

Women in Migration, Development Justice and Government Accountability for SDGs

A Women in Migration Network (WIMN) Workshop



This WIMN workshop was created in March 2016 as a parallel event for the UN Commission on the Status of Women at the inauguration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and only days after the assassination of Berta Caceres, an indigenous environmental justice leader from Honduras. It can be adapted for use in other contexts with credit to Women in Migration

Network, WIMN. [Photo credit, National Farm Worker Ministry]

Room Set up: Gather participants in small groups with a facilitator in each group.

Workshop Length: 90 minutes

Number of Participants: Flexible. Create small groups of from 3-10 people depending on size of the group, selecting one woman's story for each group.

Supplies: Flip chart paper and markers, handouts for small groups (see list below), equipment to screen a youtube video

Goals:

1. Address concept of *Women in Migration* – it is not only migrant women; women in migration stories are diverse, global, complex, intersectional
2. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not possible without also addressing systemic macro issues and issues of global power inequalities
3. We need concrete tools to hold governments accountable on SDGs in ways that can change the lives of women in migration in very specific and tangible ways. This means recognizing the intersecting oppressions in their lived experience.

Workshop flow:

1. **Introduction:** Greeting, introduction to the session, process, who created the workshop and what we mean by women in migration. (5 min)

Women in Migration is not only about migrant women, but about all women affected by migration, for example women whose families are separated when

husbands or children migrate; women who may be forced to migrate with family members or to escape domestic or anti-LGBT violence; and women detained, trafficked, or exploited in transit while trying to migrate. In this participatory workshop we will explore women in migration in the context of the global economy and global inequalities, looking at different ways that survival migration affects women within and across different world regions. The SDGs must be read in the context of the broader global economic and policy climate which restrict the possibility for implementation of the SDGs. We will explore tensions between the development goals and economic forces that undermine those goals and the need for cross-sectoral social movements that can make implementation possible.

2. What is the global/macro context we face in affirming the power of women in migration? [20 minutes total]

Global inequality, development failures, and the Road to Development Justice.

- Screen APWLD video, “The Road to Development Justice.” 6.5 minutes. (also available in Spanish – could simultaneously screen on a lap top for that group).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I2cEDbIW04> For citations and details, see <https://apwld.org/the-road-to-development-justice/>
- Presenter asks 2-3 people to react with key insights from the video. 5 minutes
- Presenter reaffirms key points of video, how current global context undermines realization SDGs. 8 minutes

3. Women in Migration: Who are they? Where are they? 15 min total

Briefly explain different multiple ways that women are impacted by migration. (You could do a graphic on the wall to illustrate this or project a slide) 5 min

- Those who want to remain at home, but face failed development (poverty, lack of jobs, war and conflict, climate change, VAW, anti-LGBT violence, racial/ethnic exclusion)
- Those forced to migrate with husbands or other family members
- Those in transit and at borders
- Those engaged in business
- Those in detention
- Those who migrate for contract labour
- Undocumented women/women in irregular status
- Trafficked women

- Women who remain behind when family members migrate
- Mothers of disappeared
- Women deported, who may leave citizen/ spouses children behind

If time, give an example from among the workshop stories.

Brief discussion: How does this woman’s story relate to failed development model? What demands for SDG accountability would directly impact this woman? 10 min

4. How can we use the SDG’s to affirm the rights of Women in Migration? What are our demands? (small groups) 25 min

Women’s Stories:

- 12 stories about a woman in migration that show diversity of their experience. Each group will get only ONE story with questions. All of the stories are posted at www.womeninmigration.org so that participants can read all of the stories. Be sure to select stories that reflect a diversity of regions and experiences.

Akina	Kenya	Right to Remain at Home
Alimata	Burkina Faso	Women Whose Partner Migrates
Ambar	Dominican Republic/ Argentina	Trafficked Migrant Woman
Bea	Philippines/Denmark	Undocumented Migrant Woman
Berta	Honduras	Right to Remain Home
Blanca	El Salvador/ Mexico	Missing Migrant Son
Brenda	Honduras/Mexico	Women who remain “in Transit”
Cristina	Philippines	Women Who Remain Home
Fabiola	Dominican Republic / Haiti	Stateless due to Racism
Iscah	Kenya/ Saudi Arabia	Migrant Woman Contract Worker
Laura	Mexico/ US	Transgender Undocumented Migrant
Mrs. Sheik	India/ Kuwait/ Saudi Arabia	Migrant Woman Contract Worker
Parwana	Afghanistan/Germany	Women Refugee Seeking Asylum
Rebeca	El Salvador/US	Refugee from Violence, Without Status
Viola	Zimbabwe/ South Africa	Young Migrant Woman

Gather in small groups. The number and size will depend on the number in your group. WIMN did this with 120 people in 12 groups of ten! You can work in much

smaller settings as well. It's also possible to set up groups in different languages. Each group needs to have a facilitator and a recorder. If you have only a few people, have only 2-3 per group.

Small Group Handouts for each participant:

- One woman's story <http://womeninmigration.org/resources/media/>
- Grid for each participant
- Link to the SDGs: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- WIMN general flyer <http://womeninmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/WIMN-Flyer-1.20-reduced.pdf>

Take a few moments for each participant to read your group's story and questions. Have people introduce themselves as they speak.

Discuss as a group:

- What challenges does this woman face?
- Explore how the 17 SDGs impact this woman's life. What specific SDGs should be highlighted to address her concerns?
- What specific demands would we make of governments to change outcomes for her?

Participants can fill in their charts as you talk. Recorder completes a chart for reporting back to full group.

5. **Feed- back and discussion** [25 minutes total]

Depending on size of group, hear briefly from each group or request only 2-3 examples. In general, there is not time for a lengthy report back from each group. Avoid personal speeches and storytelling—focus is on SDGs and demands.

- What demands on governments would advance the human rights of women in migration? What mechanisms do we have to hold governments accountable regarding the SDGs?
- What are the systemic issues we need to be challenging through cross-sectoral social movements to truly advance the SDGs within a rights framework? [Debt, trade, extractivism, corporate power, militarism, authoritarianism, corruption...]
- What might we do next, together?

6. **Wrap up:** Thank participants, gather small group recorder's notes if you plan to do a report for participants. Remind participants of next steps they can take. [5 min]