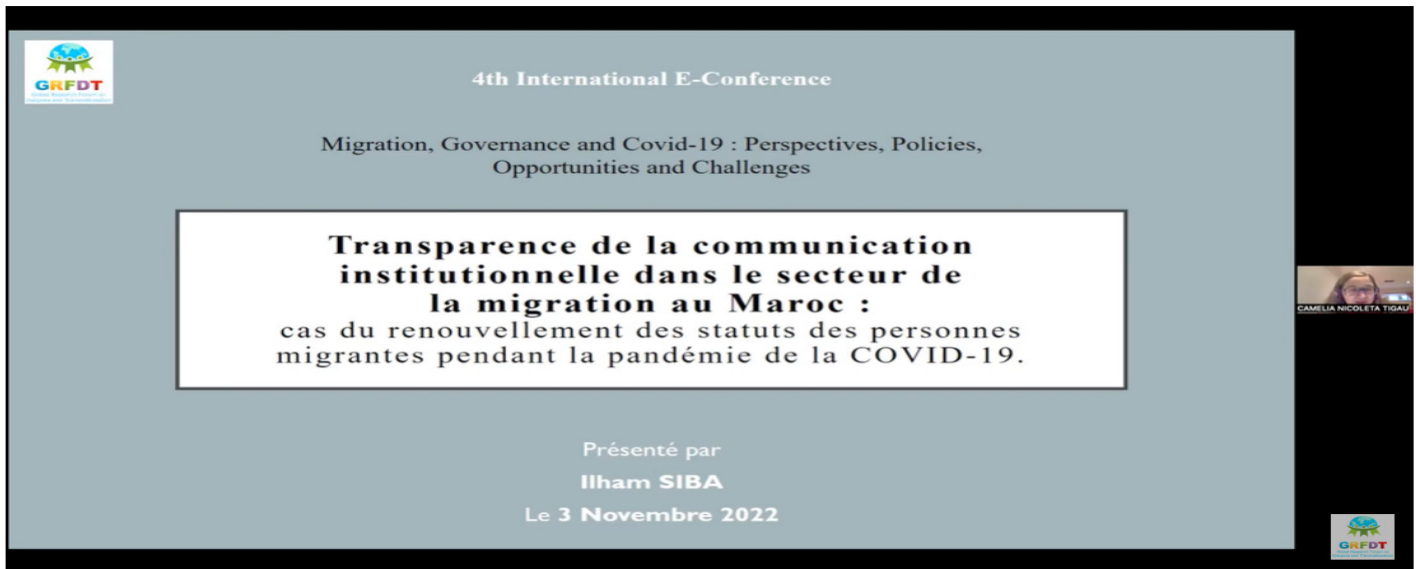


# ROOTS & ROUTES

Vol 11, No. 11, November 2022



4th International E-Conference

Migration, Governance and Covid-19 : Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities and Challenges

**Transparence de la communication institutionnelle dans le secteur de la migration au Maroc :**  
cas du renouvellement des statuts des personnes migrantes pendant la pandémie de la COVID-19.

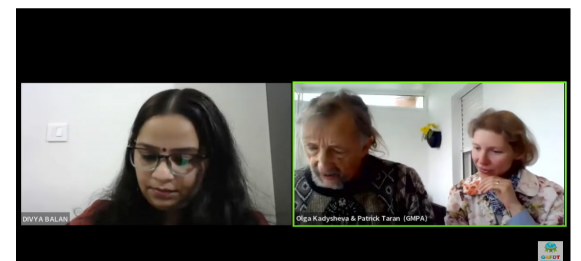
Présenté par  
**Ilham SIBA**  
Le 3 Novembre 2022

CAMELIA NICOLETA TIGAU

GRFDT



Zoom meeting grid showing participants: Nazlı Töre (Turkish Council ...), DIVYA BALAN, pooja sharma, Surabhi Singh, and Monica Verea.



Zoom meeting grid showing participants: DIVYA BALAN and Olga Kadyshyna & Patrick Taran (GRIPA).



