. It has been noted that ‘organised criminal groups’ get involved in transportation of migrants, and this is being monitored by the law enforcement agencies of all the countries during all stages of migration, starting from the selection to the recruitment process. But under this rhetoric, genuine assistance provided to vulnerable migrants and refugees gets mistaken as crime.

“When the UN smuggling protocol was negotiated, the EU decided to have a different approach and they created their own type of crime, that is called ‘facilitation of regular migration.’ The key difference ‘facilitation of regular migration’ and ‘migrant smuggling’ is that it doesn’t require financial or other material benefit or motive for some action of intentional assistance to

be considered as a crime...it created legal uncertainty of what is and what is not a crime in the EU”: Ms. Lina Vosyliute

ders or against state. It is not a crime against human rights.”: Mr. Borislav Gerasimov

Measures must be necessary

Mr. Borislav Gerasimov, Communications and Advocacy Officer at the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and the editor of the Anti-Trafficking Review, started his address by sharing his perspective on whether smuggling should be seen as a crime or not. Mr. Gerasimov points out the fact that smuggling exists because of the restrictive migration and asylum policies of the states. While it is not appropriate or necessary for Civil Society Organizations like human rights NGOs to say that ‘they work against smuggling’, what they can do in the area of smuggling as part of GCM or smuggling protocols, are promoting broader measures to enhance safe migration, for example, by informing migrants about existing and legal migration opportunities.

“Smuggling is a crime against state bor-

Conclusion

The parallels presented above between the commitments in the GCM and the obligations in the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea or Air, as well as other international instruments on the same, reflect a binding nature of the obligations and thereby strengthen the provisions in the GCM. It is also worth noting, that all but one country (Israel) which objected to the GCM, are Parties to the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants, making both the provisions reinforce each other in protecting the rights of migrants.

Angel Valancia A. is a literature student and is currently pursuing PGDM in LIBA, Chennai. She adores new technologies and techniques, and is fond of playing shuttle and basketball.



Date: 27 October 2020
Time: 05:30 PM Indian Time (GMT + 05:30)

GCM OBJECTIVE 9: STRENGTHEN THE TRANSNATIONAL RESPONSE TO SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

 <p>William Gois Regional coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia (Moderator)</p>	 <p>Kevin Hyland Chair, IHRB's Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment</p>	 <p>Lina Vosyliute Research Fellow, CEPS Justice and Home Affairs Unit</p>
 <p>Donato Colucci Regional Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Specialist, IOM</p>	 <p>Morgane Nicot Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p>	 <p>Borislav Gerasimov Communications and Advocacy Officer, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women</p>

All are Welcome. The event will be organized using 'Zoom' App. Send an email to convenor@grfdt.com in case of any difficulty in registration. Livestreaming: www.grfdt.com.



Registration:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluc--rqDwiHdGmzYwu5OR3b4NYzyWRvuiy>

Migrant Smuggling: Can Pursuit of Good Life be Criminalized?

A panel discussion was jointly organized by Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants [CCRM], Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism [GRFDT], and Civil Society Action Committee (CSAC) on the topic “GCM Objective 9: Strengthen the Transnational Response to Smuggling of Migrants”, on 27th October 2020. The session was chaired by Mr. William Gois, Regional Co-ordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia [MFA], with expert speakers from various countries weaving a narrative that spanned continents.

Unique opportunity for turning things around

According to Mr. Kevin Hyland, Chair, Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, Institute for Human Rights and Business [IHRB], there exists an enormous gap in dealing with situational smuggling in the context of migration, with all the legislations focusing primarily on protection of the borders. Mr. Hyland urged the need for the replacement of a singular or a straight-forward approach in protecting the international borders by incorporating the occurrence of smuggling as an organized crime and taking appropriate measures to prevent this.

“We should treat the smuggled people with humanity, and adopt a coordinated joined approach to handle smuggling.”, Mr. Kevin Hyland highlighted.

Smuggling of migrants can only be dealt with by ensuring that the emerging need of the poor for a sustainable livelihood shall not be a choice between life and being exploited. When people are ingrained in commerce, trade, etc., efforts must be made to ensure that the opportunities presented does not motivate them to take bad decisions; and to aid in their recovery once wrong choices are made and they are struggling with the after effects.

“The smuggled migrants of today continue to be vulnerable tomorrow”, Mr. Hyland reminded.

