MIGRATION POLICY PRACTICE

Short articles to better connect migration research, policy and practice worldwide

Summit of the Future Special Issue

ISSN 2223-5248

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Introduction: International migration as part of a reinvigorated multilateral system

Thea de Gruchy[1]

Held in September 2024, the United Nations Secretary-General's Summit of the Future has been described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the global community to come together and agree on how to adapt multilateralism for the realities of today and the challenges of tomorrow.[2] The Summit was called for in the United Nations Secretary-General's 2021 Our Common Agenda,[3] which emphasized the importance of reinvigorating multilateralism in the twenty-first century. This included not only renewing existing commitments around – for example, gender and climate change in the form of a Pact for the Future – but also called for the first comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation (the Global Digital Compact) and the first Declaration on Future Generations.[4]

Collectively called the Summit of the Future Outcome Documents, the Pact, Compact and Declaration focused on persistent global challenges and the need to reinvigorate multilateral cooperation, including on migration. Throughout all three documents, the importance of migration and mobile populations is clear. Reiterating commitments made as part of Agenda 2030, both the Pact and the Declaration call for maximizing the positive contributions of migrants and promoting regular pathways while addressing the drivers of irregular migration, while the Global Digital Compact calls for the collection of data that can be disaggregated by migration status. In addition, the Pact is clear about the need to address gender-related risks and violence, including trafficking in persons and abuse experienced by women migrant workers through technology (a topic explored by Musizvingoza in this issue), and the Compact calls for capacity-building of digital skills for migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, among other groups.

In addition to these explicit commitments around migration, however, many of the actions outlined and commitments made in these documents will need to take migration into account. Gender, for example, is a key concern of the Pact, but to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Action 8), engaging with the ways in which gender affects migration decision-making and experiences of mobility will be key (as discussed by Silva and Pereira). Youth, specifically improving avenues for youth participation in national and global processes, is also a focus of the Outcome Documents. But involving a diverse range of youth in such processes, including those with migrant backgrounds, can be challenging, particularly where there is a lack of trust in official processes due to poor responses to xenophobic bullying, something which migrant youth struggle to escape as it takes place in the online world (as illustrated by Maqbool).

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[1] Thea de Gruchy is a Research Affiliate for the Refugee Law Initiative.
[2] United Nations, Summit of the Future 2024.
[3] United Nations, *Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General* (New York, United Nations, 2021).
[4] United Nations, *Summit of the Future Outcome Documents: Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations* (2024).

The Global Digital Compact has outlined "ambitious steps to make the digital space safer for all through greater accountability of tech companies and social media platforms and actions to tackle disinformation and online harms".[5] Meanwhile, there are barriers to taking these steps that will not be easy to address (Musizvingoza and Maqbool); if the commitments in the Compact are met, there are real opportunities for initiatives that can and do support migrants and people on the move, including displaced women (Jeziorek) and for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in migration management (Triboulet).

In 2024, IOM and the School of International Futures published a paper titled *Reimagining Migration and Mobility: New Ideas for an Age-old Human Phenomenon*.[6] Informed by an expert workshop held in Istanbul in October 2023, the paper explores what possibilities exist if the idea that migration can be beneficial for all is taken seriously, specifically in relation to the issues that underpinned discussions at the Summit of the Future, including intergenerational fairness and climate change.

Building on this work and following a global call for abstracts from junior researchers,[7] this issue presents five pieces in which researchers present their research in the context of the Summit of the Future Outcome Documents. Given the importance of the commitments made in these documents, and notwithstanding the fast-paced changes currently witnessed in the multilateral system and global order, this issue shares work from the next generation of scholars on what the Summit outcomes might mean for migration in the future.

The guest editor of this issue of *Migration Policy Practice*, Thea de Gruchy, and the MPP editorial team would like to extend their gratitude to the peer reviewers for this issue (see details in text box) for their critical contributions to supporting research and analysis on migration policy and practice. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Peer reviewers

- **Prof Ana Beduschi** (University of Exeter)
- **Prof Jacqueline Bhabha** (Harvard University)
- **Prof Eleonore Kofman** (Middlesex University)
- **Dr Linda Oucho** (African Migration and Development Policy Centre)

[5] United Nations, Pact for the Future: What it delivers (2024).

[6] Andrew Curry, Iman Bashir and Paul Raven, *Reimagining Migration and Mobility: New Ideas for an Age-old Human Phenomenon* (Geneva and London, IOM and School of International Futures (SOIF), 2024).

[7] The term is used to refer to those currently undertaking their PhD or who graduated with their PhD in the last five years.

Connecting the Pact for the Future with the experiences of migrant women: Implications for more inclusive migration policies in Portugal

Patricia Silva and Henrique Pereira[1]

Introduction

Women represent 48 per cent of the global migrant population.[2] Within the Portuguese context, the country recorded a total of 1,044,606 foreign residents in 2023, 47 per cent of whom were women.[3] Migrant women in Portugal play an important role in strengthening the economy and society, often contributing through essential yet informal sectors, such as domestic work, caregiving, hospitality and agriculture, which highlights their role in shaping the dynamics of the migration process.[4]

Despite women's substantial contribution to the transformation of their communities of origin and destination, gender inequalities persist. According to the equality annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), none of the indicators associated with SDG 5, which regards gender equality, are being fully achieved. At the current rate, it will take 137 years for gender disparities to be eliminated. For migrant women, the intersectionality of gender, race, class and other markers of discrimination exacerbates these inequalities, placing them in positions of greater vulnerability, limiting their opportunities, affecting their well-being and compromising their integration.[5]

This phenomenon reflects the importance of incorporating a gender lens in the development of policies and practices that seek the full and equal integration of migrant women. In response to these concerns, the Pact for the Future, approved in September 2024 at the Summit of the Future, consolidated commitments to promote gender equality, highlighting it as a central element to achieve fairer and more sustainable societies.[6] However, for transformations to meet the needs of migrant women, they must play a central role in the process of change.

Objective and methods

This policy paper aims to explore the motivations, needs and lived experiences of migrant women in Portugal, focusing on the adaptation process and the structural barriers that impact gender equality. By addressing these issues, the study seeks to contribute to discussions on shaping

[1] Patricia Silva is a PhD student in Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Beira Interior (UBI) in Portugal and a research fellow by the Foundation for Science and Technology, focusing on psychosocial well-being in the migration process and vulnerable communities (2022.11985. BDANA). Henrique Pereira is a Full Professor of Psychology at UBI and a member of the Sports Sciences, Health Sciences and Human Development Research Centre in Portugal. His research focuses on human sexuality, gender studies and vulnerable communities.

[2] Marie McAuliffe and Linda Adhiambo Oucho (eds.), *World Migration Report 2024* (Geneva, IOM, 2024).

[3] Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum, *Relatório de Migrações e Asilo 2023* [*Migration and Asylum Report 2023*] (Lisbon, Directorate for Planning, Studies and Statistics (DPEE), 2024) (in Portuguese).

[4] Caterina Reis de Oliveira, *Indicadores de Integração de Imigrantes: Relatório Estatístico Anual 2023* [*Indicators of Immigrant Integration: Annual Statistical Report 2023*] (Lisbon, Observatory for Migration, 2023) (in Portuguese).

[5] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024* (New York, UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2024).

[6] United Nations, *Summit of the Future Outcome Documents: Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations* (2024).

fairer and more gender-responsive migration policies, aligned with the commitments of the Pact for the Future and the SDGs.

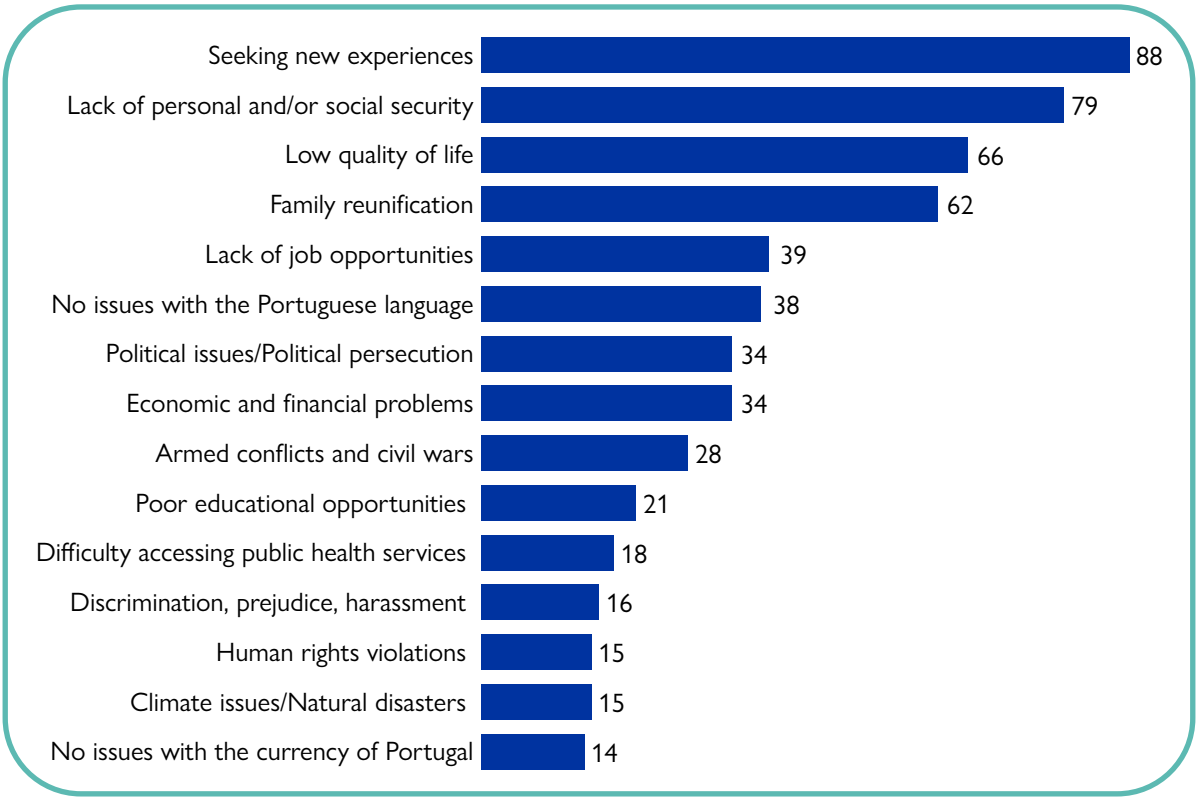
A mixed-methods approach was used to capture the breadth of migrant women's experiences. The quantitative part enabled participants to select their key motivations for migration and challenges faced in Portugal based on predefined options grounded in the literature. Open-ended questions enabled respondents to describe other motivations, difficulties and experiences. Data was collected through electronic interviews, with 206 migrant women from 48 nationalities between January and August 2024. Using thematic and critical analysis, the study highlights the barriers and proposes discussions for public policies. Ethical approval was granted by the Ethics Committee of the University of Beira Interior in Portugal (CE-UBI-Pj-2022-055-ID).

Why women migrate to Portugal

The participants identified the reasons behind their decisions to migrate to Portugal. The findings underscore the complexity of migratory dynamics, revealing a combination of structural, social and personal factors influencing these choices. Figure 1 illustrates the motivations identified and their frequency.

The most frequent reason was the search for new experiences (N=88, 42.7%), suggesting that migration may be motivated by the desire to expand horizons, acquire experiences and explore opportunities for personal growth. This data reinforces the importance of not homogenizing migratory experiences, recognizing that they can be both a proactive choice and a necessity driven by adverse circumstances. Additionally, some migrant women identified facilitating aspects in the decision to migrate, such as the absence of

Figure 1. Motivations for migration



Source: Original elaboration by the authors based on the results of the study.

language barriers with Portuguese (N=38, 18.4%) and familiarity with the national currency of Portugal (N=14, 6.8%). These factors, while less frequent, highlight the importance of cultural and structural elements that can make the destination more accessible and less intimidating.