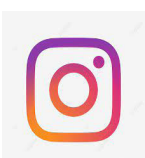
4th International E-Conference  
Migration, Governance, and Covid-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges

3-4 November 2022

Programme and Conference access - [www.grfdt.com](http://www.grfdt.com)

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# Editor's Note



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Dear Readers,

Greetings!

The current issue of Roots and Routes is solely devoted to the international e-conference organised by GRFDT and its collaborators in the month of November 2022. It was the fourth international conference in the GRFDT series. The conference was on the theme of migration governance and challenges during COVID-19, titled “Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges.”

As the title suggests, the theme of the conference was related to migration, governance, policies, and COVID-19. However, the paper presented at the conference, as well as the in-depth analysis of the research work presented, covered every important aspect of global migration and the impact of COVID-19 on migration.

The conference began with a welcome address from the President of GRFDT, Prof. Binod Khadria, followed by a reflection on the 2020 conference by Mr. William Gois and an overview of the present conference by Prof. Camelia Tigau. The migrant experience was one of the highlights of the opening session of the conference. In this section, the migrant discussed their journey and the difficulties they encountered along the way.

The conference ended with reflections on the parallel sessions from the moderators. All videos and sessions from the conference are available on the GRFDT YouTube channel.

The current issue of Roots and Routes includes three conference reports that were published on The Migration News, GRFDT’s news web portal.

We invite readers to participate and share their experiences with us to have a meaningful engagement. You can communicate with us through email at [editorinchief@grfdt.com](mailto:editorinchief@grfdt.com). We wish you happy reading and look forward to your suggestions and comments.

Happy Reading!

**Feroz Khan**

**Reports**

**MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE, AND COVID-19: PERSPECTIVES, POLICIES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES**

The 4th e-International Conference, titled “Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges,” was organised from November 3–4, 2022. It was jointly organised by the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), India, Center for Research on North America (CISAN), UNAM, Mexico; and the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Philippines.

During the two-day e-conference, more than 70

research papers from around the world were presented in nine sessions. The research work raised many vital issues relating to migration, policies, and challenges faced by migrants. Special attention was also given to the impact of COVID-19 on migration and its policy implications. The migration experience was one of the special focuses of the conference. The session reports of the conference are already available on the GRFDT’s web news portal (The Migration News) and videos on the GRFDT’s official YouTube channel.



## 4TH INTERNATIONAL E-CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19: SESSION ON INTERNAL MIGRATION IN INDIA

The fourth session of the 4th International E-Conference on “Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges”, was held on November 3, 2022. The theme of the session was “Internal Migration in India”. The session was chaired by **Dr. Ruchi Singh**, who is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B).

The first speaker of this session was **M. Rekha**. In her paper titled “A comparative post-pandemic study of native and migrants among the construction workers in North Chennai region”, she discussed the dynamic industry of the Indian construction sector while conducting a comparative analysis of factors affecting the worker’s choices. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the economy. The paper attempted to develop a pragmatic approach towards understanding the problem of economic and social vulnerability amongst the migrant informal workers in urban settings, particularly Chennai. The migrants from Andhra Pradesh come to Tamil Nadu, particularly North Chennai due to lower living costs. Her paper focused on the push and pull factors that influence the migrants. By using indicators of gender, wages, promotion, work experience and changes due to the pandemic the study aimed at examining the socio-economic variables to understand the influence on migrant construction workers. She analysed the mean difference in wages of native and migrant workers during pre and post pandemic times. The study depicts that there is a significant relationship between factors such as age, income, education, size of family in influencing job preference.

**Bharati Maurya** presented her research paper on “Push and pull mechanism of textile migrant workers in urban regions of India”. Her paper highlighted a rarely studied area of push and pull factors that impact migration to Surat, Gujarat, in the textile industry. Interestingly through her study she brought to light

that amongst textile workers in Surat the “silk city”, only 10% are from Gujarat and 90% from other Indian states, bringing forth the massive flow of migrants in the city. Her paper analyzes the factors influencing these migrant workers to move to a new city. The study identified factors such as poverty, high rates of unemployment in native cities, lower socio-economic status and inadequate land push the migrant workers to seek pathways of better employment and income generation opportunities. In the migratory movements these workers chose to come to Surat motivated by the large number of industrial development which provides quick employment to skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled people. Families and relatives emerged as the prominent support systems for migration that encourage and assist workers to get jobs in the city through contacts. She concluded the presentation by observing that income remains the major factor and the workers professed that they would move elsewhere for better remuneration opportunities.

