



EI Africa Online Forum on Promoting the Rights of Migrants, Refugees and IDPs to Quality Education

Outcome Statement

We, participants in the Education International Africa Region's Online Forum on **Promoting the Rights of Migrants, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)s to Quality Education**, held in cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education on 29 April 2021:

Considering:

1. The principles embodied in the normative instruments of the United Nations concerning human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
2. The principles and standards set forth in the relevant instruments developed within the framework of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), especially the Convention concerning Migration for Employment (No. 97), the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (No.143), the Recommendation concerning Migration for Employment (No. 86), the Recommendation concerning Migrant Workers (No.151), the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (No. 29) and the Convention concerning Abolition of Forced Labour (No. 105);
3. The various instruments and commitments made by Governments through the UN and its agencies, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education and its Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Global Compact for Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees and targets 4.10, 8.5, and 10.7 of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. The African Union's Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030) and the Kampala Convention on internally displaced people;
5. Education International's policy and activities regarding refugees and migrants, mostly shaped by the various resolutions passed by the World Congresses and other specific documents published by EI, namely, the World Congress Resolutions on: "Children of Refugees and Asylum Seekers" (1998), "Teacher Migration and Mobility" (2011), "Migration, Professional Diversity, and Racism" (2015), "The right to education for displaced people, refugees, and stateless children" (2015); "Protecting the rights of Immigrant and refugee children and young people" (2019); and "Education for Refugees" (2019);
6. That in 2019 there were 271.6 million international migrants, constituting 3.5% of the World's population, that women constitute 47.9 % of all international migrants and that migrant workers account for 90% of international migrants;

Concerned:

7. About the large number of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa and globally, amounting to over 86.5 million refugees and 50.8 million internally displaced people worldwide as a result of conflict and violence (45.7 million) and disaster (5.1 million);
8. That conflict, violence and disaster continue to uproot millions of people from their homes every year;
9. About widespread discrimination, racist and xenophobic sentiments and attacks against migrants and refugees in Africa and globally;
10. About widening inequalities as a result of COVID-19 and other crises in Africa and globally and that unless urgent action is taken to ensure the education rights of migrants, refugees and IDPs, these groups will be left further behind;

Reaffirming our resolve and commitment to defend and promote the rights of migrant, refugee and IDP teachers, children and youth, we recommend that:

Teacher unions, Civil Society Organisations and other human rights activists should:

11. Embark on awareness raising and campaigns for the ratification and full implementation of the UN, ILO and UNESCO Migrants Conventions;
12. Advocate for the full implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees;

Governments should:

13. Address the root causes of migration and displacement, including conflict, violence, poverty and climate change so that migration is an option rather than a necessity;
14. Put in place contingency plans at all levels to manage large-scale population movements in times of crisis;
15. Ratify and implement UN and ILO Migrant Conventions, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and ILO Conventions 97 (Migration for Employment Convention) and 143 (Migrant Workers Convention), as well as the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees;
16. Take immediate legal, policy and practical measures to tackle xenophobia, racism, and all forms of discrimination against migrants, refugees and other groups;
17. Ensure fulfillment of the right to education of migrants, refugees and IDPs using the indicators of availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability (otherwise known as the 4As framework) as means of assessment;
18. Facilitate the free cross-border movement of students and teachers, including through the harmonization of teaching standards and teacher qualifications;
19. Recognise the qualifications of migrant and refugee teachers and ensure that these educators have the same salaries and working conditions as their local peers;
20. Put in place measures to ensure the safety, resilience and well-being of migrant, refugee and IDP teachers and students and provide effective psychosocial support; and,
21. Ensure free training and continuous professional development for migrant, refugee and local teachers in order for them to meet the specific needs of migrating children and youth.