

ROOTS & ROUTES

Vol 11, No. 2, February 2022

Save The Date



MIGRATION
DIALOGUES

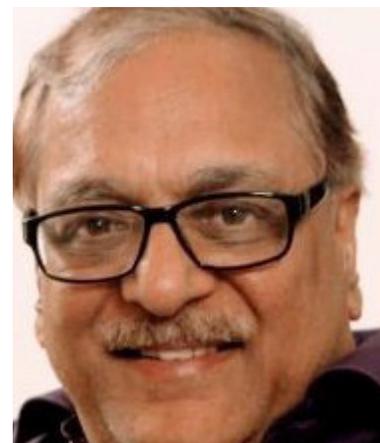
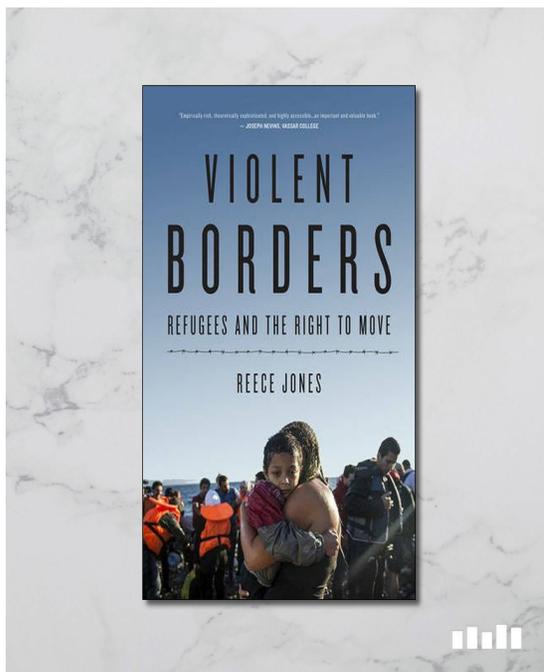
IMRF Roundtable 4
CONSULTATION

[REGISTER HERE](#)

9 FEBRUARY 2022
9.30 AM (New York) – 3.30 PM (Geneva)



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Editor's Note



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While the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the movement of people from one destination to the other, the war between Russia and Ukraine has displaced millions of people. In both the different situations, the migrants are facing complex challenges. The current geopolitical situation has further complicated situation of the war-displaced people.

As part of our policy, the GRFDT continues to raise the issues faced by the migrants, refugees, and the displaced people. This issue highlights the various webinars conducted by the GRFDT in February to address the issues of migrants. The first part of the section provides glimpses of the webinars.

The current issue presents the reporting of the webinar on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Roundtable 4 which took place on February 9, 2022. Riza Franchesca Regalahas prepared a comprehensive report on the webinar which was organized by the United Nations Network. The 4th Roundtable focuses on tackling the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives 1, 3, 7, 17, and 23. It also discusses the challenges faced in implementing these GCM Objectives.

The current issue also mentions a heartening news that Prof. Binod Khadria, President, GRFDT, has been nominated as 'Affiliated Scholar' at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), Georgetown University, Washington DC. This issue also has a book review, "Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move," reviewed by Angelo Gianturco Coletta.

We invite our readers to participate and share their experiences to have a meaningful engagement with us. You can communicate with us through email at editorinchief@grfdt.com. We wish you happy reading and look forward to your suggestions and comments.

Feroz Khan

GRFDT Events

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) and other reputed organizations, including Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM), International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), Metropolis Asia Pacific, Alianza America (AA), PICUM, Freedom Collaborative, and South Asian Regional Trade Union Council (SARTUC)

jointly conducted eight webinars on GCM Objectives. On February 1, the GRFDT conducted GCM Objective 14. On February 3, 8 and 10, it conducted GCM Objective 15, 16 and 17, respectively. The GCM Objective 18 and 19 were organized on February 15 and 17. Finally, the GCM Objective 20 and 21 was conducted on February 22 and 24, 2022.



The poster features logos for Migrant Forum in Asia, GRFDT, CCRM, IIMAD, Metropolis Asia-Pacific, and Global Compact Migration. The event title is 'GCM OBJECTIVE 14: ENHANCE CONSULAR PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE MIGRATION CYCLE'. It is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2022, from 15:00 to 16:30 CET. The speakers are H.E. Noel Lynch (Ambassador, Barbados), Ms Mervat Jumhawi (Union organizer, Jordan), Ms Ashu Basnet (Consular Officer, Nepal), and Ms Namrata Raju (India Director, EQUIDEM). The moderator is Paddy Siyanga Knudsen (Vice President, GRFDT). Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/gcmcertificate>. The session language is English/Arabic. For more information, visit <http://www.globalcompactmigration.com> or email academy@grfdt.com.