Between ‘don’t know’ and ‘don’t want’

Mr. Donato Colucci, Regional Immigration And Border Management [IBM] Specialist at the International Organization for Migration, acknowledged that smuggling is a crime. But the impetus to smuggling is the limited or inaccessible legal pathways. The governments should keep this in mind and work on facilitating legal migration.

“We need to put ourselves in the shoes of the migrants. When you have no choice left behind, your only and sole objective is to move and change your current situation”: Mr. Donato Colucci.

There should be proper linking of the needs of survival of individuals to the demands and opportunities in other countries. The lack of legal knowledge among people leads to the occurrence of criminal activities. Authorities should think from the migrant’s point of view. When the business set-up is legal, there shall be fewer chances of illegal activities taking place. Mr. Colucci also raised the thought that with many migrants lacking the basic knowledge like the use of passport and visa, rights are almost meaningless words to them. Low skilled migrant workers must have access to education on these legal matters and they must be empowered, for they are the most exploited.

The only way to measure smuggling is often by looking at what states are doing to intercept smuggling. The lack of data favors the modus operandi of smugglers and is also one of the reasons behind the migrants choosing to be smuggled across borders. Hence, cooperation is the key in counteracting smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, and coordinated responses must be formulated.

Distinguishing between Trafficking and Smuggling

Addressing anti-smuggling and immigration measures that were adopted recently, Miss. Morgane Nicot, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], said that around 20 years ago during the time of policy formulations, there was a collective discussion of trafficking and smuggling, with no distinction made between the two. Today, while it is theoretically easier to draw a line between trafficking and smuggling in international definitions, this has not been transposed to national laws, Ms. Nicot highlighted.

***“In practice, separating trafficking and smuggling might be detrimental to people. Because there are real efforts being made to identify traffic victims, but smuggled migrants whose rights have been breached, may not have access to justice either”*: Ms. Morgane Nicot**

From the protection perspective, it can be stated that rights must be available to all, and not just those who are conventionally agreed upon to be victims. There is a need for acknowledgement of the fact that smuggled migrants can also be victims and refugees, and this must be followed up by necessary measures to aid them. A review mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime must be instituted to follow upon the anti-smuggling protocols adapted by states. Other stakeholders like Civil Society Organizations must be brought together and trained to better understand what is at stake and to give their voices a platform in policy formulation, Ms. Nicot concluded.

Criminalization of Aid Providers

Ms. Lina Vosyliute, a Research Fellow at CEPS Justice and Home Affairs Unit, EU, had words with smuggled people, prosecutors, officials, etc., and is well versed with the issue and changes made in

the approach to migrant smuggling. EU's legal instrument has a very liquid system of legislation, as pointed out by the Hungarian government, which is giving them the right to choose whether or not to criminalize humanitarian assistance, through its approach of “facilitation of regular migration which doesn't require financial or other material motive for intentional assistance to be recognized as a crime”. This created a legal uncertainty in what kind of assistance constitutes to be a crime in EU.

***“This approach (to migrant smuggling) went in the wrong direction; the European Commission is trying to grapple with the situation. Recent recommendation has been to narrow the scope by exempting acts mandated by law from criminalization”*: Ms. Lina Vosyliute**

Speaking about the political narrative surrounding the migrant smuggling business, research conducted showed that in Italy, smuggled migrants themselves were facilitating the process. There have been cases reported of criminalization of boyfriends or parents for hosting their dear ones. International organizations and civil societies have also been vulnerable to criminalization due to aid provided.

There is a big rhetoric about the organized criminal groups which results in various stakeholders being tackled for wrong reasons. National security is one clear-cut example of an arena that is very much impinged by these current approaches, because whenever civil societies are prevented from distributing food or providing shelter under this provision, it is becoming easier to abuse this vulnerability of migrants, rendering the whole act counterproductive, Ms. Lina concluded.

Where Do NGOs Stand?

Mr. Borislav Gerasimov, Communications and Advocacy Officer, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women [GAATW], while accepting smuggling as a crime against the state, points out that it is

not a crime against the human rights of people. Smuggling exists because of the state's restrictive migration and asylum policies. Anti-smuggling measures adopted further harm migrants who can't reach their destination countries, whether for safety or economic opportunities.

“For human rights NGOs, it is not really appropriate or necessary to say that ‘you work against smuggling’...still some things human rights NGOs can do in the area of smuggling as part of GCM or smuggling protocols are the broader measures to promote safe migration, for example, by informing migrants about existing and legal migration opportunities” : Mr. Borislav Gerasimov

NGOs can assist migrants in the situation of aggregated smuggling, and promote the distinguishing of smuggling from trafficking. States must restrain

from talking about smuggling and trafficking in the same manner and there should be a distinction made between the two. At the same time, different measures must be developed to address them without criminalizing the victims of both.