Conversely, aspects such as personal and social insecurity, mentioned by 79 participants (38.3%), armed conflicts and civil wars (N=28, 13.6%) and political persecution (N=34, 16.5%), highlight the influence of security and political instabilities on migratory flows and reveal the seriousness of the conditions of vulnerability faced in many countries of origin. These contexts, combined with human rights violations (N=15, 7.3%), discrimination, harassment and abuses (N=16, 7.8%) in their countries of origin generate an unsustainable environment, especially for women who face greater gender-based risks, and reinforce the perception that migration in many cases is a necessity.

Structural factors, such as lack of employment opportunities (N=39, 19.9%), economic and financial problems (N=34, 16.5%), difficulties in accessing public health services (N=18, 8.7%) and education (N=21, 10.1%), indicate that migration decisions may also be influenced by precarious socioeconomic conditions and point to gaps in the social welfare systems of countries of origin. These limitations can exacerbate gender inequalities, depriving women of essential resources for their health, autonomy and development and creates a hostile and uncertain environment where individual rights and freedoms can be suppressed.

Family reunification, mentioned by 62 women (30%), demonstrates the weight of family dynamics in migration decisions. This motivation underlines the importance of affective bonds as a driver for international mobility, especially in situations where families are dispersed due to conflict, previous migration of other members or economic issues. The need to restore family unity is a priority and often vital for the emotional and social well-being of migrants and also implies the disproportionate culture of domestic and family care applied to women.

Although natural disasters and climate change were mentioned by a minority of women (N=15, 7.2%), their inclusion suggests climate change is an important factor in global migration dynamics. These issues, combined with other structural factors, demonstrate how climate change and environmental disasters can destabilize entire communities, forcing displacement, especially in vulnerable countries.

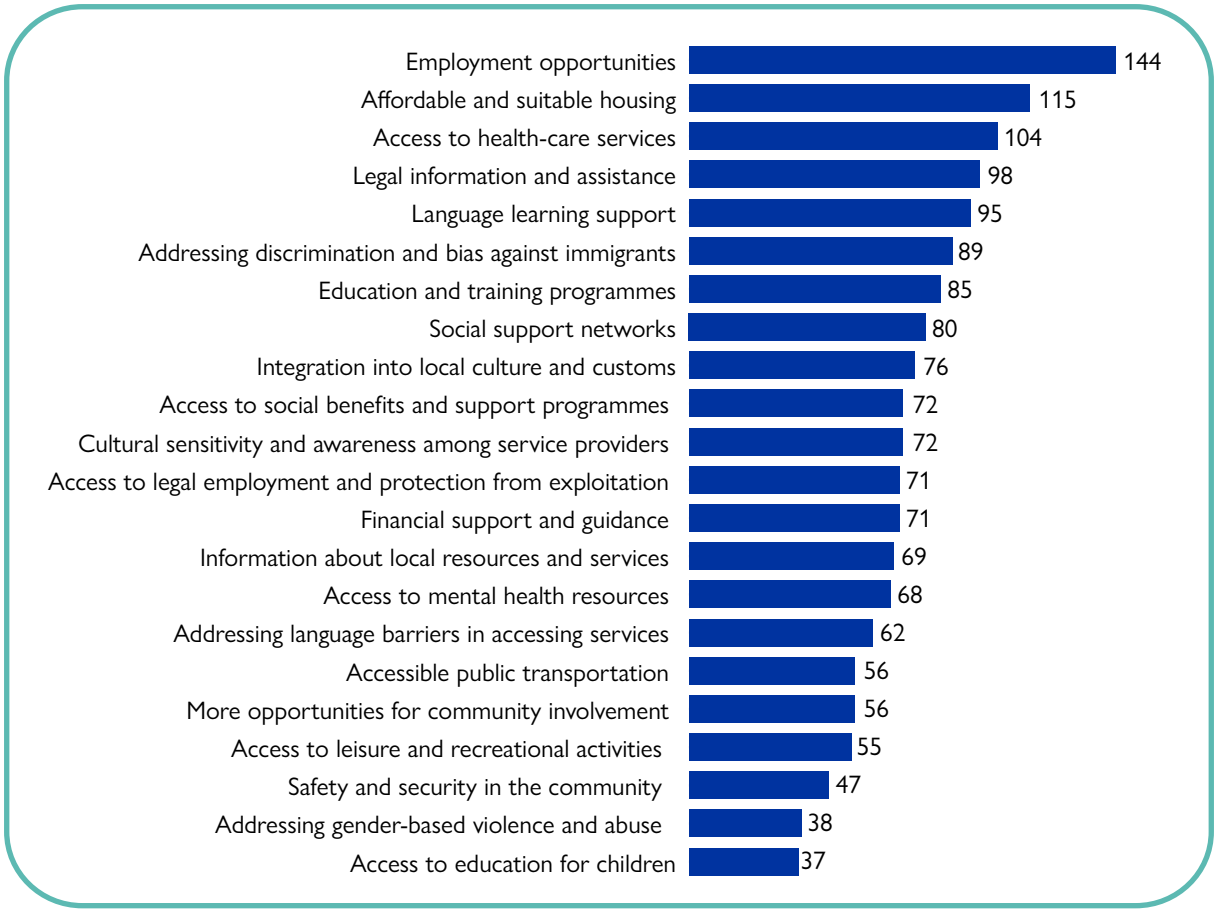
Finally, the low quality of life mentioned by 66 participants (32%) emerges as one of the most comprehensive and transversal factors in migratory motivations. The low quality of life reflects an adverse socioeconomic context and a lack of prospects for future improvements. For many women, being in this situation can generate an impulse to migrate, in search of conditions that make it possible to meet immediate needs and build a more promising future and possibilities for personal and family development that their contexts of origin were not able to provide.

These findings align with previous studies, which highlight that migration is rarely driven by a single factor but rather emerges from interconnected motivations such as economic insecurity, political instability, environmental pressures and aspirations for a better life. Migration decisions are thus shaped by aspirations and capabilities, personal agency, access to resources and the perceived risks of staying versus migrating.[7] For women, other specificities such as escaping patriarchal norms, domestic violence and economic marginalization, together with the demand for care work in destination countries, illustrate how gender dynamics profoundly shape migration process.[8]

Main needs for adaptation in Portugal

Participants highlighted diverse challenges in adapting to the social, economic and cultural context of Portugal. Figure 2 shows these needs and their frequency.

Figure 2. Main needs for adaptation in Portugal



Source: Original elaboration by the authors based on the results of the study.

[7] Bram Frouws, Jane Linekar, Julia Litzkow and Roberto Forin, *Why People Migrate: Insights and Key Messages Drawn from a Decade of MMC Research and 4Mi Data Collection*, Briefing paper (Mixed Migration Centre, 2022).

[8] Athina Anastasiadou, Jisu Kim, A. Ebru Şanlitürk, Helga de Valk and Emilio Zagheni, "Sex- and gender-based differences in the migration process: a systematic literature review", Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research Working Paper no. 39 (Rostock, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, 2023).

The lack of access to employment opportunities mentioned by 144 participants (69.9%) reflects the importance of work in promoting economic stability, autonomy and dignity. However, barriers faced, such as access to legal employment and protection from exploitation (N=71, 34.5%) mean that even when such opportunities are available, they do not always guarantee a level playing field or adequate protection, especially for women.[9]

Needs related to infrastructure and basic services were frequently reported, including adequate housing (N=115, 55.8%), access to health services (N=104, 50.5%), educational programmes (N=85, 41.3%), public transportation (N=56, 27.2%) and education for children (N=37, 18%). These elements form the basis for ensuring integration in the destination country and are reported by several sources of data around the world.[10]

Participants also highlighted the importance of having access to information on local resources and services (N=69, 33.5%), financial support and guidance (N=71, 34.5%), social benefit programmes (N=72, 34.9%), language learning support (N=95, 46.1%) and legal assistance (N=98, 47.6%). Two important points mentioned are linked here, namely, the need to address language barriers in accessing services (N=62, 30%) and the improvement in the cultural sensitivity of service providers (N=72, 34.9%). These types of support play a central role in the integration of migrant women, providing them with practical tools to navigate the administrative system and reduce structural inequalities.[11] Limited language fluency and a lack of culturally informed approaches hinder access to rights and services, exacerbating inequalities and complicating integration.

In terms of cultural integration, the participants highlighted the need for greater access to leisure and recreational activities (N=55, 26.6%), opportunities for community involvement (N=56, 27.2%), initiatives that promote integration into local culture and customs (N=76, 36.9%) and the creation of social support networks (N=80, 38.8%). These results reflect the importance of spaces that allow social interaction, leisure and the reinforcement of a sense of belonging, reducing isolation and promoting active participation in the host society.[12]

Finally, issues related to personal and social safety were also reported, including addressing gender-based violence and abuse (N=38, 18.4%), safety in the community (N=47, 22.8%) and discrimination and prejudice against immigrants (N=89, 43.2%). The findings align with existing literature, which highlights how migrant women often face heightened vulnerability to violence, exploitation and systemic discrimination, exacerbated by limited access to protection mechanisms and legal support.[13]

[9] IOM, "Gender and migration: Trends, gaps and urgent action" in *World Migration Report 2024* (Marie McAuliffe and Linda Adhiambo Oucho, eds.) (Geneva, IOM, 2024).
[10] Migration Data Portal, Migrant integration (last updated 24 September 2020).
[11] Frouws et al., 2022.
[12] Anastasiadou et al., 2023.
[13] European Institute for Gender Equality, *Sectoral Brief: Gender and Migration* (Vilnius, European Institute for Gender Equality, 2020).

Connection with the Pact for the Future and implications for migration policy

This study offers important contributions to understanding female migration in Portugal as a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by structural, social and emotional factors. From a local perspective, the results corroborate previous data on migrant integration in the country that highlight the urgent need to address gender inequality in the integration process, which undermines the inclusion and well-being of migrant women.[14] From a global perspective, the results contribute to the discussion about the intersection between migration and gender, reinforcing the importance of addressing the structural barriers faced by women in countries of origin, transit and reception to amplify the positive impacts of migration on societies of origin and destination.

Amplifying the voices of migrant women and responding to their needs is essential for the development of fact-based and gender-sensitive migration policies. This approach is connected to the commitments of the Pact for the Future and the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. The Pact's focus on women's representation in decision-making processes, particularly in peace and security contexts, as highlighted in Action 19, directly aligns with this study's emphasis on involving migrant women in policymaking. Strengthening gender-disaggregated data is a key step in ensuring that these policies are informed by the lived realities of migrant women, promoting more inclusive governance frameworks.

The Pact also emphasizes that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full participation of women and girls in all spheres. The findings of this study reinforce these principles by highlighting persistent barriers faced by migrant women in both origin and host countries. These barriers include limited access to employment, education, housing, basic services and social participation, as well as economic, political and legal challenges. Such issues resonate with Actions 8 and 31 of the Pact, which stress the urgency of removing structural and social barriers and investing in policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

In Portugal, some practices specifically designed for migrant women have emerged to address these challenges. Initiatives, such as the Flora Project, Namaste Portugal, the ENFEM Project, Vote With Her and the WIW Project, are centred on offering safe spaces for participation, legal assistance, civil rights, health and protection services, capacitation, psychosocial support and empowerment. Expanding these initiatives and developing new efforts could further enhance the integration and well-being of migrant women in the country.

Furthermore, the experiences of the participants in this study revealed issues, such as gender-based violence, discrimination, migration driven by armed conflicts, civil wars and human rights violations, both in their countries of origin and during their adaptation in Portugal, underlining the pervasive nature of these challenges. These findings align with Actions 14 and 19 of the Pact, which emphasize the protection of civilians, particularly women, in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the need to address conflict-related sexual violence and other specific

[14] IOM, 2024.

vulnerabilities faced by migrant women. In this context, programmes that address discrimination and promote equity, as well as initiatives focused on community safety and protection against gender-based violence, can help reduce these barriers.

Challenges for implementation

While this study provides information for implementing the commitments of the Pact for the Future actions locally and enriching global discussions, several challenges persist. Structural barriers, systemic discrimination, gender inequalities and the lack of integrated policies demand a coordinated approach across different levels of governance. The effective implementation of the Pact will depend on efforts to overcome institutional and cultural resistance, as well as sustainable financing to ensure the continuity of essential programmes, such as access to education, formal employment and support services.