**Alyssa Selma Martins** through her paper “Internal migration discourse in Goa: An analysis of print media” discussed the issues of how migration is perceived by the media and the Goan community. Her research analyses the dimension and direction of how the media covers migration in Goa. By conducting a Content Analysis, she examined the media framing, placement of articles in national and local newspapers such as Times of India and Oheraldo, the tone of the article; whether it was positive, negative or neutral, along with other variables. The local newspaper had more articles regarding migrants than national newspapers covering a range of issues such as the debate in parliament for strengthening migration laws. The study found that out of 137 articles there was not a single article that spoke of migrants in a positive light, using the frame of labelling them as criminal and economic threat, whereas national daily highlighted the positive impact on migration on economy. There were very few articles on struggles or issues faced by migrants. The national

daily focused more on fact-based reporting whereas the local daily catered to the native and government sentiments, disregarding the narratives of struggles of migrant workers during COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation concluded with Ms. Martins shedding light on the statement by the Chief Minister of the state requesting migrants to stay back post pandemic to rebuild the economy, highlighting the vital roles they play in society.

Presenting her paper on “Change in economy and development in tribal area: A study among the Gaddis of Dharamshala and Bharmour region of Himachal Pradesh, India” **Shivanshi Nehra**, who conducted an Ethnographic study on the pastoral Gaddi tribe of Uttarakhand, examined their development and transformation over the years. While 30% of the Gaddi’s are fully nomadic, about 70% have adopted sedentary lifestyle. Underlying factors behind it is that the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh put restrictions on pastures, implementing taxes on them. Hardship in traditional occupation, theft of livestock during winter migration, climate change reducing the pastures, development programmes, reservations and policies for their education and upliftment formed some of the influences. Economic development and increase in tourism, along with arrival of 14th Dalai Lama, led the location of Dharamshala to become a famous Buddhist sanctuary and pilgrimage. Tourism brought immense opportunities to Gaddis, rise in economic status, improved lifestyle aided them in entering the political sphere where they acquired a seat on the table.

**Anvita Singh**, a PhD scholar at Centre for Studies of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, spoke on Out-migration: Sociological analysis of “ghost villages” of Uttarakhand, India. The phenomena of out migration, brought forth the popularisation of the term “Ghost Villages”. Amusingly this has nothing to do with supernatural elements but these are construction made by the print media and social media, that led to widespread sensationalisation. However, these are simply uninhabited villages (called so by the Census), where people are not found to be residing, which can be found in other countries as well. In conclusion she shared that healthcare and education were the major factors influencing migration by tribes to bigger districts

in Uttarakhand.

Presenting his paper on “An analysis of socio-economic status of construction workers: Evidence from Faizabad (Ayodhya), Uttar Pradesh, India”, **Mr. Shyam Narayan Bharti** examined the socio-economic status of construction workers in Ayodhya by addressing the question of how and why they chose to come to the city and the major problems faced by them. He adopted the case study methodology, along with exploratory study, interviewing and interacting with over 200 labourers in the Labour Mandi. After analysis he found that majority of workers are from the OBC (Other Backward Castes) community, low educational attainment, low literacy and deplorable conditions impacted their family. The workers are primarily unskilled and the main issues faced by them are lack of documentation and poor health conditions. The work is inter-generational as it continues from one generation to another. They receive their wages according to their skills, therefore highly skilled labourers receive more wages. In conclusion, he highlighted the government’s failure in implementing social welfare schemes, shortage of project activities and healthcare welfare schemes for the workers. Therefore, he recommended that there is a need of proper regulation regarding working hours and good working conditions.