Mr. Gerasimov also highlighted the ways to deal with smuggling and the violations of migrant rights, through measures like opening up of the borders and increasing universal spending in health care.

The panel discussion was very productive in analyzing the thin line between crime and right to pursue good life: the choice that all migrants resorting to smuggling make.

Unnikrishnan V is pursuing a Masters in Economics. He has a deep-rooted interest in Migration, Development and Health issues. Twitter Id- @unnikrishnan_21

Rohingya Refugees and COVID-19: A Challenge without Responsibility

Ab Hamid Sheikh*

1.1. Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most severe challenges, faced with the cost of lives, deep health crisis and hence, the world is witnessing an economic downfall that will severely affect the well-being of large parts of the population. The most affected are refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. Most of them live in formal and informal camps, reception centres, or detention centres and some among them live on the streets in informal housing arrangements. Many of them have no access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation or inadequate access to healthcare, and many don't have legal status. The most challenging issue in South Asia at present is that of the Rohingya refugees. It has created huge humanitarian crises and political upheaval in the region. As the political atrocities in different incarnations continue to occur in Myanmar, the refugees from the country continue to move in various states of South Asia. The refugees are staying in makeshift shelters; as such, social/physical distancing, self-isolation is impossible for them.

Furthermore, the resource-poor nature of these refugees raise other issues such as the cramped living conditions, lack of hygienic environment, absence of proper sanitisation facilities etc. add to their vulnerabilities. The refugees cannot afford soaps and facemasks and do not have any access to adequate healthcare, given their status as undocumented or illegal migrants. In many cases, the governments of the host countries do not consider it necessary to provide healthcare and welfare measures to these stateless, undocumented and illegal

people. In many cases, since refugees are treated as "illegal migrants", the food and income/livelihood assistance provided by the government are not reaching them. In such a situation, many refugee populations are highly dependent on the relief measures provided by UNCHR and local NGOs. However, during the lockdown, even NGOs found it difficult to reach them. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described Rohingyas as "one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world".

1.2. The Rohingya Crisis:

The government of Myanmar, a Buddhist country, denies the Rohingya citizenship and even excluded them from the 2014 census, refusing to recognise them as people of their country. It looks at them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The 1982 Citizenship Law stripped the Rohingya of their citizenship and even the right to self-identify. The Rohingya are also subject to many restrictions in their day-to-day life like a ban on travelling without authorisation, prohibited from working outside their villages, cannot marry without permission and due to movement restrictions they lack access to livelihood opportunities, medical care and education. The Rohingya are one of the ethnic minorities in the country numbered around 1 million in Myanmar at the start of 2017. They represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state. Since the 1970s, Rohingya have migrated across the region in significant numbers. In the last few years, before the latest crisis, thousands of Rohingya made perilous journeys out of Myanmar to escape communal violence or alleged abuses

***Dr. Ab Hamid Sheikh** (Research Scholar), completed Masters and Doctorate in the discipline of History from the University of Kashmir and qualified National Eligibility Test in 2013 and State Eligibility Test in 2017 in History. The Research Scholar has number of International Publications to his credit and is co-author of two books entitled 'Trade and Commerce between Kashmir and Central Asia through Ladakh Himalaya' and 'Women in Afghanistan: A Socio-Political Study 1994-2010'. The scholar has participated in several national and international conferences and workshops.

by the security forces. The exodus began in 2017 after Rohingya Arsa militants launched deadly attacks on police posts. The refugees reported that they fled after troops, backed by local Buddhist, responded by burning their villages and attacking and killing civilians. It has been estimated by the medical charity Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) that about 6,700 Rohingya, including children were killed in the violence. Amnesty International says that the Myanmar military also raped and abused Rohingya women and girls. The deadly crackdown on Rohingya Muslims forced around 700,000 Rohingyas to flee to the neighbouring country Bangladesh by sea or foot even at the risk of their lives. The United Nations described it as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”. The entire Muslim Rohingya villages in Myanmar were demolished and replaced by police barracks, government buildings and refugee relocation camps. Rohingyas belong to the Rakhine province and consider Bangladesh as a natural refuge as the trouble brews up in their homeland. It was reported that by October 2017, Bangladesh had nearly 1 million Rohingyas as against 0.48 million in the Rakhine province of Myanmar. Pakistan had 0.35 million, and India had 40,000 Rohingyas. Although international agencies have been collaborating with the Bangladesh government to help the Rohingyas in refugee camps in the country, their plight continues to be very alarming. The UNHRC applauded the Bangladesh government and its people, saying the country “has kept its borders open, offering safety and shelter to fleeing families. We have been moved by the welcome and generosity showed by the local communities towards the refugees”. According to the Needs and Population Monitoring Report, almost 1 million Rohingyas are living in various camps in Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh. The “mega-camp” of Kutupalong and Balukhali in UkhyiaUpazila is the World’s largest refugee camp and houses 622,850 Rohingya. The Bangladesh government does not acknowledge Rohingyas as refugees; however, they are identified as “forcibly displaced nationals from Myanmar”.