MIGRANT FORUM ASIA **GRFDT** **CCRM** **IIMAD** **Metropolis Asia - Pacific** **Tues 1 February 2022** **15.00 - 16.30(CET)** **Global Compact Migration**

GCM OBJECTIVE 14: ENHANCE CONSULAR PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE MIGRATION CYCLE

Speakers

H.E. Noel Lynch
Ambassador
Embassy of Barbados to the United States

Ms Mervat Jumhawi
Union organiser
Jordan

Ms Ashu Basnet
Consular Officer, Second Secretary
Embassy of Nepal in Malaysia

Ms Namrata Raju
India Director
EQUIDEM

Moderator

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen
Vice President - Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism

Scan QR Code | Register here: <https://bit.ly/gcmcertificate> | Session language: English/Arabic

Visit <http://www.globalcompactmigration.com> to know more
Email: academy@grfdt.com



Metropolis
Asia-Pacific

Thurs 3 February 2022
13.00 - 14.30(CET)



**GCM OBJECTIVE 15:
PROVIDE ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS**

Speakers



Dr Tonderai Tela
Vice President
Zimbabwe Diaspora National Building Initiative



Maria Gabriela Trompetero
PHD Candidate Sociology
Universitat Bielefeld

Moderator



Paddy Siyanga Knudsen
Vice President - Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism



Alex Fusco
PHD Researcher
University of Sussex



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Session language: English

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Metropolis
Asia-Pacific

Tues 8 February 2022
15.00 - 16.30(CET)



**GCM OBJECTIVE 16:
EMPOWER MIGRANTS AND SOCIETIES
TO REALISE FULL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION**

Speakers



Sharmarke Dubow
Councillor
City of Victoria (Canada)



Dr Kennedy Achakoma
Labour Economist
African Trade Union Migration Network

Moderator



Paddy Siyanga Knudsen
Vice President - Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism



Marco Ricorda
Communication Manager - MC2CM
International Centre for Migration Policy Development



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<https://bit.ly/gcmcertificate>

Session language: English

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Email: academy@grfdt.com

Harnessing the Power of Data, Information, Social Protection, Ethical Media and International Cooperation in GCM implementation: IMRF Roundtable 4

An interactive webinar on the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Roundtable 4 took place on the 9th of February 2022. In line with the series of Migration Dialogues organised by the United Nations Network on Migration, the 4th Roundtable focused on tackling the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives 1, 3, 7, 17, and 23. Bringing together over 800 registrants, including various stakeholders, the event was co-organised by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The panellists hailed from different sectors such as academia, non-profit and human rights organisations, and regional organisations. The discussion was moderated by **Mr. John Wilmoth**, Director of the Population Division of the UNDESA.

Among the key aims of the webinar were to discuss the current state of affairs of these five objectives and to identify the priorities in regard to their further implementation. In addition to preparing for the upcoming IMRF, the webinar also served as an opportunity for the Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to discuss approaches towards achieving effective, principled migration governance for the benefit of all.

Unjust realities in migration and the role of the GCM

The webinar commenced with a brief background leading up to the GCM and IMRF introduced by the event's moderator, **Mr. John**. This was followed by the opening remarks delivered by **Mr. Craig Mokhiber**, Director of the New York Office, OHCHR. He focused his speech on nuancing the realities of migration in today's times and brought attention to the fact that there is also an increasing number of migrants that are compelled to leave their homes due to a combination of

reasons like poverty, lack of access to their rights, and the consequences of climate change. He also mentioned that migrants are not inherently vulnerable; however, they can become vulnerable to human rights violations in the face of difficult situations in their countries of origin, transit countries, and countries of arrival. Reminding everyone that the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problems, **Mr. Craig** pointed out that these realities bring to the forefront the GCM and its objectives.

Linking migration to sustainable development and drafting of evidence-based policies with reliable data

The panelist for Objective 1 was Colgate University's **Professor Ellen Percy Kraly**, who employed a scalar perspective in her presentation. She stated that the UN Expert Group on Migration Statistics is working to address not only the operational definition of international migration and temporary mobility but also primary and secondary topics of inquiry to promote its standard measurement and characterisation. According to her, such progress could allow for a better comparison of patterns and trends across regions and the GCM Member States.

