



Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

GFMD Youth Forum 2021 Outcome Documents

Regional Roundtable 4: North America

In the framework of the III Forum of Youth on Migration, and in the context of the XIII Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), North America youth discussed the state of public narratives on migration in North America region to (1) learn about the relevance of narratives in the integration of migrants and (2) build an action plan to shape migration narratives and its relationship with integration.

The following youth priorities were discussed during the regional session:

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| Goal 1: Creating avenues for global collaboration between youth that develops localized campaigns that reflect our communities |
| Key Action: Create social media campaigns that take into consideration migrants' concerns esp. in regard to status. This will help to reach people while also using news media |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: A social media campaign about human mobility as a human right. |
| Communication channel: Within our own communities and in our day to day lives |

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| Goal 2: Youth as a bridge between communities to shape narratives |
| Key Action: Hold social media giants to account to take down harmful content and address disinformation, and find ways to introduce people to a different and more balanced content |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Leverage the members of society who recently became more socially active in the last year - keeping this momentum strong |
| Communication channel: Personal social networks which include in the workplaces |

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| Goal 3: Developing campaigns that humanize migration. This would be important to advocacy efforts looking to decriminalize unauthorized migration |
| Key Action: Addressing Migrant disinformation regarding COVID-19 and narratives around migrants as a whole to stop xenophobia |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Continue to push a narrative to advocate for more holistic policies beyond temporary programs like DACA |
| Communication channel: Schools and businesses |

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| Goal 4: To humanize migrants and advocate for access to basic services regardless of status |
| Key Action: Utilizing the influence of youth in migrant communities to spread accurate COVID-19 information |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Work to build solidarity among marginalized groups and the organizations that fight for their rights, opening paths for joint advocacy |
| Communication channel: Leading public figures to promote positive, factual messages and personal stories/experiences of migration |

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| Goal 5: Utilize social media and strengthen partnerships to spread accurate information and humanize migrants |
| Key Action: Targeting youth as the 'translators' and disseminators of this information to their networks and family members |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Collaboration between local organizations and local governments to push for a better narrative regarding migrants and for access to basic services |
| Communication channel: Partnerships with local and national media outlets, also, partnering with Local leaders |

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| Goal 6: Normalize migration flows and resettlement throughout North America, without resorting to mandatory detention or criminalization |
| Key Action: Partnerships with local authorities/governments to share youth-led practices, promote social dialogue, and advocate for inclusive access to public services |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Engage with the GFMD stakeholders, particularly the Mayoral Mechanism |
| Communication channel: The GFMD |

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| Goal 7: Ensure migrant voices are heard beyond just their economic contributions to our communities |
| Key Action: Youth role or bridge between actions and International Organizations. Local leaderships. How youth initiatives are funded |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Collaborative Document with Grants/Funding opportunities |
| Communication channel: Engage with academics, non-profits, and community builders who work firsthand with migrants. |

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| Goal 8: Recognize and address the valid concerns of existing disenfranchised groups |
| Key Action: Establishing partnerships between NGOs and media outlets to ensure accurate information is being shared |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Form a group with COVID-19 information resources about the vaccine, masks etc. |
| Communication channel: Social media, traditional online/print/broadcast media, town halls, community gatherings (post-COVID) |

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| Goal 9: Promote factual, data-based information about migrants, rather than narratives based on fear |
| Key Action: Ensuring that when we do share migrant stories, we grant them with dignity and respect. Many migrants suffer trauma and may not be as open to discussion |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Sharing stories of migrant workers from across the globe as a way of recognizing the economic contribution and autonomy of migrants. |
| Communication channel: Zoom is an opportunity to allow wider audiences: educational sessions etc. can reach a large audience regardless of physical location |

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| Goal 10: Shape data-driven narratives of the economic, cultural, social and civic contributions of migrants to influence more inclusive and equitable policies. |
| Key Action: Sharing migrant stories in a way that bridges the gap between other disadvantaged groups in host countries and migrants |
| Opportunity for Collaboration: Organizations and youth should use social media to continue to push the narrative of essential migrant workers, but broaden this even more and continue to build and expand upon it |

Additional Opportunities for Collaboration:

Translate and communicate sometimes technical information in accessible formats so people can take part in more constructive conversation about migration that leads to positive action

Creating narratives around the need to see migration as not only a domestic issue of the home country but one that must be looked at through a transnational lens.