Moreover, ensuring the gender dimension can be integrated in all phases of the policy cycle requires profound changes in migration governance models.[15] Transformation is needed to include these women's experiences in decision-making, ensuring that their perspectives shape solutions. The success of the Pact will also depend on the ability to adapt local solutions as identified in this study to the cultural and social specificities of different contexts, addressing the intersecting inequalities that affect migrant women.

Conclusion

Placing migrant women at the centre of the debate on migration governance, this study reinforces the need for policies that recognize their social, economic and cultural contributions. Only through inclusive and evidence-based policies will it be possible to turn migration into an opportunity for promoting social justice and reducing inequalities. By integrating the lessons learned locally, as in the case of Portugal, the global community can move forward in developing collaborative strategies that contribute to achieving the commitments made at the Summit of the Future and the SDGs.

[15] Ibid.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence among migrant and refugee women: Implications for policy and practice

Ronald Musizvingoza[1]

Abstract

This paper explores technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) against migrant and refugee women, highlighting their unique vulnerabilities online. Despite global gender equality commitments, migrant and refugee women face significant online risks due to intersecting identities. The absence of gender-responsive digital governance frameworks and migration-blind data governance frameworks worsens these risks. This paper advocates for integrated safeguards and policies to combat online violence and empower migrant and refugee women. Drawing on the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, the analysis highlights the need for an intersectional, gender-differentiated approach to digital inclusion, ensuring safe digital spaces and effective, evidence-based migration governance.

Introduction

Globally, about one in three women (736 million) experience physical or sexual violence, often by an intimate partner.[2] A newer form, TFGBV, uses digital tools to harm individuals based on gender, causing physical, emotional, social or economic damage. Worldwide, 38 per cent of women have been targeted, and 85 per cent have witnessed TFGBV.[3] Forms include online harassment, cyberbullying, misinformation and image-based abuse, leading to severe psychological distress.[4] For example, Indonesian migrant women have fallen victim to online scams and phishing attacks through fraudulent job offers and financial schemes, resulting in economic loss and exploitation.[5]

Governments and international organizations increasingly recognize TFGBV as critical. Still, most research and policies focus on specific groups like politicians and journalists. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread human rights violation, and the risks are even higher for women and girls in conflict or forced to flee due to challenges like language barriers, limited digital skills, unstable legal status and social isolation. While digital tools offer migrant and refugee women access to information and connectivity, they also expose them to harassment, data breaches, surveillance and misinformation. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, mainly Target 5.2, aims to "eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres,

[1] Ronald Musizvingoza is a researcher for the United Nations University Institute in Macau.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO), "Devastatingly pervasive: 1 in 3 women globally experience violence", Joint news release (9 March 2021).

[3] Economist Intelligence Unit, Measuring the prevalence of online violence against women, Infographic (1 March 2021).

[4] Somali Cerise, Ruby Lew, Kalliopi Mingeirou and Yeliz Osman, "Accelerating efforts to tackle online and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls", Policy brief (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2022).

[5] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Casinos, Cyber Fraud, and Trafficking in Persons for Forced Criminality in Southeast Asia*, Policy report (Bangkok, UNODC, 2023).

including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation," including TFGBV.[6]

This paper argues that the lack of gender-responsive digital governance in migration systems, coupled with the tendency of digital global governance frameworks to overlook migration, exacerbates TFGBV against migrant and refugee women and leaves gaps in protection for these populations. To fulfil global commitments to gender equality and safe digital spaces, migration governance must tackle technology misuse and address women's unique vulnerabilities. The United Nations Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation emphasizes addressing migrants' digital inclusion and risks through an intersectional, gendered approach. Drawing on the Global Digital Compact and the Pact for the Future, this analysis highlights the urgency of integrated policies to combat TFGBV and empower women in migration contexts while bridging the divide between digital governance and migration systems.

Gender, migration and technology: A complex interplay

The relationship between gender, migration and technology is complex. In 2024, nearly half (48%) of the world's 304 million international migrants were women,[7] who also make up 51 per cent of all refugees globally.[8] This is significant, as women migrants and refugees face unique challenges, including psychosocial stress, health complications (especially for pregnant women) and GBV. Additionally, as primary caretakers for children and elderly family members, women have an even greater need for protection and support. However, the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women migrants and refugees can vary greatly depending on factors, such as age, education, legal status and the sociopolitical context of their host countries.

In 2024, 68 per cent of the global population (5.8 billion) used the Internet,[9] and 54 per cent (4.3 billion) owned a smartphone, the primary means of Internet access.[10] The gender digital divide – the gap in access to and use of digital technology between men and women – persists, with 70 per cent of men and 65 per cent of women using the Internet globally. The divide is amplified by age, location, income, education and vulnerabilities such as migrant or refugee status. For instance, in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the Internet usage gap is 31 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively, while refugee women are 50 per cent less likely to own an Internet-enabled phone than non-displaced persons.[11] In refugee settlements, digital access barriers shaped by age, gender and education affect how individuals engage with technology, with local socioeconomic and cultural contexts further influencing the extent of digital inclusion or exclusion among refugee women.[12]

[6] United Nations, Annex IV: Final list of proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators, Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1) (2016).
[7] United Nations, *International Migrant Stock 2024: Key Facts and Figures*. UN DESA/POP/2024/DC/NO. 13 (New York, United Nations, 2024).
[8] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2023* (Copenhagen, UNHCR, 2024).
[9] International Telecommunication Union (ITU), *Measuring Digital Development – Facts and Figures 2024*, Vol. 2 (2024).
[10] GSM Association (GSMA), *The State of Mobile Internet Connectivity Report 2024* (London, GSMA, 2024).
[11] UNHCR, Digital gender equality, Guidance note (2023).
[12] International Labour Organization (ILO), *Digital Refugee Livelihoods and Decent Work: Towards Inclusion in a Fairer Digital Economy* (Geneva, ILO, 2021).

Digital technology has transformed migration by changing how people move, communicate and integrate. For migrant and refugee women, technology offers empowerment by providing access to information, keeping in touch with family, finding jobs, accessing mobile money, health care, education, legal services and building support networks. In Kenya, female refugees use mobile phones to access health, legal and educational information.[13] However, barriers like legal restrictions, discriminatory practices and inadequate representation in digital policies limit their access. While technology can empower refugee women, it can also increase their vulnerabilities, such as exposing them to predatory messages, misuse of their data and a heightened risk of trafficking while being a channel for harassment, stalking and abuse. This compounded marginalization makes it harder for migrant women to seek help, access opportunities or protect themselves from abuse.

Technology and migration are intertwined with gender, shaping experiences, access and outcomes. Women and girls are likely to experience a continuum of GBV at all stages of migration due to intersecting vulnerabilities, such as economic dependence, social stigma and isolation. Migrant women face more significant online risks due to the intersection of factors, such as race, age, education and migrant or refugee status, known as intersectional identities. In Uganda, 75 per cent of refugee women reported experiencing online violence – compared to 33 per cent of women overall.[14]

The divide, a structural form of TFGBV, may limit certain women's access to digital technology and reinforce gender inequalities through technology. For example, divides based on age and education intersect with gender and migration to amplify risks for migrant women. Younger women face more significant online vulnerabilities, while those with lower education may lack digital literacy, increasing their exposure to TFGBV and further entrenching the digital divide.

Setting the stage: Understanding technology-facilitated gender-based violence

TFGBV refers to harmful acts targeting individuals based on their gender, enabled or amplified by digital technologies. These acts include the following: (a) online harassment, such as threats, stalking or hate speech; (b) non-consensual sharing of intimate images; (c) doxxing (revealing private information without consent); (d) impersonation to manipulate or harm; and (e) exploitation or trafficking through digital platforms. Women and marginalized genders are disproportionately affected, as TFGBV amplifies and reflects existing gender inequalities.[15] Evidence documented the experiences of online GBV among women, highlighting the widespread nature of TFGBV across different regions and groups.[16]

Migrant and refugee women face higher risks due to displacement-related vulnerabilities, such as limited legal protections, language barriers and lack of financial resources. Many rely heavily on digital platforms for communication or navigating migration processes, which makes

[13] Matthew Downer, Helen Croxson, Anne Delaporte, Maha Khan and Jenny Casswell, *Bridging the Mobile Gender Gap for Refugees: A Case Study of Women's Use of Mobile Phones in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement and Kiziba Refugee Camp* (Atlanta, GSMA, 2019).

[14] Ashnah Kalemera, "Building digital literacy and security capacity of women refugees in Uganda", Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) (9 December 2019).

[15] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-Facilitated Gender-based Violence* (New York, UNFPA, 2021).

[16] UNFPA, *Understanding Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence in Asia: A Qualitative Study* (UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, 2024).

them susceptible to online exploitation. Their precarious legal status, economic dependence and isolation from support networks further exacerbate these vulnerabilities. For example, Rohingya[17] refugee women in Bangladesh reported predatory messages and online abuse. While in Myanmar, migrants were trapped in cyberslavery camps, and African migrant women in the Middle East were targets of online scams and phishing attacks.[18] The broader digital divide compounds the issue, as women in marginalized communities often lack access to digital literacy, making it difficult to identify risks or navigate online spaces safely.

TFGBV does not exist in isolation but as part of a broader continuum of GBV. The abuse experienced online often mirrors or exacerbates the harm women face offline, with real-world severe consequences. For instance, doxxing – a common tactic in TFGBV – can expose a woman's location, migration status or contact details, leading to physical stalking, assault or trafficking. For example, migrant women in various European countries have faced image-based abuse, where intimate photos are shared online without their consent.

Despite its severity, addressing TFGBV remains a significant challenge. Awareness of the issue is low among policymakers, law enforcement and even the public, leading to insufficient responses. Many legal frameworks fail to account for new forms of technology abuse, such as image-based sexual exploitation or cyberstalking, leaving survivors unprotected. Cross-border jurisdictional challenges make it harder to hold perpetrators accountable, especially when digital platforms or victims are in different regions. Additionally, there is a lack of reliable data on TFGBV, especially its prevalence among marginalized groups such as migrant and refugee women. This absence of evidence limits the ability of policymakers and organizations to design effective interventions. Social and cultural norms also hinder progress, with victim-blaming attitudes, stigma and a general lack of trust in law enforcement preventing many survivors from coming forward. At the same time, the absence of gender-responsive digital governance migration and digital global governance frameworks to overlook migration exacerbates frameworks, which means that women often face online spaces without safeguards.

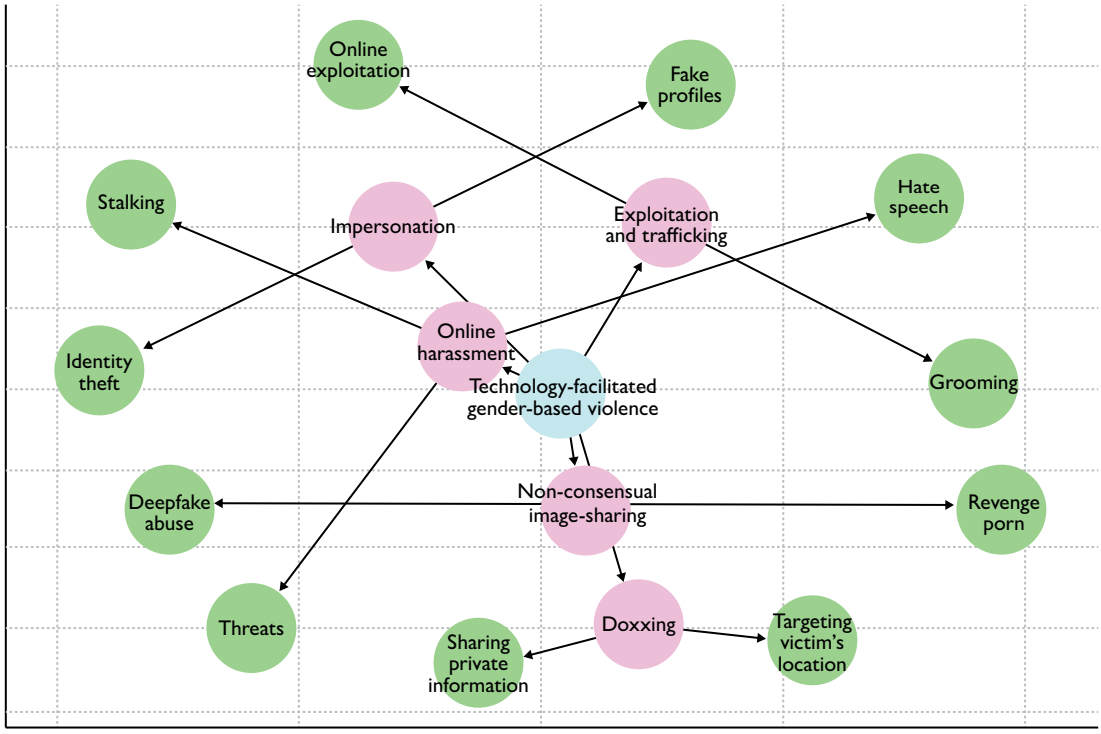
Finally, systemic issues like under-resourced legal, psychological and social services make TFGBV more complex for migrant and refugee women. Many women face language barriers and do not have access to the culturally sensitive or gender-specific services required to report abuse or seek help. In Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, South Africa, Rwanda and Uganda, women facing TFGBV often avoid reporting due to fear of stigma, lack of trust in authorities, complex legal processes and the risk of being criminalized themselves, exacerbating their vulnerability and hindering justice.[19]

[17] Note that the term *Rohingya* as used to describe the Muslim peoples of Rakhine State, Myanmar, is not accepted by the Government of the Union of Myanmar, which in June 2016 issued an order directing State-owned media to use the term "Muslim community in Rakhine State".