1.3. Rohingyas in South Asia: Facing COVID-19 in a State of Rightlessness:

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown have been very difficult for these “stateless population”, already living in a precarious situation. Many of the refugees who were relying on local jobs lost their income earning avenues. The lockdown of walnut factories in Jammu in Indian Administered Jammu & Kashmir forced around 1,500 Rohingyas to leave their jobs and lost their source of livelihood. The Rohingya refugees living in various refugee camps across India have been left to fight the pandemic on their own. Most of the social protection packages announced by governments to feed and pay the working-class daily wagers have no provisions for non-citizens. Thus, the Rohingya refugees living in India are facing a very uncertain future and situation of starvation. The pandemic caused communalisation and targeting of the refugees, with distinct signs of islamophobia and xenophobia as a carrier of the disease. Islamophobia has picked up steam during this period, especially after it was reported that some of the Rohingya refugees from different refugee camps spread across India had participated in the Tablighi Jamaat Congregation held at Nizamuddin Markaz Delhi, which become a hotspot of the virus. They have become highly visible due to the vicious campaign launched by the extreme right-wing supporters calling the Muslims as “Corona Bomb”. The Rohingya refugees were blamed for getting deliberately infected with COVID-19 at the Markaz Nizamuddin and then sent out to different parts of India to spread the infection on a large scale. The Union Home Ministry wrote to all states and union territories that, “Rohingya Muslims attended ijtemas and other religious congregations of Tablighi Jamaat and there is a possibility of their contracting COVID-19.”

Bangladesh also faces the tremendous challenge of assisting Rohingya people while preventing the spread of COVID-19. The United Nations has warned that the 900,000 Rohingya refugees living in tents in the camps with limited access to sanitary facilities are among the World’s most vulnerable to the virus. The refugee camps have been overcrowded, with shared water sources, common toilets and washing facilities and 60,000 to 90,000 people are jammed into each square kilometre,

with families of up to a dozen sharing small shelter. Alejandro Agustin Cuyar, Relief International's Cox's Bazar programme director referred it as a "ticking time bomb". The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new threat to these refugees living in flimsy bamboo and tarpaulin shelters where the dangers of everyday life remain all too real, including the high risk of the spread of the coronavirus infection. Jean Gough, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia said, "Rohingya refugee children and families have shown extraordinary resilience while living in exile in Bangladesh". He further added that "despite unimaginably difficult circumstances exacerbated by monsoon rains and the global pandemic, these families continue to teach us each day what strength, courage and perseverance are".

1.4. Conclusion:

The discriminatory policies of Myanmar government since 1970s forced Rohingya Muslims to flee their homes. Most of them crossed by land into Bangladesh and India, while other reached to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand by sea. The renewed violence in 2017 including rape, murder, and arson triggered an exodus of Rohingyas as the destruction was backed by security agencies. The Rohingya refugees are registered as "forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals", a designation that denies their refugee status and associated rights. The Rohingya refugees lack proper sanitation and live in emergency conditions in South Asia but still they choose to stay rather to return under a repatriation deal without guarantees of justice for past or potential crimes against them. The global pandemic has rendered millions of refugees and migrants across the world more vulnerable, the condition of Rohingya refugees has presented myriad challenges anew before the global system of protection for refugees and migrants. The Rohingya refugees are facing the COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown without any aide and assistance by the concerned governments as they were excluded from most of the social and economic packages for being non-citizens. The issue of atrocities and deaths of Rohingyas need to be addressed at local, national and global levels, given the fact that no

matter what the securitization policy of a state is, each and every state continues to be bound by international humanitarian law. It is high time that a comprehensive regional framework addressing the plight of Rohingyas and other such vulnerable groups is initiated in South Asia as COVID-19 subject the migrant community to further suppression.