Professor Kraly also mentioned that there exist both opportunities or priorities and challenges at each level in meeting Objective 1. The priorities derive from the guiding principles of the GCM.

“We have to be forward-thinking and should think about causes and consequences of migration in relationship to sustainable development. And finally, we need to think about a whole-of-government approach in order to really build capacity building within our countries, within our regions, and then ultimately within the international scale.”: Professor

Making information accessible and available for and with every migrant

The next panelist was **Mimouna Esseyed** of the Moroccan National Human Rights Council, who stated that their mandate is to promote and defend human rights. Their institution has been active since 1999, and they have several international partners within Africa and beyond. The bulk of her presentation tackled the situation and priorities in Morocco in relation to Objective 3.

According to Ms. Esseyed, the first sub-objective entails developing a website compiling all available legal instruments for the reference of migrants. At present, there are several websites from different government agencies in Morocco and Africa which can serve as sources of accurate information, but having one designated platform would be a big help to all stakeholders. The second sub-objective is about the bilateral relations between countries. Morocco has presented a report to the African Observatory of Migration containing recommendations for Objective 3, the most notable being the need to establish non-discriminatory registration systems and build capacity through consular services.

“We believe that migrants should not be left out and should be considered as key actors of development, and should be fully integrated and join in the establishment of the policies that concern them, according to the Marrakech Compact.”: Ms. Mimouna Esseyed.

Reducing migrant vulnerabilities in times of a global pandemic

Objective 7 was discussed by **Mr. Diego Morales**, who is the Director of Litigation and Legal Defense at the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) based in Argentina. He pointed out that this objective is one of the most important in defining migration policy and human rights. Furthermore, he stressed the fact that states are committed to analysing their policies and practices to ensure that they do not foster further vulnerabilities for migrants. This comes hand-in-hand with their commitment to creating sound policies on

assistance, health, gender, and labour.

On the subject of regularisation, he acknowledged that specific criteria are indispensable such that they pave the way for migrants to exercise their rights. However, these policies can also be oriented towards criminalisation, and such is the situation in certain cases within Latin America.

Similar to the prior speakers, **Mr. Diego** once again underscored how the COVID-19 worsened the situation for many migrants. In general, events that transpired, including actions taken by military agents, revealed the state-led decisions taken contrary to the GCM objectives. At the end of his presentation, **Mr. Diego** requested to follow up commitments to the GCM to deal with the return and entrance of migrants in a regular fashion and to be able to accompany the guidelines set out in Objective 7.

“Guides have to be very clear and transparent, based on human rights and actually correspond to the particular situation of the migrants.”: Mr. Diego.

Countering hate and moving towards more evidence-based public discourse on migration

The fourth panelist was **Mr. Richard Wilson**, Director of Stop Funding Hate, a campaign advocating for evidence-based public discourse and making hate unprofitable. Opening strong, he stated, **“Journalism can be a powerful force for good, but we can also lead to harmful narratives,”** and stressed how hateful messages contained in the media could translate to hate on the streets. This owes to the fact that hate has become a part of today’s media business model.

However, he also drew attention to much that is left to be done to realise this objective. Fortunately, he said that every organisation with an advertising budget could play a role in countering xenophobia and racism in the media. He rounded off his intervention by stating, **“The more that they [organisations] put checks in place to ensure that their advertising is supporting ethical media rather than hateful clickbait, the more this will help to counter anti-immigrant sentiment and make a reality of the vision outlined in Objective 17.”**

Enhancing International Cooperation to achieve GCM objectives

Mr. Martin Seychell, the Deputy Director-General of International Partnerships at the European Commission focused on the European Union's (EU) progress on Objective 23. **Mr. Martin** opened his presentation with the following words, **“the EU believes that the global challenges we face in today's world require effective multilateral approaches based on solidarity, human rights, and on a rules-based international order.”** In line with this, he stated that the EU migration policy reflects this approach. He expounded that the EU is presently working towards forming partnerships with countries of origin, transit, and destination. It is also working on a comprehensive framework based on a system of burden sharing, as evidenced by its New Migration Pact introduced in 2020.

Further, as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the EU has only reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation and a multilateral response together with the UN. The EU continues its partnership with the UN for capacity building supporting GCM

Champion countries. It has also promised to allocate at least 10 percent of its financing instrument to actions supporting safe and dignified international migration.