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**Simran Dhingra** is pursuing a Master’s in Conflict Analysis and Peacebuilding. She is a delegate, advocating for a nuclear weapons free world at Member State Party Youth Conference in Vienna, 2022 organised by Youth4TPNW. She has worked as Communications and Engagement intern with United Nations Climate Change, Germany and contributed to the COP26 held in Glasgow. She has interned with National Human Rights Commission India. Her commitment to gender, peacebuilding and human rights led her to be selected as one of the Young Ambassadors by Initiatives of Change, Switzerland (2021). She received a scholarship in recognition of her peacebuilding work to attend the Summer Peacebuilding Programme, organised by Middlebury Institute of International Studies USA. Her main areas of interest are gender, migration, peace and memory studies.

## 4TH INTERNATIONAL E-CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19: SESSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

The ninth session of the 4th International E-Conference on “Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges”, was held on November 4, 2022. The theme of the session was “Climate Change and Migration”. The session was chaired by **Dr. M. Mahalingam** who is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of SGT University, Gurugram, Delhi-NCR, India.

The session began with **Prof. Rani Mehta** Department of Sociology, Punjab University Chandigarh. Through her paper on “Climate change, health risks, and vulnerability of migrants”, Dr. Mehta shed light on the plight of people who are victims of climate change related traumas. The health, socio-economic impacts, mental and physical ailments that impede people and rob them off their sense of security. She further focussed on direct, indirect and induced consequences of climate change, how social institutions cope with ecological threats, as a result of shifts in demographic regimes. Discussing some of the positive effect in the policy domain she stated how climate change strengthens the case of voluntary family planning and indirect family policy, especially investment in female education.

**Ms. Richa**, a PhD research scholar at Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, discussed her research on “Climate-induced mobility: An evidence-based study in Bihar, India”. Her research examined the inter-linkages among climate change, floods and migration using evidence from districts in North Bihar. Over the past two decades, floods have increased in Bihar, increasing the vulnerability of the region. She highlighted the push and pull factors, attempting to address the question how and who migrates especially due to floods in Bihar. Through extensive field work they selected four districts for the sample of study, conducting survey research in 16 villages with over 400 respondents. The findings concluded that deplorable living conditions post floods triggered vulnerability ushering complete migration by

some households.

Presenting her paper on “Climate change and migration: With reference to the coastal regions of India ”**Ms. Sayma Parveen**, MA Sociology student at Udit Narayan College, Uttar Pradesh, discussed the effects of climate change on the coastal region. Due to heavy rains and floods, people have been forced to flee their homes. The heavy rains increase the threat at coastal regions and the surrounding areas, the seawater mixes with usable water, having dire consequences. The effects on the environment, sea creatures, impacts the fishermen, affecting the economy. The livelihood and health of people living in these areas suffers as well, increasing risks of Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The next speaker was **Ms. Fatma Khatoon**, MA Sociology student at Udit Narayan College, Uttar Pradesh. Her paper on COVID-19, women’s and worker’s health, and migration focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable and marginalised populations of society such as women, underprivileged migrant workers and farmers. She focused on the loss of livelihoods and the unfortunate exodus of the migrant workers in 2020. Discussing the increased burden on women ushered by the pandemic she stated about the impact on women and children, their inability to access proper healthcare facilities, leaving them helpless and destitute.

**Ms. Manisha Kaushik**, a research scholar at International Institute for Population Sciences Mumbai presented her paper titled “The scenario of Internal Displaced People in India and its linkage with natural disasters in the last decade”. Taking into account the international Displacement Monitoring Centre from 2011-2022, she highlighted the regions where majority of internal displacement is taking place. In India there are 1.7 crore internally displaced persons, with Odisha, West Bengal Tamil Nadu, and North Eastern states of

India reporting the highest number of people displaced. Floods, cyclones and natural disasters continue to displace populations and threaten livelihoods. The government allocated funds to meet these challenges to the impacted states. The colossal loss of human life due to these natural calamities has remained a pressing concern in these regions. Flood induced migration has ushered a new wave of vulnerable migrants who move to the overcrowded cities that are not equipped to accommodate them.