References:

- ⁱ[https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561\(07/10/2020\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561(07/10/2020)
- ⁱⁱ[https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561\(06/10/2020\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561(06/10/2020)
- ⁱⁱⁱ[https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561\(07/10/2020\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561(07/10/2020)
- ^{iv}[https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49596113\(29/09/2020\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49596113(29/09/2020)
- ^vGhosh, Partha S. (2016). Migrants, Refugees and Stateless in South Asia. New Delhi. pp. 109-110.
- ^{vi}Remesh, Babu P. Dutta, Akhil Ranjan. and Mani, Mohan. (2020). Migration in South Asia Poverty and Vulnerability. SAAPE Poverty and Vulnerability Report. p. 89.
- ^{vii}[https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/10/59e4c17e5/joint-statement-rohingya-refugee-crisis.html\(7/10/2020\)](https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/10/59e4c17e5/joint-statement-rohingya-refugee-crisis.html(7/10/2020)
- ^{viii}Remesh, Babu P. Dutta, Akhil Ranjan. and Mani, Mohan. (2020). Migration in South Asia Poverty and Vulnerability. SAAPE Poverty and Vulnerability Report. p. 89.
- ^{ix}Remesh, Babu P. Dutta, Akhil Ranjan. and Mani, Mohan. (2020). Migration in South Asia Poverty and Vulnerability. SAAPE Poverty and Vulnerability Report. p. 89.
- ^xTapan Kumar Bose, COVID-19: Rohingya Refugees in India Are Battling Islamophobia and Starvation, The Wire, 1 May 2020:[https://thewire.in/rights/india-rohingya-refugees-starvation-covid-19\(20/09/2020\)](https://thewire.in/rights/india-rohingya-refugees-starvation-covid-19(20/09/2020)
- ^{xi}[https://news.trust.org/item/20200825161334-h13km\(26/09/2020\)](https://news.trust.org/item/20200825161334-h13km(26/09/2020)
- ^{xii}[https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/2/first-rohingya-refugee-dies-from-coronavirus-in-bangladesh\(17/09/2020\)](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/2/first-rohingya-refugee-dies-from-coronavirus-in-bangladesh(17/09/2020)
- ^{xiii}[https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/rohingya-children-bearing-brunt-covid-dis-](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/rohingya-children-bearing-brunt-covid-dis)

GRFDT & MFA invites you

Special Lecture series on Migration and Diaspora Studies

Every Saturday @ 05:30 pm (Indian Time)



24 October 2020
Evolution of Migration
Dr. Raj Bardouille
Former Senior Officer in UN



26 December 2020
Social Costs of Migration
Dr. Rakesh Ranjan
Tata Institute of Social Sciences



22 November 2020 (Sunday)
Theories of Migration and Diaspora Studies
Dr. Ruchi Singh
Prin. L.N. Welingkar Institute of Management Development & Research



02 January 2021
Gender and Migration
Dr. Amba Pande
Jawaharlal Nehru University



28 November 2020
Migration, Diaspora and Transnationalism
Dr. Sadananda Sahoo
Indira Gandhi National Open University.



09 January 2021
Migration Governance (International Legal Provisions)
Dr. Smita Tiwary
Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT)



05 December 2020
Types and Characteristics of Migration
Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen
Migration Governance Analyst



16 January 2021
National Policies and Regional Migration Mechanisms
Ms. Paddy Siyanga Knudsen
Migration Governance Analyst



12 December 2020
Demographic imperatives
Prof. R B Bhagat (TBC)



23 January 2021
Multilateral Stakeholders of Migration (International Migration Mechanisms)
Dr. Piyasiri Wikranashekar
Formerly senior specialist with the International Labour Organization (ILO)



19 December 2020
Economic Impacts
Prof. Binod Khadria
Centre for New Initiatives and Research, SGT University, Gurugram



30 January 2021
Health/Crisis, Migration and Diaspora (In the context of COVID 19)
Prof. Camelia Tigau
National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)

Webinar Platform:



Powered by
zoom

Livestreaming:



Diaspora Transnationalism
461 subscribers

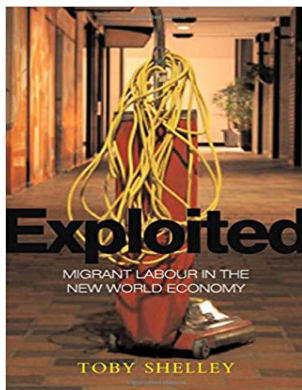


ALL ARE WELCOME

Shelley, Toby. 2007. *Exploited: Migrant Labour in the New World Economy*. London: Zed Books, ISBN-978 1 84277 851 7 (Hb), pp. 183

Migration is a global phenomenon; its linkages with growth and development for the country of origin and the country of destination have been established in the migration discourse. However, there are many issues and challenges related to the current migration pattern; that range from abuse and exploitation of the migrant labour, the problem of irregular migration, in particular human trafficking and smuggling, the brain drain of skilled human resource to racism and xenophobia. Therefore, if anyone interested in knowing the shallow lanes of the glittering opportunity that awaits in the other part of the globe, then the book by Toby Shelley is the must-read. The author is a journalist with the financial times. In his two decades of journalistic effort, the author has reported extensively from the countries of the Middle East, North Africa and the sub-Saharan Africa region.

The focus of the book goes beyond the migrant labours “the fortunate few” that can accompany their family to new territory and convert their migration status from temporary to permanent. In its place, the purpose is to look deep inside the intricacies of the structure of the economy (capitalist system) that perpetuates migrant exploitation. The book offers a comprehensive account that the migrant “abuse is not only widespread but is part of the structure of key industries in the Global North” (p. 6). It is the central line of argument that runs throughout the book. Although, the author main focus centres on the migrant labours in the UK but has taken inferences from other sectors in countries like Italy, Spain, Oslo, and the USA, employed as domestic labours, sex workers and as agriculturalists, making it cross-sectional study. For instance, in the introductory part itself, the author set the stage for further inquiry into how the Mi-



grant workers that surround us, “doing jobs we shy away from, providing skills we no longer have, working hours we prefer to spend at home”. These words are powerful enough to grasp the kinds of menial jobs they are employed into that tied them to exploitation and abuse at the hand of the employer. As Shelley puts in ‘the political and economic changes have widened the prospects for labour and capital to “meet on a global market-

place” but for millions of potential migrant workers, what brings them into the workforce is more convincing and stressful than what persuades an employer to take on a batch of foreign employees’ (p. 2).

This book has four chapters with a separate chapter on the introduction and conclusion. The first chapter “Migration in Context” glance at the increase in the rate of migration through the prism of historical perspective. It highlights the push and pull factors of migration as a basis of peoples mobility while laying equal emphasis on the various migratory tide. However, the chapter is also credited with providing a critical take to the “victim-villain dichotomy” of the undocumented migrant workers in Britain, in the domain of migrant trafficking (p. 25). Shelly also pictured how the government through inhibiting the movement of the labour have created two classes of criminals- the workers (who want a job) and the smuggler (who smuggle goods and the migrant workers).

The second chapter “Migrant Labour” documents the migrant exploitation and abuse in the seven sectors; food industry, the cleaning industry, construction, transport sector (land, seas and Airports), hospitality, domestic labour, and the sex

industry. The nature of the exploitation ranges from long and tedious working hours, lower wages, poor housing conditions, language barriers and abolishment of contracts, deceit and enslavement. In the subsections, the author tries to establish a relationship between economic necessity and the use of migrant labour in achieving the objective. Shelley's study is based on data gathered from different secondary sources, journals and scholarly work. As an empirically sound chapter, the author has substantiated his arguments with drawing valid inferences from international laws, reports on Slavery Convention and International labour organisation convention concerning forced or compulsory labour, to name a few.

The third chapter "Impacts" discusses the impact of migrant labour on the economy as well as the society of the host country. It is an undeniable fact that migrant labour brings benefits for the host country, such as boosting the "national income" and "soaking up inflationary pressures". For instance, the author quotes official statistics generated by ITEM Club economists and argued that in Britain in the year 1997 to 2005, the net inward migration added 0.4 per cent a year to the growth rate. It further argued that without such migration, the potential growth rate would have been just 0.1 per cent. Shelley further remarked; the effect of migrant labour on the developing country's population is more nuanced. It may be "negative if employers are able to use migrants to price locals out of jobs or to worsen the conditions of those jobs" (P. 10).

The fourth chapter "Government Response and Responsibilities" examines three strands of government policy responses towards migrant's labours— determination of job allocation based on race, its enforcement, and policing of migrant employment- giving low priority to migrant's rights. Based on the shreds of evidence gathered, Shelley remarked: "in all three policy strands the British government is at best inept and at worst wilfully negligent of the welfare of migrant workers, documented and undocumented" (p. 153).