To conclude, the webinar had been very informative and instrumental in enabling discussions that lay down the path towards International Migration Review Forum 2022. The webinar successfully presented a review of GCM Objectives 1,3,7,17, and 23, and highlighted the practical hurdles and new challenges faced in the implementation of these objectives.

Riza Franchesca Regala is a senior undergraduate student at Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines with a background in European Studies and International Relations. She currently serves as the Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point at the Migration Youth and Children Platform – Major Group for Children and Youth: a network of young leaders under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly. Twitter: @_parisfrans

Prof. Binod Khadria nominated as ‘Affiliated Scholar’ at ISIM, Georgetown University, USA

Prof. Binod Khadria, the President of GRFDT, has been nominated as ‘Affiliated Scholar’ at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Prof. Binod Khadria, who has been at the helm of GRFDT since August 2021, is an eminent academician and former Professor of Economics and Chairperson of the Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His special fields of expertise are Economics; Education Policy & Governance; Globalisation, International Trade, and Migration & Diaspora Studies. As a co-editor, his latest publications include the World Migration Report 2020 (IOM-UN Migration) and the Sage Handbook of International Migration (Sage, London 2019). Prof. Khadria has played a pivotal role in global migration discourses, serving as the Thematic Expert at the



second UN General Assembly debate on the processes that led to the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in 2018, and steering numerous international projects on migration.

ISIM, a part of the Walsh School of Foreign Service and affiliated with the Law Center at Georgetown University, has been a vital civil society actor contributing to migration discourses since 1998. It is a prominent multidisciplinary centre that combines best practices in social science research and policy expertise to look into various dimensions of international migration.

The addition of Prof. Khadria to the cohort of internationally acclaimed scholars at ISIM is a moment of pride for the GRFDT, and advances the prospect of scholarly endeavors on migration.

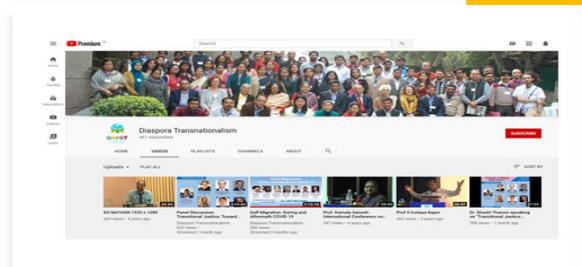
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Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move

Reece Jones (2016), *Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move*, New York: Verso, ISBN-13:978-1-78478-474-4, 222 pages.

Forced migration has been a growing concern for governments and scholars across the globe for the last few years. As of the end of 2020, the UNHCR accounts for more than 34 million forcibly displaced people between refugees and asylum seekers, changing countries' migration responses and making it imperative to study not only the migration phenomena but the problems that caused it and its repercussions.

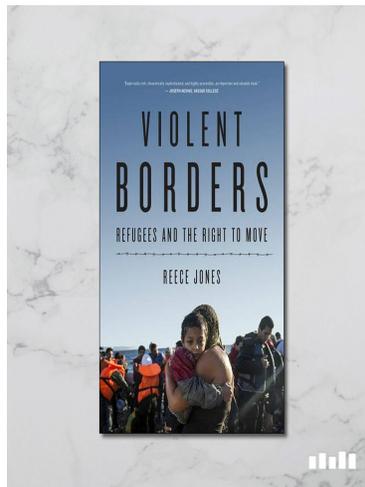
Reece Jones *Violent Borders* explores the refugee crisis through the recent country border protection evolution, emphasizing in new government's policies effects not only on migrants' movement but in the mounting violence they have caused.

Jones is an American political geographer. He has been focusing his studies on borders walls, geopolitics, and immigration. His work is considered to be one of the most influential in his area by his peers, winning international honors and awards during his career. He is a Guggenheim Fellow, a highly competitive grant awarded by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to professionals with demonstrated exceptional capacity. Jones is currently the editor-in-chief of the journal *Geopolitics* and the co-editor of the *Routledge Geopolitics Book Series*.

Violent Borders: Refugee and the Right to Move is divided into seven chapters, grouped at the same time into two sections where the author offers statistical secondary data together with practical qualitative cases to support his views of sovereignty, movement, and violence in migration.

The first section revolves around current border policies practices, with two chapters focusing on the European Union and the United States – Mexico borders. Linking concrete examples with analytical data, Jones argues how the last government actions supposedly aimed to protect their sovereignty have exacerbated the already complex refugee crisis. In the European Union, he reviews policies and alliances with third nations that are designed to create a hostile environment with the purpose of deterring migrants

from even attempting to cross, as well as making migrants escaping war-like situations asylum claims more difficult. Jones highlights how all of this helped the growth of migrant traffickers, worsening migrants' risks. The chapter further describes how the European nations, despite their historically claimed adaptations of the Schengen area and freedom of movement within their borders for European citizens, are today at the forefront of the migration crisis, with spiking migrant dead numbers since 2005.