**Md. Imran Khan**, a PhD scholar at Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia presented his research on “Mental health status of Indian migrant workers in the United Arab Emirates during COVID-19 pandemic”. His research paper explored the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on salary reduction of Indian migrant workers who are working in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). His research aimed to analyse the mental health of the Indian migrant workers in UAE during prolonged periods of isolation, unemployment and precarious situation during the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. He administered questionnaires to over 200 migrant workers, also using snowball sampling techniques to determine the severity of the impact on mental health of these workers. He made

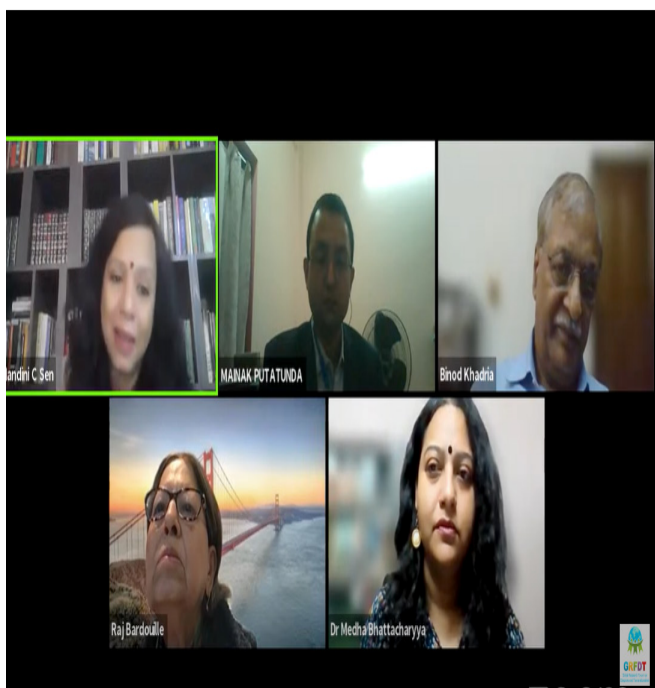
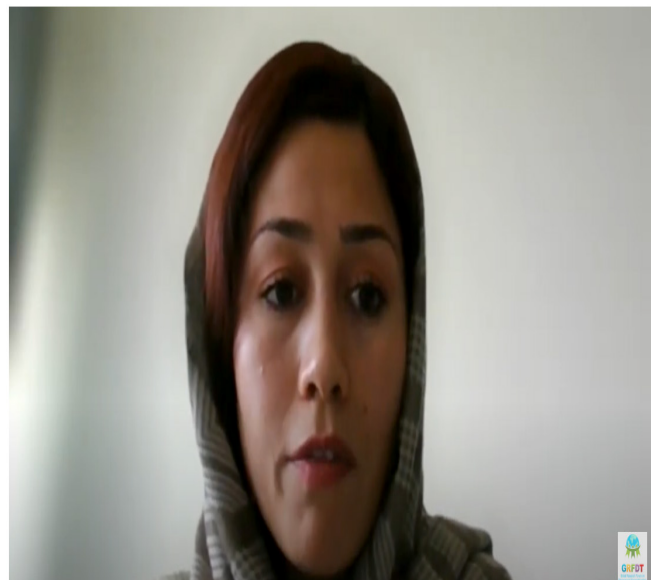
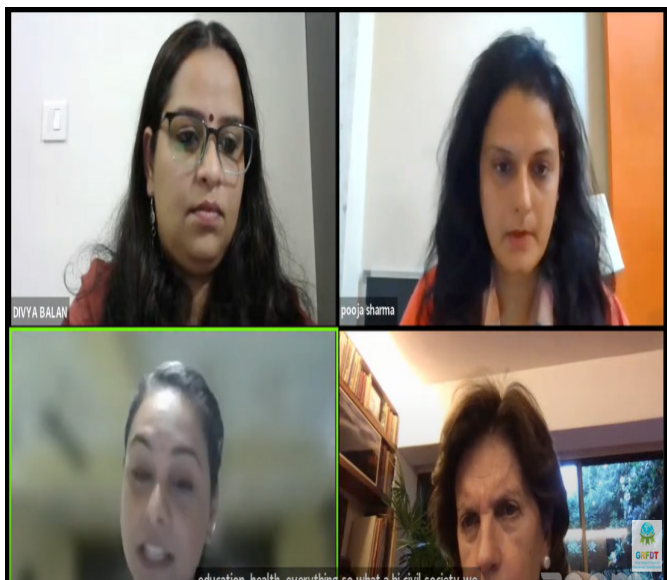
policy recommendations for the governments of the native and host country to create a safer environment to better support the workers.