There are some crucial points that the book offers.

Firstly, the author undertook the task of explaining the categories/ variables used in the study to reach out to the maximum readers. For example, he makes a distinction between migrant and immigrant, but beware that "some of the sources quoted do not make the distinction" (p. 5). He further proceeds by defining what abuse is. He described abuse as an "exploitation over and above the norm imposed on indigenous workers" (p. 6). Shelley has further linked the increase in the productivity of the worker, to an enlarged level of exploitation. Secondly, Shelley argues that the dependence of primary industries on the migrant labours has increased significantly in the countries of the global North due to changes in the pattern of demography that has resulted into forced labours, 'modern-day slavery for modern-day economies'.

The real breakthrough of the book is going beyond documenting the exploitation of the migrant workers to include modest proposals for improving their conditions globally and with the hope for a shift in the trajectory of migrant labour policy soon; regularising the status of migrants; to ensure health and safety measures are adequately available with inspectors charged with their duties; granting legal status to forced migrant labourers; opposition to the radicalisation of entry to low skilled work in Britain; allocation of taxes made by migrant labours for the locals levels; curtailing the poaching of professional staff hailing from the developed world; enlarging the ambit of the labour movement to proffer assistance to migrant workers. Shelley proposals back on the principles laid down for organised labour requirement. The author further shares his optimism that these principles can provide a starting point for a discussion on the labour migration corridor that network with the capitalist system of exploitation across the global North.

In totality, this book is brilliantly plotted with a straightforward narrative structure that makes it an easy read. It is a perfect study for anyone interested in seeking insights into the migrant exploitation in the global North (economically developed nations). It will be informative to readers who wish to understand how the Britain government treats

migrant workers as a factor of production without placing their rights high on their agenda. Instead, they left it to the labour movement, community workers and non-governmental organisations to defend the migrant workers. However, there are some limitations to work, as well. The author misses out on full chapter on what happens when the migrant's workers return to the country of origin and the effect it left on the economic structure of the host society, its addition could have broadened the ambit of the study. However, at the methodological level shortcomings, in chapter 3, the author has relied on macroeconomics studies to substantiate his argument; some readers might find it challenging to comprehend. All-inclusive, this book would be helpful for scholars studying migration, labour laws and human rights abuse

who are looking for a comprehensive work with elaborate use of global data.

References

1. Wickramasekara, P. (2008). Globalisation, international labour migration and the rights of migrant workers. *Third World Quarterly*, 29(7), 1248.
2. Toby Shelley. Frenwood Publishing. Retrieved from <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/authors/view/toby-shelley>

Naziya Naweed, Research Scholar, Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

TIME	Provisional programme
18-19 (GMT+8) 14-15 (GST) 11-12 (CET) 5-6 (ET)	Opening Ceremony
19-20 (GMT+8) 15-16 (GST) 12-13 (CET) 6-7 (ET)	Justice for Wage Theft
20-22 (GMT+8) 16-18 (GST) 13-15 (CET) 7-9 (ET)	2nd Anniversary of the Adoption of the Global Compact for Migration
22-24 (GMT+8) 18-20 (GST) 15-17 (CET) 9-11 (ET)	Civil Society and the Migrants Rights Agenda: Where are We Now and Where are We Going?
24-1.30 (GMT+8) 20-21.30 (GST) 17-18.30 (CET) 11-12.30 (ET)	Reclaiming the Narratives
1.30-3 (GMT+8) 21.30-23 (GST) 18.30-20 (CET) 12.30-14 (ET)	Detention and Returns: Going Beyond Alternatives
3-4:30 (GMT+8) 23-00:30 (GST) 20-21:30 (CET) 14-15:30 (ET)	"We Didn't Cross the Borders, the Borders Crossed Us": Advocating for Pathways for Regular Migration
4:30-6 (GMT+8) 00:30-2 (GST) 21:30-23 (CET) 15:30-17 (ET)	Climate Justice and the Right to Mobility For All
6-7 (GMT+8) 2-3 (GST) 23-24 (CET) 17-18 (ET)	Closing Ceremony

For more information check out our websites:

MIGRANT FORUM ASIA

CCRM

Civil Society Action Committee

GRFDT Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

In Conversation with Baroness Usha Prashar

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen: If I could just come in there, because I feel like I should bring in a question. Just to get a flavor, but how was it really having this? what you would call an intersection, I think, across, you know, you had sort of this across identity as a migrant, as a young woman? And, and, also, you know, so how was it sort of trying to break through what you would call a glass ceiling? In this time, compared to what, you know, what we see today? How was that like?



