



RACE AND ETHNICITY IN MIGRATION

Tuesday, 20 April 2021, 3 PM CEST

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised the visibility of disparities globally. Within this context, Black Lives Matter (BLM) and other anti-racist mobilizations around the world, including ongoing Black and Asian solidarity against anti-Asian hate and violence, have all shed a global light on the systemic nature of racial injustices in our communities and societies. These systemic injustices are drawing attention to how disparities are a result of multiple forms of racial and ethnic discrimination and exclusion, many of them embedded in the structures of our societies as legacies of racial, colonial and imperial pasts. We have thus witnessed the stark contrast in how racial and ethnic discrimination leads to the exclusion of groups who were and continue to be impacted by the pandemic, including in their access to health and other public services at this critical time, especially access to vaccine rollout and pandemic recovery efforts.

Recognizing and addressing such systemic inequalities – among the many others resulting from racial and ethnic discrimination - requires a greater understanding of the origins of racism, which cannot be considered in isolation from migration legacies which lead to the racialization of migration. Racism and xenophobia cannot be merely reduced to individual cases and opinions but have to be recognized as rooted deeply in our systems and societies -- not only as a consequence, but also an underpinning in the structure of institutions. Racial discrimination and injustice can be, and often are, perpetuated by migration policies and policy-making spaces, as those are structured in ways that produce racial exclusion, rooted in historical legacies that were intended to have these kinds of outcomes. Such historical and structural roots need to be better understood if they are to be properly addressed and officially recognized within systems.

As such, the interlinkages between race and migration, as well as with development and migration policy and governance must be unpacked for a truly comprehensive response towards racial injustice. Racial and ethnic discrimination should be understood and addressed as a cross-cutting issue in all migration-related discourse, similar to gender or age.

Building on the recently concluded 23-part webinar series on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) objectives, the virtual celebration of the International Migrants' Day on 18 December 2020, the ongoing series of dialogues on Race and Migration among members of the Civil Society Action Committee (AC), and the recent publication of a policy brief for civil society to address racism in global migration governance and policy, the Race and Ethnicity in Migration webinar will bring together global and regional experts as well as civil society leaders for a global civil society discussion on race and discrimination in the context of migration, proposing both a global outlook with some regional and national specificities. This webinar is the second in the series of five global webinars, in preparation and civil society mobilization towards the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022. The entire webinar series is being co-led by Alianza Americas, the Civil Society Action Committee, the Climate, Migration & Displacement Platform (CMDP), the Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM), the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM).

Looking at the colonial historical legacies that have shaped our migration policies and policy-making spaces, as well as current policy and practices across the globe, participants in this webinar will be invited to present their perspectives and inputs, and agree on priorities in the first hour of the webinar as well as identify joint areas for action and change going forward in the second hour.

By doing so, civil society globally can develop an ongoing joint advocacy plan to be brought into the IMRF in 2022 and in other intergovernmental conferences.

PEOPLE'S MIGRATION CHALLENGE

CIVIL SOCIETY PRIORITIES WEBINAR SERIES from 13 April to 18 May 2021