[18] Suneth Perera and Issariya Praithongyaem, "My hell in Myanmar cyber slavery camp" (BBC, 21 April 2024); Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, *A Job at Any Cost: Experiences of African Women Migrant Domestic Workers in the Middle East* (2024).

[19] Rutgers, *Decoding Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence: A Reality Check from Seven Countries* (2024).

Figure 1. Forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence



Source: Author's own elaboration.

Global legal and policy frameworks: International responses to technology-facilitated gender-based violence

International frameworks offer significant opportunities to address TFGBV, primarily by focusing on human rights, gender equality and technological safeguards. Instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women General Recommendation no. 35 explicitly recognize violence against women as a continuum that extends into digital spaces, providing a foundation for States to interpret and apply existing provisions to combat TFGBV.[20] Frameworks, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, emphasize gender-responsive approaches and international cooperation, paving the way for cross-border efforts to mitigate online violence.[21] Similarly, global commitments, such as the SDGs and the Beijing Platform for Action, stress the importance of eliminating

[20] United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, General recommendation no. 35 on Gender-based violence against women, Updating General recommendation no. 19 (CEDAW/C/GC/35) (26 July 2017).

[21] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM): OHCHR and migration (n.d.); UNHCR, Global Compact on Refugees (n.d.).

GBV and advancing digital equity, underscoring the need to integrate technological protections into broader policy initiatives. The Istanbul Convention, though not explicitly mentioning digital violence, addresses it through its definitions in Articles 2, 34 and 40, which cover online and technology-facilitated violence. It also provides practical measures for tackling TFGBV, such as a broad definition of violence against women, a focus on asylum and migration issues, a cross-border approach and requirements for parties to collect data on gender-related crimes. Furthermore, the United Nations Resolution on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age highlights the intersection of technology and human rights, calling for enhanced privacy protections online.

Despite these opportunities, significant gaps hinder the comprehensive protection of migrant and refugee women from TFGBV. The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention) and its 1967 Protocol focus on physical violence and persecution, but they do not address issues such as online harassment, which were not common when they were created. These frameworks will unlikely be updated to include modern forms of violence. Also, approximately 22.8 per cent of countries still need to ratify the Convention. Similarly, the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration lack specific provisions for technology-related violence, which may limit their effectiveness in addressing the unique vulnerabilities of women in digital environments. The non-binding nature of the United Nations Resolution on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age further complicates enforcement and limits its impact.

Furthermore, migration is mainly absent in global digital governance frameworks. For instance, the United Nations High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation focuses on digital inclusion and human rights in areas, such as digital public goods, economy and society but does not address migration-related issues. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) AI Principles emphasize artificial intelligence (AI) ethics in business and environmental sustainability but ignore migration and its related challenges. The Internet Governance Forum covers broad issues like cybersecurity and digital public policy but excludes specific mention of migration. While the General Data Protection Regulation addresses migration data, its complexity and global compliance challenges limit its effectiveness, especially for vulnerable populations like migrants and refugees.

Cross-border legal challenges also prevent effective prosecution of TFGBV, as many countries need more frameworks, resources or political will. This highlights the failure of international legal systems to keep up with technological advancements, leaving gaps in protection for migrant and refugee women. While gender data gaps exist, collecting data on women migrants and refugees poses threats to privacy risks, potential misuse and ethical concerns, emphasizing the need for best practices to ensure their safety and fill gaps in international frameworks.

Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact: Implications for technology-facilitated gender-based violence

The Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact offer opportunities to combat TFGBV against refugee women. The Pact emphasizes gender equality, pledging to achieve the following: (a) eliminate violence against women (Action 8); (b) address GBV in conflict settings (Action 19); (c) prevent technology misuse (Action 27); and (d) leverage innovation for gender equality (Action 31). The Global Digital Compact complements these goals through the following: (a) promoting a safe digital environment (Objective 3); (b) equitable data governance for vulnerable groups (Objective 4); and (c) ethical management of emerging technologies (Objective 5). These frameworks underscore the importance of leveraging technology responsibly to safeguard refugee women from online abuse, enhance data protection and establish ethical standards for technology in migration systems.[22]

Table 1. Key provisions of the Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact on technology-facilitated gender-based violence

Framework	Key provisions	Implications for technology-facilitated gender-based violence
Pact for the Future	Action 8c: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls	Aligns with efforts to combat online harassment and TFGBV.
	Action 19c: Strengthen women, peace and security agenda	Focuses on eradicating GBV in conflict and post-conflict settings.
	Action 27: Mitigate risks posed by technology misuse through global cooperation	Promotes international collaboration to address TFGBV.
	Action 31: Advance gender equality through science, technology and innovation	Highlights the role of technology in improving the lives of women and girls.
Global Digital Compact	Objective 3: Create a safe, inclusive and secure digital space	Develops norms to protect human rights and safety in digital environments.
	Objective 4: Advocate for responsible and equitable data governance	Ensures protection of refugee data and reduces vulnerability to exploitation.
	Objective 5: Governance frameworks for emerging technologies	Ensures AI is developed with a commitment to human rights and equity.

Source: Author's own elaboration.

[22] United Nations, *Summit of the Future Outcome Documents: Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations* (2024).

The Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact offer crucial frameworks to address TFGBV against refugee women. Still, their success depends on proper implementation within migration systems. Both emphasize closing the digital divide and ensuring technology access for vulnerable groups, including refugee women. However, more than access alone is required with safeguards against exploitation. The Pact commits to eliminating all violence against women, aligning with global TFGBV efforts, but more gender-sensitive approaches are needed. Both frameworks stress human rights and safe digital spaces, though they could address emerging technology risks more explicitly. Effective data governance and security are vital to protect refugee women. The Pact calls for international cooperation, but more apparent coordination mechanisms are required. Both documents highlight the need for digital literacy, yet practical implementation must be clarified. Finally, the Pact stresses the need for global cooperation to address migration, ensuring the safety and rights of migrant women and refugees. The Global Digital Compact lacks a specific mention of migration, which overlooks the unique digital vulnerabilities and needs of migrant and refugee populations. While they stress the need for data, it does not provide clear plans for better data management, potentially exposing migrants to risks.

Conclusions and policy recommendations

The absence of gender-responsive digital governance in migration systems, combined with the oversight of migration in global digital frameworks, worsens TFGBV against migrant and refugee women and creates significant protection gaps. Current frameworks fail to address the unique vulnerabilities of migrant women and overlook migration issues in digital governance, creating significant gaps in protection.

Addressing TFGBV requires tackling gender inequality, and improvements for migrant and refugee women are likely to depend on broader advancements in the situation of all women. While the Global Digital Compact and Pact for the Future offer valuable guidelines, more actionable steps are needed for effective implementation in migration contexts. To achieve meaningful progress, the following targeted actions are recommended:

- **Develop gender-responsive digital frameworks:** Governments should create a task force ensuring collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including women's organizations, migration experts and data protection authorities, to integrate digital safety measures, data protection protocols and GBV safeguards tailored for migrant and refugee women. The eSafety Commissioner of Australia collaborates with government agencies, tech companies and community organizations to enhance online safety and protect vulnerable populations.
- **Enhance digital literacy and awareness:** To enhance digital literacy and awareness, governments and organizations can hold workshops for refugee women to teach online safety, data privacy and abuse reporting using simple language and practical examples. Programmes such as the International Rescue Committee's Safe Space to Learn Digital Literacy prioritize safety while teaching these skills.

- **Strengthen data governance within migration contexts:** To strengthen data governance within migration contexts, governments should implement robust security protocols and ethical standards for managing sensitive migration data, ensuring alignment with global and regional frameworks such as the General Data Protection Regulation.
- **Promote gender-disaggregated data collection:** Collect sensitive data from migrants by obtaining informed consent, minimizing data collection, anonymizing information, securing storage and limiting access to protect their safety and privacy. For example, the Biometric Identity Management System of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees collects only essential biometric data to ensure accurate identification while minimizing personal data collection, balancing the need for information with privacy protection.

Digital humanitarianism in focus: How the Summit of the Future can strengthen platforms like Martynka

Marika Jeziorek[1]

Introduction

In a rapidly changing global landscape, digital services such as Martynka have emerged as vital tools for mitigating the unique vulnerabilities faced by displaced women. Created in March 2022 by Nastia Podorożnia, a Ukrainian living in Poland, Martynka is a humanitarian support service hosted on Telegram and Instagram.[2] Operating primarily as a chatbot on Telegram, it leverages the platform's accessibility to provide real-time, multilingual support in Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and English. Users can access tailored assistance, including information about legal aid providers, geolocation tracking to prevent trafficking and connections to psychosocial support services. This article explores Martynka's operations, user experiences and broader significance, drawing on its social media content and media articles. Designed to support displaced Ukrainian women both within Ukraine and in neighbouring Poland, Martynka addresses critical gaps left by overwhelmed or unwilling State and supranational systems.

Martynka's services are crucial for women facing heightened risks of exploitation and violence during displacement. According to a July 2024 Facebook post, its hotline assists approximately 130 refugees and migrants each month, addressing crises, such as violence, human trafficking, unwanted pregnancies, depression, workplace bullying and suicidal thoughts.[3] In 2023, the platform responded to nearly 1,000 new requests for help, with 22 per cent of these from repeat users seeking additional support for evolving needs, such as transitioning from psychological assistance to legal aid.[4] This data highlights Martynka's importance in meeting the complex, ongoing needs of displaced women (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Image taken from Martynka's Facebook page, detailing data for the year 2023, showing the scale of user requests and repeat cases.

[1] Marika Jeziorek is a PhD Candidate in Global Governance at Wilfrid Laurier University based at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Ontario, Canada. She helps coordinate the BSIA Migration + Technology Hub and supports several ongoing research projects, including those focused on migrant narratives, institutionalized precarity and software as a medical device.

[2] WADI, "How Martynka helps Ukrainian women fleeing the war" (7 May 2022).

[3] Martynka, Help us raise €10,000 to support our beneficiaries!, Facebook post, 12 July 2024.

[4] Martynka, What did Martynka do in 2023?, Facebook post, 31 December 2023.

Despite its essential role, Martynka faces significant challenges, including sustainable funding and privacy risks associated with reliance on third-party platforms, such as Telegram and Instagram.[5] Addressing these issues requires robust institutional support and technical safeguards. The Summit of the Future, organized by the United Nations, offers a framework for tackling these challenges through the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact.[6] These frameworks promote sustainable development, gender equality and responsible digital governance, offering a pathway to strengthen services like Martynka. However, realizing this potential will require overcoming significant barriers in funding, privacy and State collaboration.

The potential of the Summit of the Future Outcome Documents for digital services like Martynka

The Summit of the Future Outcome Documents, including the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, provide critical frameworks for strengthening digital services like Martynka. These documents emphasize inclusive development, digital equality and responsible governance, aligning closely with Martynka's mission to support displaced women.