The second chapter is dedicated to the US-Mexican border, where the author discusses how these have now become deadly spaces for crossers since changes in regulations allow the use of deadly force from migration patrols. Jones narrates the gruesome crossing of a Mexican teenager that resulted in his passing, evidencing a despicable treatment of migrants at this border and the difference in the usage of

force in comparison to American citizens. In both cases, he emphasizes the increase in funding for border security, reaching the billions of dollars yearly, supposedly justified behind preserving countries' authority, while in reality, it only translates in the decease of millions of migrants. The first section of the book closes with a chapter dedicated to borders practices outside of the western hemisphere, narrating violent migration stories and their repercussions in migrant life. In this way, Jones brings a global perspective on the changes in the borders, showing how migrants' movement has been affected not only in developed countries but worldwide.

The second section focused on establishing boundaries beside borders, and how they have contributed to movement restrictions. Jones debates on how these have served to control the movement of the poor and maintain the privilege of some nations. He gives a summary of the evolution of movement restrictions through history, highlighting the enclosure of land into private property and states, as well as the oceans into economic zones with the introduction of the Law of the Sea. This section also aims to correlate poor working conditions in third world countries with the implemented movement restrictions, using the case example of the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh. In the final chapter of the book, the author provides his views on the

current and future problems, like climate change, and how borders seem to uphold the established power of developed nations before humanity.

Overall, the book centers on how western countries' borders policies have contributed to the countless deaths of migrants, either by "militarizing" the border itself or by implementing specific strategies intended to worsen the condition and preclude migrants' movements. While Jones does not deny the right of world states to protect their people, and resources from threats by controlling their borders, he invites the reader to reflect on the importance of movement in humanity, upholding it to Human Rights basis. The author firmly sustains that this principle is in jeopardy by the introduction of new border policies, where the construction of barriers to prevent "illegal" passing seems to be a focal function of the state. Jones goes further stating that today's border system "seeks to preserve privilege and opportunity for some by restricting access to resources and movement for others".

Even though his views could be categorized as liberal from a political standpoint, in reality, he defines a much bigger issue: world preservation. The author not only reviews history but links the current migration crisis and the way it has been treated with the crisis to come, and the importance of revisiting nations' border control policies in order to ensure our subsistence. He justifies his opinion on freedom of movement has a part of human nature, which has served as a pivotal player in world advancement throughout history. "In the era of globalization, as the gap between the wealthiest and poorest states has grown, states around the world have deployed new security infrastructure along borders, designed to detect and prevent the movement of the world's poor." Jones writes (p. 46) Jones successfully explains how borders inevitably originate violence around them, inviting the reader to think beyond the current policies and focus on the consequences for the people behind them.

While the book presents a clear argument about the

amounting violence refugees are facing today in their journey, it mostly focuses on very specific examples, Melilla for the European border and El Paso for the US-Mexican one, where the author offers detailed stories as a frame to the underlying problem. In the same way, Jones centers his discussion around the occidental region borders, offering an overview on how the refugee treatment replicates around the world, leaving space for a more comprehensive analysis of the African and Asia region. The book particularly covers the refugee migrant population, without a particular emphasis on gender, and even though the authors' opinions are well proved and documented, additional case examples and data disaggregation for women and other forcibly displaced populations will be fundamental for future studies.

Whereas first published, in 2016, the presented arguments are as relevant today as they were six years ago. Jones *Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move* while focusing specifically on refugees, sheds a light on the broader and persisting problem of movement across the globe. One that needs to be addressed not only by scholars but engaged by the general public as well, in order to rearrange our priorities, reassess the current situation, and ensure proper management of migration.

Angelo Gianturco Coletta is an Independent Scholar. He holds an Economy Bachelor, MA in Humanitarian Action and Peace-building, and Conflict Resolution Specialist with experience in sustainable development empowerment project for vulnerable women in Venezuela. He is working both in the private and NGO sector as a consultant. Email: agianturco@me.com

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MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19: PERSPECTIVES, POLICIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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CONFIRMATION OF SELECTION OF ABSTRACTS

30 TH APRIL 2022

LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING FULL PAPER

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