



Anglican Communion Office
at the United Nations

“Empowering Women in Migration”: An Overview of the Challenges Faced by Migrant Women and Their Relationship to the Sustainable Development

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On March 17th, the Women and Global Migration Working Group held a participatory workshop during UNCSW60 to consider the application of the sustainable development goals to women affected by migration globally. This event took place at the United Nations Church Center, where participants divided into small groups and analyzed several stories of migrant women and the daily obstacles they face. These stories were then connected to several sustainable development goals that seek to address the global nature of the problem. Participants were asked to consider the broader issues involved, systemic obstacles, and possible solutions in order to prevent these human rights violations.

The contributors placed great emphasis on the sheer number of individuals who are forced into migration in a variety of different contexts. According to the Women and Global Migration Working Group, “Around 50% of the world’s estimated 232 million international migrants are women” (Empowering Women in Migration, March 17). The group also stressed the fact that migration not only affects women seeking work in other countries or those forced from their homes due to violence and climate change, but also those left behind by family members. Themes included the insufficient local and national regulation and oversight of employers of migrant and guest workers, and the vulnerability of women to economic and sexual exploitation. Potential solutions included greater communication to migrant workers concerning the conditions they might face, and advocacy at the local and national levels in order to promote adequate government regulation. Most importantly, the group underlined the significant role of global partnerships and the need to apply UN conventions to hold governments accountable.