The Pact for the Future prioritizes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as essential to sustainable development. Martynka contributes to these goals by offering resources, such as legal aid referrals, health-care information and connections to psychosocial support services, which help mitigate gendered vulnerabilities. The Global Digital Compact complements this by promoting secure and inclusive digital practices. For Martynka, this could mean stronger protections for sensitive data like geolocation tracking and initiatives to close digital divides by improving digital literacy, subsidizing Internet costs and ensuring mobile-friendly access.

In conflict zones like Ukraine, where Internet availability and pricing are often volatile, displaced populations face significant challenges.[7] Relocation and income loss frequently exacerbate these barriers, making digital connectivity unaffordable for many. Aligning with these frameworks could help Martynka improve access to resources by fostering partnerships with international organizations and funders. For instance, demonstrating compliance with recognized standards of gender equity and digital governance might unlock grants and strengthen credibility with potential donors.

[5] Martynka, 2024; Anthony Cuthbertson, "Instagram is 'most invasive app,' new study shows" (*The Independent*, 18 March 2021); Henry Foy, Alice Hancock, Paola Tamma and Adrienne Klasa, "EU investigating Telegram over user numbers" (*Financial Times*, 28 August 2024); Christopher Miller, "Telegram CEO defends new privacy policy, says user data still safe" (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 28 August 2018); Kremlingram, Home (accessed 20 December 2024); Nathalie Marechal, "From Russia with crypto: A political history of Telegram", 8th USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI 18, 2018); EU Neighbours East, "The Kremlin has entered the chat: How to protect your personal data on Telegram and avoid the bait of propaganda" (11 April 2024).

[6] United Nations, *Summit of the Future Outcome Documents: Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations* (2024).

[7] Linda Leung, "Telecommunications across borders: Refugees' technology use during displacement", *Telecommunications Journal of Australia*, 60(4):58.1–58.13 (2010); Monika Thakur, "War, women and forced displacement", *Women's Studies International Forum*, 98(3):102754 (2023); Patti Tamara Lenard and Christine Straehle, *Legislated Inequality: Temporary Labour Migration in Canada* (Canada, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012):23; United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General on the Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (A/74/821) (29 May 2020).

However, translating these principles into tangible outcomes requires targeted funding and strategic partnerships. These measures are vital to operationalizing the commitments of the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, ensuring Martynka can expand its reach while maintaining user safety and privacy.

Challenges to realizing this potential

While the Summit of the Future Outcome Documents provide a promising framework, significant obstacles remain that could hinder the impact of digital services like Martynka. Achieving sustainable governance, funding and data privacy requires addressing challenges, such as inconsistent funding mechanisms, reliance on third-party platforms like Telegram and the absence of clear oversight frameworks to enable strong encryption without compromising user accessibility. Collaborations with privacy-focused tech firms and migration-focused institutions could mitigate these issues by ensuring robust technical safeguards and operational flexibility.

Funding constraints

A critical challenge to Martynka's sustainability is the lack of stable funding. As a non-profit digital service, Martynka depends largely on inconsistent donations and short-term grants. This dependency has shown that it can limit its ability to scale services, innovate and respond effectively to changing conditions on the ground.[8] The Pact for the Future calls for greater financing for sustainable development and crisis response, but for digital services like Martynka to benefit, these financial commitments need to translate into accessible, sustained funding mechanisms at both the international and national levels. Without more consistent support from governments and multilateral organizations, digital services like Martynka may struggle to maintain their services, let alone expand their reach to new areas or crises.

Privacy and data security

Data privacy remains a significant concern, particularly when platforms handle sensitive information, such as geolocation data and personal health details. For Martynka, this issue is especially critical given its reliance on Telegram and Instagram – third-party platforms that have faced scrutiny over their data-handling practices. While privacy and data security are widely discussed by general users of Telegram and Instagram, the analysis of Martynka revealed no explicit discussions about these concerns from its users. However, this does not necessarily indicate a lack of awareness. Given the life-threatening crises Martynka's users face, such as escaping violence or trafficking, immediate survival likely takes precedence over long-term considerations about data protection. This highlights the ethical responsibility of digital services like Martynka to proactively ensure user data is secure.

The Global Digital Compact's commitment to secure and responsible digital governance offers a potential pathway for addressing these risks, but operationalizing such standards requires clear protocols, technical safeguards and possibly State-backed guarantees. For Martynka, ensuring privacy and security could involve partnerships with established technology companies or support from governments to safeguard user data. These collaborations, however, must also prioritize the confidentiality and autonomy of users to prevent exploitation or misuse. For example, if Martynka's geolocation tracking feature is compromised, it could put users relying on it for safety at great risk.

[8] Martynka, 2024.

Need for State involvement and institutional support

While non-State actors such as Martynka fill critical gaps in humanitarian responses, long-term solutions require active involvement from State institutions. As a non-governmental platform, Martynka currently operates largely outside formal migration governance frameworks, which limits its ability to coordinate directly with State and international agencies. The Pact for the Future's emphasis on strengthened multilateral cooperation and inclusive governance suggests a potential role for State-backed support or public–private partnerships. However, involving States also raises questions of control, oversight and the risk of compromising Martynka's operational flexibility and user trust. Balancing the independence of platforms like Martynka with the accountability and resources that State involvement could bring is essential for sustainable governance, yet it remains a delicate negotiation that each platform must approach cautiously.

Policy recommendations for strengthening digital services in migration governance

To enable digital services like Martynka to fulfil their potential in addressing the vulnerabilities of displaced women, targeted policy interventions are essential. These recommendations draw on the Summit of the Future Outcome Documents' commitments, proposing actionable steps to address funding, privacy and State collaboration challenges. By implementing these solutions, policymakers can better align digital initiatives with the broader goals of sustainable migration governance.

Establish long-term funding mechanisms through multilateral partnerships

The Pact for the Future's call for sustainable development financing offers an avenue to create long-term funding mechanisms specifically for non-State digital services. Governments and international organizations could develop a dedicated funding pool for humanitarian technology solutions, supporting platforms like Martynka with reliable, multi-year funding. This approach could involve contributions from States, international financial institutions and philanthropic organizations, ensuring that platforms focused on crisis response and migration governance have the resources needed to sustain their operations and expand their impact. Furthermore, establishing multilateral partnerships with organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or IOM could facilitate resource-sharing and improve platform reach.

Develop a privacy and data governance framework for crisis platforms

The Global Digital Compact's emphasis on data privacy and responsible governance is critical for digital services like Martynka, where data sensitivity is high. A standardized privacy framework tailored for humanitarian digital tools could provide clear guidelines on data collection, storage and usage, minimizing risks to vulnerable users. Such a framework could be designed collaboratively by digital rights organizations, technology experts and migration-focused institutions to ensure that it meets both technical and ethical standards. This framework should address the following:

- **Encryption standards** for data transmission to prevent unauthorized access.

- **Clear policies on data retention** to ensure that information is only kept as long as necessary for security purposes.
- **Guidelines for consent** that allow users to control how their information is used, reinforcing trust in the organization.

These privacy protocols should be adopted on the international level to provide consistent safeguards across borders, ensuring that users are protected regardless of where they access the service.

Create public–private partnerships to enhance platform resilience and reach

Integrating digital platforms like Martynka into formal migration governance frameworks can enhance their legitimacy, expand their reach and provide operational stability.[9] A public–private partnership model would allow non-State actors like Martynka to retain their operational autonomy while benefiting from the institutional support of government entities. For instance, Martynka could collaborate with State agencies to provide supplementary services, such as verified legal aid referrals or access to health services, which would otherwise be inaccessible to many displaced women. By aligning with the goals of the Pact for the Future, governments can support these partnerships through streamlined policy processes and incentives for private sector involvement.

However, these partnerships must ensure that Martynka's mission remains intact and that it does not become subject to political influences that could undermine its independence or compromise the safety of users. To balance this, governments and Martynka could establish oversight boards or joint governance committees to ensure accountability without interfering with operations.

Leverage international support for digital literacy and connectivity initiatives

To fully benefit from digital tools, displaced women must have the knowledge and resources to access them effectively. The Global Digital Compact calls for closing digital divides, which aligns with Martynka's mission of accessible support for vulnerable populations. Governments, tech companies and non-governmental organizations can collaborate on digital literacy programmes and infrastructure investments in regions hosting displaced populations, ensuring that users not only have access to technology but also the skills to use it safely.

These initiatives could include the following:

- **Digital literacy workshops** conducted in community centres, schools and other accessible locations where displaced people gather.
- **Partnerships with telecommunications companies** to improve Internet connectivity in areas with high displaced populations.
- **Mobile-friendly versions** of digital platforms and apps to facilitate access for users with limited digital experience.

By making these investments, stakeholders can reduce the barriers displaced women face in accessing digital support, aligning with the Compact's broader goals for an inclusive digital future.

[9] Swati Srivastava, *Hybrid Sovereignty in World Politics* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Develop an independent digital infrastructure for enhanced security and autonomy

To address the persistent risks posed by reliance on third-party platforms, Martynka should consider transitioning to an independent app tailored to its operational needs. This app would ensure greater control over sensitive user data, such as geolocation tracking, while aligning with the General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy regulations. Developing a secure, stand-alone platform would also enhance user trust and reduce exposure to potential breaches or misuse of data. While resource-intensive, this approach would offer a long-term solution to privacy and security concerns. To achieve this, Martynka could collaborate with privacy experts and seek funding from international organizations, philanthropic donors or technology companies committed to ethical digital governance.

Conclusion

The Summit of the Future Outcome Documents, including the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, offer a transformative framework to strengthen the governance and sustainability of digital services like Martynka. By prioritizing gender equality, digital inclusion and responsible data governance, these commitments present an opportunity for Martynka to enhance its role in supporting displaced women and closing gaps in traditional humanitarian responses. However, translating this vision into tangible outcomes requires targeted action to address significant challenges, including funding instability, data privacy concerns and the need for State involvement.

The proposed policy recommendations – such as establishing multilateral funding mechanisms, creating a standardized privacy framework, fostering public–private partnerships and exploring independent digital infrastructure – provide actionable pathways to overcome these barriers. By implementing these measures, stakeholders can ensure that digital services like Martynka remain viable and continue adapting to the evolving needs of displaced women.

Realizing the full potential of the Summit of the Future Outcome Documents demands sustained collaboration and resource allocation. Only through coordinated efforts among governments, international organizations, tech companies and civil society can initiatives like Martynka continue to serve as lifelines for displaced women. Martynka's experience illustrates the urgent need for collective action to build a more secure and inclusive future for all.

Of minority participation and policymaking: Engaging Afro-Greek immigrant youth on racist (cyber)bullying experiences

Kainaat Maqbool[1]

Introduction: Towards an inclusive future for Afro-Greek youth

Greece, often called the gateway of Europe, occupies a geographic and symbolic position on Europe's periphery. It is a key destination for clandestine migrants, with around 1,335,967 entering the country since 2014.[2] Of this, about 55 per cent are migrants from Africa.

The presence of Africans in Greece is not new,[3] yet they constitute one of the most marginalized groups. Second-generation Afro-Greek youth, born to migrants or brought to Greece as children, represent an increasingly underserved segment of this population. They speak Greek, attend local schools and consider the country their first or only home. They have strong ties to Greece but often lack both legal and social citizenship. The latter is manifested by the absence of political, civil and social rights available to them.[4] The result is systematic discrimination,[5] including racially motivated bullying and cyberbullying. Societal and cultural stigmas associated with African and immigrant identities worsen these obstacles, and insufficient policy responses further fuel the biases. This article aims to examine these issues through the exploration of the various contours of racial (cyber)bullying. It will show how Afro-Greek perspectives can help create effective anti-bullying and anti-racism policies.

By using the narrative accounts and lived realities of Afro-Greek youth as a case, this study asserts that social integration and inclusion of Afro-descendants can only be fostered by valuing and acting on their voices. Involving them can make policies more accessible and actionable. It can also make them more relevant to their realities. This aligns with the outcome of the United Nations Summit of the Future. It positions youth empowerment as central to sustainable development and integration. Actions 34 to 37[6] specifically highlight the following:

- Ensuring the full enjoyment of youth rights and fostering their social inclusion;
- Protecting marginalized groups, including Afro-descendants, from violence and discrimination;
- Encouraging young people to take an active role in shaping the policies that affect their lives.