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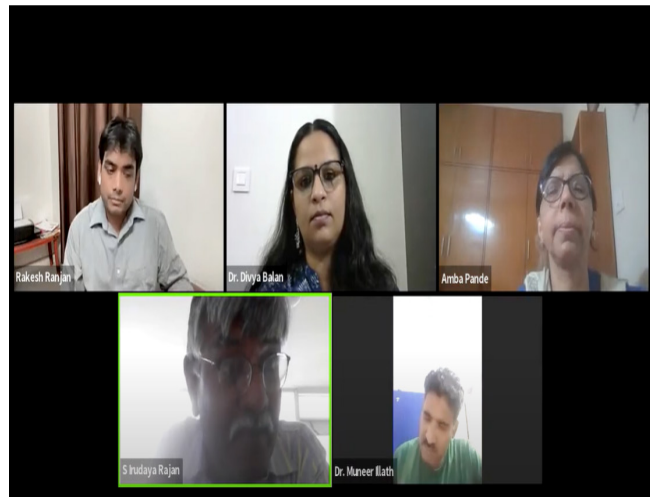
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The poster features a teal background. At the top right is the GRFDT logo, which includes a globe icon and the text 'GRFDT Global Research Institute on Migration and Diasporas'. The main title 'MIGRATION AND DIASPORAS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL' is written in bold yellow capital letters. Below the title, it says 'For more details, email to: Email: migrationanddiasporas@grfdt.com'. The phrase 'Call for Paper' is written in a large, italicized yellow font. At the bottom, there are three overlapping images of the journal's cover, which show a world map with orange and blue regions. The website 'www.grfdt.com' is printed at the bottom right.

# GLIMPSES OF THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL E-CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19







Anti-Okie "Bum blockade"

ORIGINS OF MIGRANTS TO CALIFORNIA\*

\*Drawn as percentage by State, at 1000 miles approx.  
Source: Farm Security Administration and California Department of Agriculture. Data on 1930s migration.

THE GRAPES OF WRATH  
John Steinbeck

"Okie use' ta mean you was from Oklahoma. Now it means you're a dirty son-of-a-bitch. Okie"

JOBLESS MEN  
KEEP GOING  
WE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Police at California borders...  
LA Times: "Let's Have More"



## 4TH INTERNATIONAL E-CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE, AND COVID-19: PERSPECTIVES, POLICIES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES: SESSION ON FORCED MIGRATION & HUMAN RIGHTS

The seventh session of the 4th International E-Conference on “Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges”, was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The theme of the session was “Forced Migration & Human Rights”. The session was chaired by **Dr. Monika Bisht Ranjan**, an Executive Committee member of the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism.

The first speaker of this session was **Fiore Bran Aragon** whose paper was titled, “Forced Migration, integration, and solidarity: Experiences of Nicaraguan “Autoconvocado” women in Costa Rica during Covid-19”. In her paper, Fiore Bran Aragon highlighted and analysed the socio-economic and cultural integration of Nicaraguan forced migrant women in Costa Rica in the context of COVID- 19. Her paper seeks to understand how integration processes are shaped by government policies, public discourse, and xenophobic practices. In this context of social polarization, some groups of forced migrants, whom she call ‘autoconvocados’ (self- organized) have used their previous experiences as community organizers to create self-organized initiatives for integration, focusing on integration among newcomers, and between migrants and locals. However, she argues that these initiatives have developed ‘solidarity practices’ that focus on human rights and the contributions of migrants to their host communities, thereby creating spaces for exchange and ‘interdependence’ between migrants, locals, and institutions.