Baroness Usha Prashar: Well, I think, for me, people ask me a question. Often, I think one of the things which I would say to people, I never operated on being conscious of the fact that I was a woman or a minority, I mean, I focused on doing the job and having the confidence to do that. But I think what for me was good is that when I got that mainstream job, the number of responses and letters I got from people in the minority community, particularly women to say, Look, you've done it, and that is we can do it, too. So, I think the one thing I would say to you that, you know, it's very important, not to be too conscious of the fact you know, because you can actually develop almost like a victim mentality, and I'm a woman are black, and therefore, you know, and of course, there are challenges, you have to bake perceptions and so on. And sometimes you got overlook with how people treat you, you can either kind of react to it, or you overlook it and say, you know, it's either coming from prejudice or ignorance and you just don't really let that get you down. And then of course, if you do the job properly, you know, one thing leads

to another. So, I think having made that transition, the rest is sort of history in a way. Then, I kind of decided to take some time off and had kind of you know, kind of a portfolio career but in all the things I've done, I've never lost sight of the fact that you know, to me promoting equality, dealing with discrimination is an integral part of my whole being. And after

sort of having had five years of portfolio career, the other breakthrough was when I became the first woman, a chairman of the Parole Board, you know, which is really, you know, again, another kind of breaking the glass ceiling. And after that, I became the first civil service Commissioner, which was actually recruitment into the civil service on merit. Now, that, again, was very much at the heart of establishment, the mainstream job, you know, to me, it didn't really matter, I was a minority, and I was actually involved in recruiting, you know, and interviewing senior civil servants. And along the course, of that, I also served on the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, as well as having done the work. And then, I became the first inaugural Chair of the Judicial Appointments commission, which was actually, you know, selecting judges, again, the dimension, there was a vote on the pool and make sure that we actually had more judges for minority committee. So, these were tough issues. But the point was, it actually had to be done. And then, of course, I was made member of the rock inquiry, you know, which again, was a mainstream. So, in a way, I think what that illustrates is that, you know, I managed to kind of get into the some of the biggest hedge fund jobs. And after my

pro board stint in 1999, I was made appear in the House of Lords. But I continue to do other things. And alongside I also did a lot of work in the voluntary sector. Because I became Chair of the Royal commerce society, I established along with Simon Hornby, the National Literacy trust. So, in a way, I think, you could say that my motivation has always been to make a difference. Yeah, that's what I focused on that.

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen: Baroness, in terms of your motivation. And I also wondered, what was the feeling of home in these moments? So, looking, you know, looking at the journey, I've just plotted some dates, I guess it's, you know, from Kenya, to New York, to Leeds, to Glasgow to London. What's that connection of home for you? And how did that influence sort of your journey?

Baroness Usha Prashar: Yeah, I mean, I think the connection of home is, you know, during that process, you actually begin to see yourself as kind of a global citizen, you know, I'll be honest, because Kenya was Africa, Indian heritage connection with India traveled a lot. And therefore, in a way you feel that you are a global citizen. And I think it's very difficult to explain to people, to be a global citizen is actually very enlightening, you know, people say, and, of course, I think you've got to be very short of your identity of who you are. And when I say to people that you know, one thing, I want young people from minority backgrounds to say,

we have self-esteem, be very sure of who you are, because you feel rooted and grounded, that actually gives you the confidence. And I think that is something you've got to work on. Because you've got to give people a sense of who you are, what your identity is, and yet be able to sort of navigate your way and glide from one culture to the other to be able to sort of actually deal with that. And I think that's quite enriching. As I said earlier, you can be part of a culture and yet stand outside it, you know, and because you can stand outside and you can see what's actually wrong. And I think that's probably has given me the strength to see what are the reforms needed in some of the British institutions. And I think the employment you can have in terms of what changes are needed. And of course, as you know, that I also went on to become the Deputy Chair of the British Council, opposite to projecting button to the world. But again, there I wanted to shift it because to me, it's not just one way it's now what neutrality the world's changing. And therefore, that interaction and I think all my experience, you know, that into developing in a very different perspective. And I think we've got to sort of highlight that, you know, people tend to focus on Oh, this is how I did it, this is how I was discriminated against the point is, you got to get over it.....

For watching the complete interview, please access our GRFDT [YouTube Channel](#).