[1] Kainaat Maqbool is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral fellow for the PARTICIPATE Project funded by the European Union (Ref ID 101073332). She is currently doing her research under the supervision of Liza Tsaliki at the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Athens, Greece.

[2] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Operational Data Portal (accessed 3 December 2024).

[3] Frank M. Snowden, *Blacks in Antiquity: Ethiopians in the Greco-Roman Experience* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1970).

[4] Konstantinos Tsitselikis, "Citizenship in Greece: Present challenges for future changes" in *Multiple Citizenship as a Challenge to European Nation-States* (D. Kalekin-Fishman and P. Pitkänen, eds.) (Rotterdam, Sense Publishers, 2007), pp. 145–170.

[5] Ageliki Lefkaditou, "Observations on race and racism in Greece", *Journal of Anthropological Sciences*, 95:329–338 (2017).

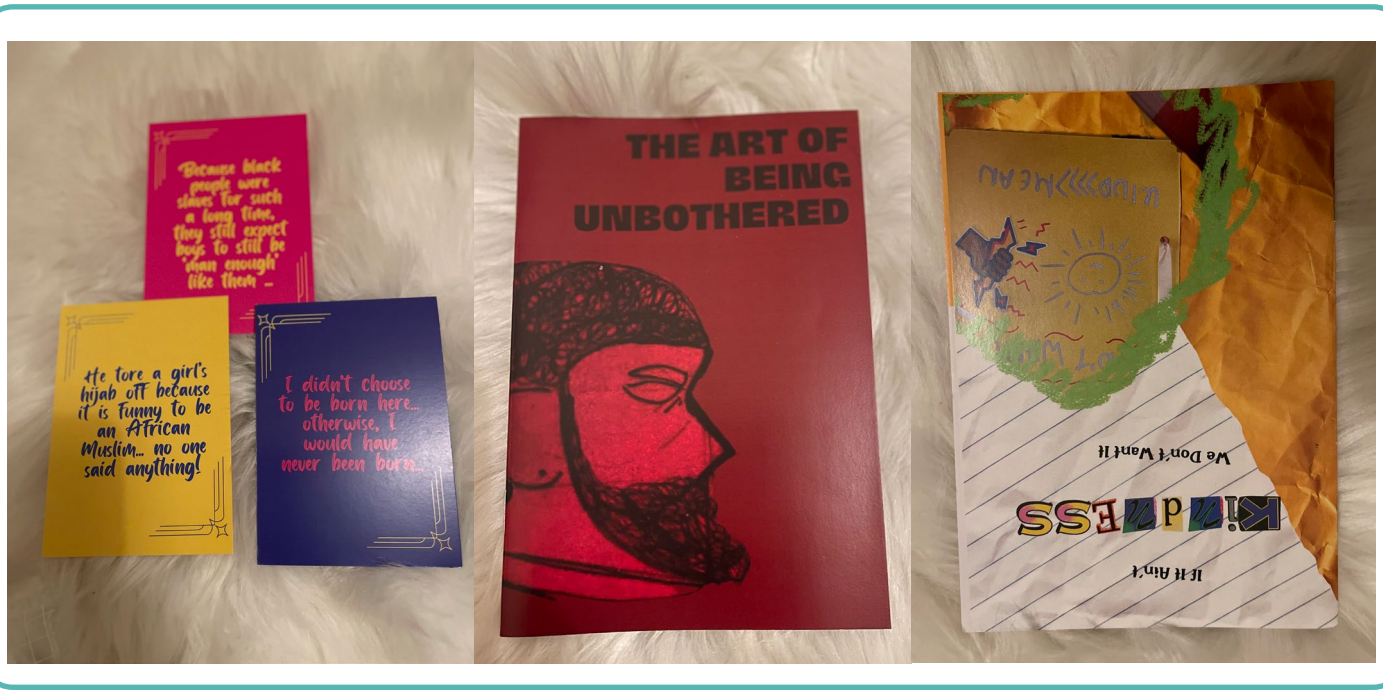
[6] United Nations, *Summit of the Future Outcome Documents: Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations* (2024).

Methodology

To explore Afrophobic racial bullying, both online and offline, Afro-Greek youth were involved in Participatory Action Research. Before the data collection, the study focused on developing an inclusive qualitative methodology. It sought to explore lived relationships and engage the youth in policymaking through co-designing and co-involvement. This included partnering with the youth in designing the objectives, research questions, methodology and implementation. The fieldwork was conducted in Athens, Greece, between February and October 2024 with 23 second-generation youth, aged 14 to 18. They originated from different African countries including Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

The first step included an onboarding session where the prospective youth were briefed about the research concept. Those interested were then involved in designing the project, including deciding the diverse creative approaches employed to investigate the research matter at hand. After finalizing the research project and the plan for the creative, arts-based focus group workshops, the participants were divided into groups of four or five each. The group then met on the day of the workshop and used creative methods, such as zine making, poster creation, campaign designs and other artworks to explore racial (cyber)bullying. Succeeding the workshops were interviews with everyone involved. The individual discussions also involved photo elicitations, letter-writing and journal notes as modes of discussion and negotiation of racial (cyber)bullying experiences. Thus, the youth involved each met with the researcher at least three times throughout a couple of months.

Figure 1: Some of the content created with the youth.



Source: Original photos taken by the author after a public display of the artworks on 24 September 2024 at the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Athens, Greece.

Findings: The endemic challenge of racial (cyber)bullying

The research found that Afro-Greek youth face complex challenges in the form of race-based (cyber)bullying:

In schools

Afro-Greek migrant youth regularly encounter racially motivated violence and bullying in schools. They shared accounts of racial slurs, stereotyping and exclusion in educational settings. The excessive usage of racial epithets, including the N-word, shows a lack of sensitivity. Stereotypes from African heritage, such as slave ancestry and the hypersexualized image of women, are often used to disenfranchise Afro-Greeks. These are not isolated incidents. They represent a broader issue in Greek society, unable to fully accept its minority populations.

Most male Afro-Greeks said that retaliation for physical violence led to disproportionate disciplinary measures against them. This alienates them and discourages them from seeking help from the school. Furthering this is the inadequate support provided by the teachers and school professionals. The problem is worsened by institutional inaction. Personal biases lead to an unwillingness to address racially charged bullying. Dave (17) from Nigeria highlighted:

> Teachers think that it is just kids being kids, you know … but when we tell them it is serious and we stand up for ourselves, then it becomes a big problem all of a sudden, and even then, we are the ones who are sent home.

Many teachers lack the necessary training to support diversity and inclusion in their classrooms. Also, institutional policies often ignore the vulnerabilities of minority identities. The Afro-Greek youth are often left to fend for themselves against racial attacks. Schools do not willingly take part in the extra work needed to make them inclusive for all.

In public spaces

Outside schools, these encounters are also frequent through the manifestation of systemic racism. Afro-Greek youth suffer from inefficient migrants' rights policies in daily interactions. The youth's exclusion is reinforced by constant alienation and insufficient minority representation in the public domain. Upon asking the question about policies related to racist interactions in public, the focus group went into mayhem with everyone talking all at once. The compounded argument was that no discussion of current policies should happen without accounting for the inefficacy of their implementation. They strongly asserted that making a policy is a menial step if a broader, societal-level change to enforce and abide by it would not happen. This deeply resonated with the Afro-Greek youth in the study, as indicated by Sara (14) from Ethiopia who proclaimed:

> This [referring to the Greek anti-racism policies] got to be the funniest of them all. I am a kid, but I know what you mean by this… what government and what law? Anyone can say anything to us in public, check our bags or stop us, but no one would say or do anything. No law works for us.

As quoted, racial prejudices are spread by the following: (a) random police sweeps exclusively targeting minorities; (b) excessive scrutiny by law enforcement; (c) being followed in stores; and (d) racial slurs. Blossom (16) from Kenya summarized the group discussion by mentioning:

> It is simple. We do not belong. As long as we look like the way we do, we will be stopped and checked and constantly harmed. We will never be considered Greek or treated like one no matter how much we try.

The Declaration on Future Generations brings to the fore the guiding principles of intergenerational equity, the empowerment of marginalized youth and the need for inclusivity. The lack of institutional support and trust is a systemic barrier to public participation. While the Declaration has committed to accountability in governance, there remains to be seen a framework that would have a potent impact on racist behavioural manifestations of the policymakers' viewpoints.

In digital spaces

Digital platforms and the anonymity afforded by them have magnified racial bullying. The youth claimed that the bullying became much worse when the bully continued the abuse online after school, thus transcending the physical boundaries of reporting mechanisms. The abuse purportedly intensified after the victim's family complained to the school.

While offline bullying may stop in schools, it often shifts to online platforms. It becomes hard to trace the perpetrators there. Beyond the online–offline dichotomy, hate speech and racist memes are now popular in Greece, so are bully groups that harass and target people based on race. Theo (18) from the Sudan remembered a personal story:

> I was once added to an Instagram group where these people were sharing all these memes and jokes calling me n***a and the other N-word, you know what I am saying … They were asking me questions like "Is your skin black because you were born in a garbage bin?" They think it was funny. … My friends and I reported but nothing happened. The group was still there; I just had to block everyone in the end.

Policy gaps and the need for reforms

The Constitution of Greece includes anti-discrimination and hate crime laws, subjected to scrutiny and updated periodically. Despite this, the youth were reluctant to discuss the laws' efficacy. The Criminal Code of Greece (Law 4619/2019), amended in 2024, provides a framework for racist crimes. It gives sentencing procedures, punishable depending on the offence committed. There are also fines for inciting violence against minorities or for any property damage. Law 3852/2010 also mandates interculturality and diversity in education. Commenting on the inefficacy of these policy reforms, Pope (14) from Nigeria narrates:

> There are all these laws that you read about on social media or watch them on the news, but what are they good for? They are just fancy words meant to make us feel better. … No one stops being racist in schools, not even the teachers and the Government does not punish no one neither.

Adding to the same line of thought, Haya (16) from the United Republic of Tanzania shared:

> This is so funny [referring to the hate crime laws] that they make these rules, you know … because the biggest bullies and racist criminals are these people who make laws and the police officers who are responsible for making people obey them.

Finally, the youth agreed that most government initiatives to combat hate speech and (cyberbullying) are a mere lip service intended for symbolic gestures only. There is an absence of meaningful engagement and effective training to address racial biases and bullying. This is especially true for teachers, school staff and law enforcement officials. The online sphere raises questions about accountability and lets perpetrators and bullies act with impunity.

Afro-Greek youth as partners in policy design

This essential element of the research process aligns with the call for youth-led policymaking. It showcases that involving minority groups can yield productive societal benefits. Afro-Greek youth took part in simulated policymaking and critique sessions, which let them demonstrate the transformative potential of co-designing strategies for combating racism and (cyber)bullying. The actionable solutions offered included the following:

Youth-led initiatives

The youth reached a unanimous agreement on the stringent need to establish diverse youth councils and advisory boards that should serve a purpose beyond merely representing different races. Instead, their first-hand, lived experiences should become a point of departure for introducing policy changes. These local and national working groups should actively consolidate their findings. They should address key race-related issues in the public sphere. This can raise the concerns of Greek society and promote co-designed solutions with those affected. The Declaration's focus on strengthening mechanisms for youth consultation to influence policy decisions that directly affect their lives was also highlighted in the discussions. Blessing (16) from Ethiopia remarked:

> These migration policies would not work, you know, because they are not built with us in mind. If they want to keep us safe from all the attacks and bullying, they should ask us what we need and give us chances to bring our voices.

The Government should fund more grass-roots initiatives by Afro-Greek youth. These projects mostly aim to change public beliefs. Civil society groups should provide leadership training and advocacy opportunities to further the capacity-building of those involved. This also addresses the urgent need to consult young people. Meaningful chances to engage in national policymaking and decision-making should be given to them. They called for dedicated peer mentoring programmes that allow the Afro-Greek youth to support each other. These programmes would also unite the wider Greek community to offer more personalized support to those who need it.

