



**International Federation of Business and Professional Women
Women Migrants and Global Citizenship Task Force
(Terms of Reference)**

Introduction

Immigrant women are considered to be one of the vulnerable groups of women left behind when it comes to economic empowerment and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This means that we must consider an inclusive approach when it comes to the implementation of the SDGs. The SDGs recognize that protecting the rights of immigrant women will advance their potential to become agents of development.

Studies have shown that an increasing proportion of women are economic or labour migrants. Not only do women spend their incomes in the host countries but they also send remittances to their home countries which go towards education, health and community development. In fact, studies show that immigrant women remit a higher proportion of their salary than immigrant men. The following SDG targets recognize that it is necessary to: (i) reduce remittance fees (SDG 10c); (ii) protect migrant workers' rights (SDG 8.8); and, (iii) access vocational training and affordable education (SDG 4.3).

It is urgent that we pay close and special attention to the challenges that immigrant women face. The facts show that immigrant women are disproportionately unemployed compared to non-immigrant women and migrant men. Their skills are not recognized nor valued. Lack of support and family obligations prevent them from seeking further training. This forces them to enter informal sectors and exposes them to greater risks. The following SDG targets focus on (i) decent work for all (SDG 4.5); (ii) economic and political inclusion (SDG 10.2); and (iii) Relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship (SDG 4.4).

It is evident that immigrant women are often more vulnerable than men to exploitation, modern forms of slavery, and other forms of gender based violence. The majority of victims of forced labour happen to be women. In fact, it is estimated that 98% of trafficking victims for sexual exploitation are women. The following SDG targets acknowledge that we must (i) eliminate violence against women (SDG 5.2) and (ii) end modern day slavery (SDG 8.7). Of course, the SDGs have put in place a set of policy recommendations to make sure that the positive aspects of migration are enhanced and the negative ones are reduced for all migrants including migrant women.





Facts show that data on the economic and political empowerment of migrant women are scarce. Furthermore, disaggregation of data by both gender and migration status is lacking. This would be considered a strong and effective tool for policy development. The following SDG targets demonstrate the dire need for: (i) well managed migration policies (SDG 10.7); (ii) opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making (SDG 5.5); (iii) policies for promotion of gender equality (SDG 5.c); and (iv) Social protection policies for domestic workers (SDG 5.4).

To implement the relevant SDG targets using an inclusive approach will mean that a multi-pronged approach will be required using multi stakeholders including governments, businesses, and civil society leaders including but not limited to immigrant serving organizations.

The role of the taskforce will be to advocate for immigration, labour, and social protection policies that protect the rights of immigrant women, identify opportunities and partnerships to position them to become contributing citizens, to educate the rest of the population on the positive economic contributions of immigrants, and to narrow the gaps between immigrant and non-immigrant women. The responsibilities of the taskforce members may include the following:

1. Review the Global Compact For Migration to understand the overall need and importance of migration management and be able to hold governments accountable to handle the issue responsibly and effectively;
2. Review the rights of migrant workers, with a special focus on women in various countries, and how employment rights affect temporary and permanent workers;
3. Examine the general population's understanding of immigration rules, procedures and legal status of various immigrants entering that country;
4. Study the positive contributions of immigrant women in the various countries and identify opportunities with citizens to highlight or showcase these. How can citizens contribute to the success of migrant women? How can citizens be recognized for this?



5. Explore ways that immigrant women can address labour market shortages and fill the economic demands of the country;

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