

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
14th GFMD Summit and 3rd Civil Society Preparatory Meeting
Reflections from Race Rapporteur (Paddy Siyanga Knudsen - GRFDT)

Key points from civil society day and GFMD summit

- Clear emphasis on a shifting narrative to include perspectives that include looking at migration policy and its undertones in colonial power dynamics with countries of residence and/or destination
- Understanding how race and migration intersection and how decolonisation can offer remedies that bring about transformational change
- Strong call for diverse voices of migrants and diasporas in migration governance discourse, with particular attention to marginalised groups (migrants of colour, African migrants, black migrants)
- Overarching game changer: visualise and label migrants rights as human rights for all.

Key processes to plug into as recommended next steps

- Engage in wider UN and global discourse (e.g. PFPAD, GCR) where issues of race and migration can be pivoted and member states deliberate presentation of issues by civil society (ref: anti-blackness in migration governance by GRFDT, AFFORD, BAJ and others)
- Engage in frameworks where regional platforms and networks deliberate on migration policy aspects to challenge the undertones on racism and discrimination (e.g. EU-Africa, EU-ASEAN, EU-ACP, US-LATAM Caribbean)
- More recently, the EU Pact on migration is rooted in a prosperity for Europe as it packages “desirable” migrants for its labour market shortages amidst a heavy need for humanitarian regular pathways that look at shared prosperity for countries of origin, migrants and the EU countries. It also refreshes the EU’s double standards visible in protection measures for migrants in crisis.
- Engage with Special Representatives on migration and human rights as well as on race and discrimination to move forward from presentation of the issues and engage on practical measures in national spaces (highlighting champion initiatives)
- Leverage on the call for implementation of actions related to GCM objective 17 and the emphasis made in UN SG report for continued advocacy on efforts towards eliminating discrimination to be seen from IMRF all the way through ongoing and upcoming regional reviews

Practical organisation for civil society

- Continue to support the Action Committee Working Group on Race and Migration in coordinating civil society actors and platforms to build on the momentum of the various efforts and seek influencers and partners ready to move on from policy to transformational action.
- Expand the WG to progressively bring partners from the ground in various regions as well as build up on the work done in the narratives and migration.