The United Nations Summit of the Future also stressed the need to improve youth representation in formal political structures. However, the youth noted that existing structures, aside from excluding minority voices, also fail to protect them from dominant, discriminatory views.[7] As Sage (15) from Uganda observed:

> How and why do you expect us to say something in meetings where the same people who bully us are also a part? They are not only a part of these spaces, but they

[7] Miltos Pavlou, *Racism and Discrimination Against Immigrants and Minorities in Greece: The State of Play* (Athens, National Focal Point on Racism and Xenophobia, Hellenic League for Human Rights-KEMO, 2007).

> take away these meetings to make their own agenda visible. Here goes your promise of including African people for a good society. … This is all just speaking and no work.

The Declaration has acknowledged the challenges of structural inequality and suggested reforms in government structures to protect the under-represented from discriminatory norms. If these are put into practice, it will shelter the rights of Afro-Greek youth in spaces where they do not feel protected or included. This also reveals that while global commitments are essential in setting frameworks, their implementation might vary based on the ground realities. The Summit of the Future, under its youth and future generations agenda, has set out a rigorous pact for including the youth for a better future. However, how efficacious it turns out to be is fully contingent upon the actors responsible for its application and enactment. If, as the youth here suggested, the governments overlook the unfavourable positions of their minorities, they would fail to make it an inclusive and integrative process.

Education reforms

The youth exhibited frustration with the schools. They expressed dislike for the ethnically homogeneous, tone-deaf curricula. The interventions should revamp the curriculum.[8] They should bring to the fore the changing world and improve understanding of diverse societies.

Using advice from the youth boards, there should be mandatory teacher training programmes. It should help them with racial sensitivity and handle minorities in schools. Schools need more youth-led anti-bullying and anti-racism initiatives. As one of the concerned youths, David (17) from the Sudan mentioned:

> Our peers will only be able to understand what we go through once they see us taking part in activities where we are allowed to raise our voice and share our opinions. If we are continuously silenced, then how can we bring our perspective?

Participation for all

The current anti-bullying frameworks need to be strengthened. They should explicitly include provisions against racial bullying and cyberbullying.[9] An intersectional approach is essential to understand the impact of overlapping oppressions. Race-based bullying delineates from the individualization of bullying and discrimination incidents as often found in policies and curative measures. There should be a national anti-bullying strategy with race and ethnicity prominent in its contours. It must have a clear reporting mechanism, victim support services and punishment for offenders.

The youth also supported allowing diverse forums and events to boost acceptance of interculturality. The consensus was that allowing minorities to use their sui generis practices could increase tolerance for racialized others. Embracing diverse customs and traditions can spark national levels and make advocacy a more commonplace trend. Stavroula (16) from Uganda mentioned:

[8] Elenia Andreou, Eleni Didaskalou and Anastasia Vlachou, "Evaluating the effectiveness of a curriculum-based anti-bullying intervention program in Greek primary schools", *Educational Psychology*, 27(5):693–711 (2007).

[9] Anna Stefanakou, Alkis-Constantine Tsiantis and John Tsiantis, "A review of anti-bullying prevention and intervention programmes in Greece", *International Journal of Mental Health Promotion*, 16(1):19–27 (2013).

> You know, not all of us are the same. Some of us have a worse status than others here. What needs to be happening here is they accept that we have different groups with different problems and then allow our communities to be open and loud about them.

This, again, is in line with the youth and future generations in the Summit of the Future, which accentuates a reaffirmation of the full enjoyment of the rights of all young people. It emphasizes the need for social inclusion and integration, especially "those who face discrimination in multiple and overlapping ways".[10] This study shows that local participatory processes can inform global frameworks such as the Summit of the Future. By centring marginalized youth, such models can be replicated in other contexts to address systemic exclusion.

Conclusion: An integrative future for global youth

Greece is decades behind in integrating minorities and enacting equitable laws in line with the needs of the non-white, non-European youth. The governing bodies have faced growing criticism for discriminatory policies towards migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.[11] Efforts to create inclusive frameworks and action plans have been fraught. This youth-based Participatory Action Research attempted to rectify the lack of youth in local and State policymaking. This was conducted in a Greek context, but co-designing policy plans and anti-bullying efforts would work with youth anywhere in the world.

Youth involvement is the cornerstone of future development agendas, as it should be. The Summit of the Future and its Declaration on Future Generations offers a fine print for youth inclusion and empowerment. Its success depends on bridging the divide between global commitments and local realities. This study tried to map the potential of participatory processes to transform systemic issues. The involvement of young people in governance structures can change the migration landscape. It enables a more integrated, diverse society and greater inclusion beyond the precariousness of change.

The Pact's call for youth-led solutions can be validated by the efficacy of creating a society that prioritizes diversity and protects its most vulnerable members. It is not only a moral imperative but also a pathway to social cohesion and progress. Empowering minority migrant youth to lead policy reforms will address their immediate challenges. It will also build a more just and inclusive future for all. Greece can fulfil its Summit of the Future commitments by empowering Afro-Greek youth to lead and co-design policies. This will also set a precedent for inclusive governance.

[10] United Nations General Assembly resolution 79/1 on the Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1) (22 September 2024).

[11] Dimitra-Dora Teloni and Regina Mantanika, "'This is a cage for migrants': the rise of racism and the challenges for social work in the Greek context", *Critical and Radical Social Work*, 3(2):189–206 (2015).

Towards ethical artificial intelligence in migration management: Insights from the Global Digital Compact

Marie Triboulet[1]

Introduction – The increasing prevalence of artificial intelligence in migration management

Digital tools are increasingly applied within migration management, affecting the regulation and monitoring of migrant flows, access to rights and services and security measures. Among these technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) – defined as computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving and decision-making – plays a significant role in migration processes. These tools gained prominence during the pandemic;[2] and then in the post-COVID era, the adoption of digital technologies continued to accelerate, underscoring the growing reliance on them. A literature review identified 183 specific uses of advanced digital technologies in migration management across 116 countries.[3] Nowadays, governments and organizations utilize specific AI applications for border management, visa processing and service provision, as well as for monitoring and forecasting migration patterns (Table 1).

Table 1. The uses of artificial intelligence in migration management

Domains of migration management	Applications of artificial intelligence in migration processes	Technologies and examples
Study and analysis of migration flows	• Modelling migration flows	• Predictive algorithms for migration trends: – European Union: Horizon 2020 ITFLOWS Project to model migration flows – Georgia: Unified Migration Data Analytical System (UMAS), using AI and machine learning for migration forecasting – Somalia : Project Jetson using machine learning for predicting movements of displaced people
	• Mapping climate migration risks	• AI modelling to anticipate climate migration: – John O.R. Aoga, Juhee Bae, Stefanija Veljanoska, Siegfried Nijssen and Pierre Schaus, "Impact of weather factors on migration intention using machine learning algorithms", *Operations Research Forum*, 5:8 (2024).

[1] Marie Triboulet is a doctoral researcher in International Law at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne in Paris, France.

[2] Marie McAuliffe, Jenna Blower and Ana Beduschi, "Digitalization and artificial intelligence in migration and mobility: Transnational implications of the COVID-19 pandemic", *Societies*, 11(4):135 (2021).

[3] Lucia Nalbandian and Nick Dreher, "Current methodological approaches in studying the use of advanced digital technologies in migration management", *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*, 5:1238605 (2023).

Domains of migration management	Applications of artificial intelligence in migration processes	Technologies and examples
Entry regulation	• Border control	• Facial recognition for identifying migrants: – United States of America: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Facial Recognition Program – Gambia–Senegal border: Securiport uses AI-driven biometric identification (facial recognition, fingerprint analysis and anomaly detection) • Predictive analysis to prevent illegal immigration: – European Union: iBorderCtrl project to detect suspicious behaviours at borders (biometric verification, deception detection, document authentication and risk assessment)
	• Visa control	• Automated visa processing: – U.S. Department of Homeland Security Biometrics and Identity Management • Risk scoring systems for visa applications: – U.S. Extreme Vetting Initiative: Predictive algorithms to identify high-risk visa applicants or holders by assessing their likelihood of committing a crime or posing a security threat
Surveillance and security	• Identification of migrants	• Facial recognition in refugee camps: – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): IrisGuard for payments and access to humanitarian aid in refugee camps[a]
	• Combating human trafficking	• Predictive analysis to identify human trafficking networks: – European Union's Roborder project to detect criminal activities near borders
Assistance to migrants	• Asylum law and application management	• Automated analysis of asylum applications: – Canada: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) AI Pilot Project for temporary residence applications
	• Access to social services and aid for migrants	• Automated interpretation for migrants: – Greece: Tarjimly: app for real-time translation services[b] – Application MigApp (IOM) provides real-time information on health services, migrants' rights and safe migration routes

Note: This table reflects personal analysis informed by various sources, including Lutiana Valadares Fernandes Barbosa and Gustavo Macedo, "Ethics and artificial intelligence: Migration", Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (8 June 2022); Ana Beduschi, "International migration management in the age of artificial intelligence", *Migration Studies*, 9(3):576–596 (2021).

a UNHCR, 3.6: Registration tools, Chapter 3: Planning and preparing registration and identity management systems in: Guidance on Registration and Identity Management (UNHCR, 2020).

b Tarjimly, Tarjimly Essentials app.

AI therefore is integrated into migration processes, shaping current migration practices and the associated risks that demand legal and ethical scrutiny. As António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, noted during the Opening Segment of the Summit of the Future Plenary on 22 September 2024, "New technologies, including AI, are being developed in a moral and legal vacuum, without governance or guardrails."[4]

The growing consideration of ethical issues raised by the uses of artificial intelligence in migration management

Digital tools can offer potential benefits for migrants, such as the possibility of accelerating migration decision-making processes or providing assistance through migrant support phone apps. However, the use of AI in migration management raises various ethical concerns that have been highlighted by humanitarian organizations, non-governmental organizations, researchers and policymakers.[5] These concerns revolve around the potential risks to the rights and dignity of migrants, including issues related to privacy, discrimination, accountability and transparency (Table 2).

AI technologies are increasingly prevalent in migration practices and raise ethical challenges about privacy concern and algorithmic biases, which can lead to potential discrimination.

These issues highlight the need for governance frameworks to tackle ethical issues and ensure transparency. Legislators often respond to growing public concern with laws that align with collective consciousness and contemporary social norms. In *The Division of Labour in Society*, Émile Durkheim argues the law reflects the moral principles of society and evolve according to its needs.[6] Therefore, the growing interest in AI ethics has generated a need for new legal frameworks to regulate its development and use.

How the Global Digital Compact promote responsible and well-managed migration policies

An inclusive framework for regulating artificial intelligence use in migration management under development

Among the issues addressed at the Summit of the Future, the need for regulatory frameworks for AI and digital tools is aligned with the principles set out in the Global Digital Compact. After recalling the solid foundations of digital cooperation, which rest on international law – including the Charter of the United Nations, International Human Rights Law, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society reflected in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society – the Global Digital Compact commits to harness existing processes to do so.

[4] United Nations, Secretary-General's remarks at the Opening Segment of the Summit of the Future Plenary, Statement (22 September 2024).

[5] For example : Amnesty International, *The Digital Border: Migration, Technology and Inequality*, POL 40/7772/2024 (London, Amnesty International, 2024); Saba Mengesha, Korinne Dunn and Narintohn Luangrath, "The rise of AI and technology in immigration enforcement", The Regulatory Review (23 March 2024).

[6] Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labour in Society* (New York, Macmillan, 1933). Chapter one: The method for determining this function, III: "Life in general within a society cannot enlarge in scope without legal activity simultaneously increasing in proportion."; chapter three: Solidarity arising from the division of labour, or organic solidarity, I: "Repressive law corresponds to what is the heart and centre of the common consciousness".