**Nazh Tore** presented her paper on “Missing Migrant Children in Europe”. Her paper examined the huge impacts of COVID-19 on individuals and societies, challenging humanity to adapt to new lifestyles, working conditions and social relationships. She also argues that the restrictive measures to limit the spread of the pandemic have heightened the risks to which certain children are exposed. According to her paper,

data from a research association known as Lost in Europe, 18,292 children in migration went missing in the region between the years 2018 and 2020. The data was collected by Lost in Europe in 30 European countries. Her paper explicitly examines the plight and vulnerability of missing migrant children who continue to face precarious experiences as result of war etc. She highlighted that there are mainly three different, but interrelated factors contributing to the special needs of children on the move: their dependence, their vulnerability and their developmental needs (i.e., their requirements for healthy growth and development at different ages). Particularly in their early years, children are dependent upon their parents or other adults to provide the basic necessities for their survival.

**Manjima A & Tanay Thakur** presented the paper titled, “Racial profiling of immigrants: Do some bodies matter more?”. Their paper sheds light on the hypocrisy of the current international order, where racism and xenophobia underline the glossed notions of multilateralism, collective security, and shared prosperity. They argue that the concept of racism encompasses a wide variety of social phenomena, ranging from systemic inequality, institutional discrimination, internalized stereotypes, and racial attitudes. They further argue that the promises of unbiased and accessible human rights by liberal democracies and multilateral institutions, as well as key documents like UNHCR or GCM, racism continues to be an unjust reality that confronts immigrants across the world. Their paper attempts to uncover the racialization of migration discourse in the policy practices of governments, international institutions, and at the grass root levels in the host countries, for instance, among the frontline public sector workers. As a result, this curtails the access of migrants and refugees to social welfare and healthcare entitlements and makes them vulnerable to violence and human trafficking. They concluded with an analysis of possible measures that can be undertaken to ensure inclusivity within the international order and root out the evil of racism.

The fourth speaker was **Monica Verea** whose paper was on “Biden Dismantling Trump’s Migration Policy”. In her paper, she examined Joe Biden’s campaign pledges during his run for the presidency, who radically pledged to shift the narrative away from the Trump administration’s anti-immigrant stance and toward the one that was more positive and humane. She claims that Joe Biden pledged to reverse all of Trump’s restricting and anti-immigrant acts and policies. Her research paper compares and contrasts the Biden and Trump administrations in terms of migration policy.

The final speaker was **Saba Fatima** whose paper was on “Syrian Refugee Women and COVID-19: Life is a Crisis within a Crisis”. She examined the plight of Syrian Refugee women and the precarious impacts of COVID-19 on their lives and livelihoods. She further argues that COVID-19 has exacerbated extreme poverty and violence against women. The pandemic has weakened an already precarious source of income for refugees and the informal labour market, according to Omar Kadkoy, Policy Analyst at the Turkish Economic

Policy Research Foundation. Her study concludes that women who have experienced a crisis or been displaced face a triple barrier of COVID-19, displacement, and gender-related problems. However, policies and enough finance have not yet been secured for Syrian refugee women’s economic empowerment.

The session ended with a concluding remark and a thankful statement from **Dr. Monika Bisht**, the chair of the session on Forced Migration and Human Rights with **Andrew Mendy** as the rapporteur of the session.

**Andrew Mendy** holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from the University of the Gambia. He is a research scholar at Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism. His research interests include Global Politics, Postcolonial Africa Literature, and Migration Studies.

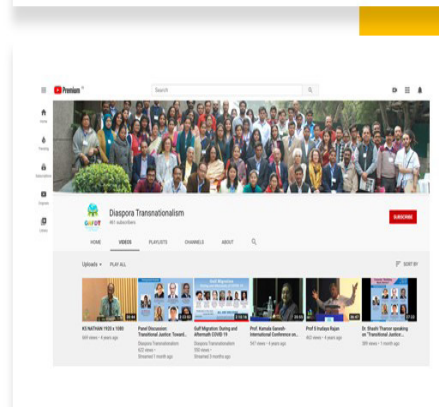
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