Table 2. Typology of ethical concerns in artificial intelligence for migration management

Types of ethical concerns	Examples of risks	Questionable uses of artificial intelligence
Privacy and data protection risks	• Unwarranted surveillance, data overreach and privacy invasion	• Use of facial recognition and tracking systems at borders and in refugee camps. • Monitoring and recording of migrants' behaviours, locations and interactions.
	• Data security and unauthorized sharing	• Sensitive data collected from migrants, such as biometrics and personal details. • Cross-border data-sharing between countries or organizations, sometimes without migrants' consent.
	• Risk of data misuse by third parties	• Data collected from migrants might be accessed by unauthorized third parties to exploit it for commercial, political or discriminatory purposes.
	• Transparency and undermined informed consent	• Lack of transparency about how AI systems process, store and use migrants' data. • Migrants may not fully understand the implications of data collection, particularly when language barriers and technical complexity are involved.
Bias, discrimination and fairness risks	• Algorithmic bias leading to discrimination	• Border control and asylum application processing may contain biases. • Lack of diversity (in terms of gender, social status and ethnicity) in teams developing AI. • Racial, cultural or linguistic biases affecting AI algorithms impacting unequally vulnerable populations.
	• Inequity in access to rights and services	• Automated decision-making systems may deny migrants of fair access to services (such as visas, housing and social assistance) due to biased or inaccurate data processing. • Language barriers and technical gaps can disadvantage certain migrants, excluding them from essential resources if AI tools are not culturally or linguistically inclusive.
	• Loss of human oversight and discretion	• Automated systems replacing human judgement in asylum and immigration processing, leading to rigid, impersonal decisions that fail to consider individual circumstances. • A lack of human intervention can deprive migrants of compassion-driven discretion, especially in cases involving trauma or specific needs.
Accountability and redress challenges	• Lack of mechanisms for challenging AI decisions	• The opacity of AI-driven decision-making can make it difficult for migrants to understand or contest decisions, limiting their ability to seek redress.

Types of ethical concerns	Examples of risks	Questionable uses of artificial intelligence
Accountability and redress challenges	• Ambiguities in legal accountability	• Determining responsibility for AI-related errors, particularly when multiple contractors are involved in developing and deploying the technology.
	• Ethical responsibility of States and other stakeholders	• Delegating immigration and asylum processes to AI is likely to lessen accountability. This results in a reduced responsibility for States and organizations attributing the decisions to AI.
Security concerns	• Potential for repressive surveillance and control	• Control or monitor migrants excessively, leading to authoritarian use. • Misuse of targeting systems to control specific populations (political dissidents, ethnic minorities) beyond migration control.
	• Targeting and harassment of vulnerable populations	• AI surveillance in public spaces and migrant communities, increasing the risk of harassment or targeting by authorities.
	• Social stigmatization	• Risk to exacerbate xenophobia and reinforce stigmatization of migrants as security risks.
Societal and ethical implications	• Impact on social integration and autonomy	• Restricted mobility. • Excessive surveillance can refrain migrants from interacting with public authorities and compromise their integration.
	• Moral questions surrounding automation in human rights	• Delegating human rights-sensitive tasks, such as asylum assessment and migration management. • Treating migrants as data sets, potentially diminishing their human dignity by reducing them to data.

Note: The typology of ethical concerns was developed through a literature review of academic articles and policy reports, followed by a thematic analysis to identify key themes, such as privacy, bias and accountability, which were then broken down into sub-themes. This table reflects a personal analysis informed by various sources, including the references previously cited (footnotes no. 3 and 4 and note on Table 2); and Petra Molnar and Lex Gill, *Bots at the Gate: A Human Rights Analysis of Automated Decision-making in Canada's Immigration and Refugee System* (International Human Rights Programme and the Citizen Lab, 2018).

Under Objective 1 ("Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs)), the Global Digital Compact makes an explicit reference to migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons in a list referring to a broad range of persons in vulnerable situations:[7]

> 13. We commit, by 2030, to: …
> (c) Target and tailor capacity-building for women and girls, children and youth, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, Indigenous Peoples and those in vulnerable situations, and ensure their meaningful engagement in the design and implementation of programmes (SDGs 5 and 10).

[7] Objective 1 of United Nations, Global Digital Compact (2024).

The inclusion of migrants and displaced persons is an answer to SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries),[8] and more specifically, Target 10.7:

Source: Global Goals, Goal 10: Reduced inequalities.

Though this list in the Global Digital Compact closely resembles the one outlined in resolution 52/23: The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,[9] mentioning migration in a compact related to digital issues should be commended. In fact, this was not the case in the previous AI-related legal instruments both at global and regional levels (Figure 1).

At the global level, legal texts and policy documents related to AI have been multiplying recently, but recent ones – such as the G7 Statement on Generative AI (2023)[10] and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, released four months before the Global Digital Compact – do not mention migration or related terms.

At the regional level, a similar trend can be observed. The 2024 European Union regulation on AI (Artificial Intelligence Act) is innovative, similar to the Global Digital Compact, in that it directly addresses migration issues, whereas the other examples of recently published texts (cited in Figure 1) do not mention them. Specifically, the Artificial Intelligence Act includes references to migration, asylum and border control management. AI systems "intended to be used by the competent public authorities … charged with tasks in the fields of migration, asylum and border control management as polygraphs and similar tools … or to detect the emotional state of natural persons"[11] are even classified as high-risk AI.

The Artificial Intelligence Act entails obligations for both providers and deployers. According to Article 16, providers must ensure that their AI systems comply with the requirements set out in section 2 of the Act, including obligations related to transparency, risk management, data governance and human oversight. For deployers, particularly public authorities using AI, additional safeguards are required. For instance, Article 27 mandates that deployers conduct a fundamental rights impact assessment (FRIA) before putting a high-risk AI system into service, and according to Recital 60, "the use of AI systems in migration, asylum and border control management should, in no circumstances, be used by Member States or Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies as a means to circumvent their international obligations under the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on

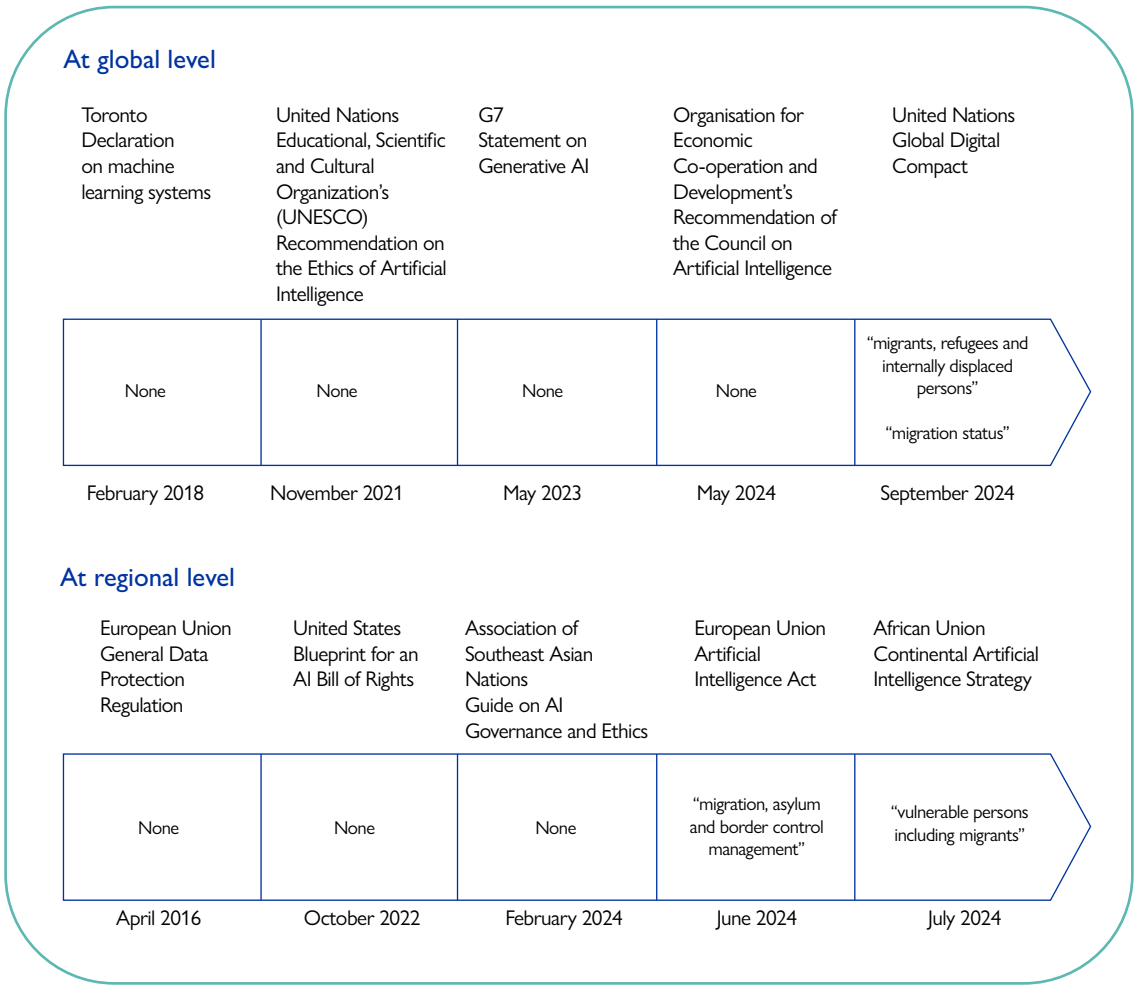
[8] United Nations, Goal 10, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (n.d.).

[9] United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/23 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/HRC/RES/52/23) (13 April 2023): "Recognizing the benefits of seeking to mitigate and minimize the negative effects of pollution and other forms of environmental degradation and the importance of the environmentally sound management and disposal of chemicals and waste, including in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict contexts, and expressing its deep concern at the threats posed to the effective enjoyment of human rights, particularly to those of children, women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and persons in vulnerable situations."

[10] G7, Statement on Generative AI (21 June 2023).

[11] European Union, Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 on laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (13 June 2024).

Figure 1. Explicit reference to migration management in digital technologies and artificial intelligence-related legislation and guidelines



Sources: Author's own elaboration based on the following sources: Toronto Declaration, Home (accessed 28 March 2025); UNESCO, *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* (France, UNESCO, 2022); G7, 2023; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence (22 May 2019); United Nations, 2024; European Union, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (27 April 2016); United States, Government of, *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights: Making Automated Systems Work for the American People* (2022); Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), *ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics* (Jakarta, ASEAN Secretariat, 2024); European Union, 2024; African Union, *Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, July 2024.

28 July 1951 as amended by the Protocol of 31 January 1967. Nor should they be used to in any way infringe on the principle of non-refoulement, or to deny safe and effective legal avenues into the territory of the Union, including the right to international protection."[12] Furthermore, the Artificial Intelligence Act explicitly states that AI systems used in migration decision-making must comply with existing European Union and international legal frameworks, such as Regulation

[12] Ibid.

(EC) no. 810/2009 (Visa Code) and Directive 2013/32/EU (Asylum Procedures Directive).

However, some exceptions question security and fundamental rights protection. Article 78 allows States to limit public access to AI-related documentation in migration and border control. The aim is to protect sensitive data and favour public security; it could also reduce transparency in AI use in migration governance. Moreover, high-risk AI systems undergo internal rather than external evaluations. This raises concerns about the impartiality of assessments and compliance with fundamental rights.[13]

By promoting the inclusion of migrants in digital policies, the Global Digital Compact strengthens their right to equal access to digital resources; this protection is often missing from current legal instruments. Indeed, the lack of specific digital rights for migrant populations limits their access to information, essential services and socioeconomic participation in their host countries. Therefore, the Global Digital Compact recommends to "target and tailor capacity-building for" them and "ensure their meaningful engagement in the design and implementation of programmes".[14]

Addressing artificial intelligence-related ethical issues

The ethical treatment of AI in the Artificial Intelligence Act is a significant step in addressing migration-related concerns. Article 27 requires deployers of high-risk AI to conduct a FRIA. This assessment aims to ensure that AI systems do not threaten individuals' rights and freedoms. The objective is to implement measures to mitigate the impacts. However, the effectiveness of those assessments is compromised by the absence of clear ethical guidelines and enforcement mechanisms. Without an ethical framework and a standardized methodology, FRIA could become more a procedural formality than an effective safeguard against rights violations.[15]

In its statement, the European Data Protection Board recommends, as already suggested in the Artificial Intelligence Act, that data protection authorities be designated as market surveillance authorities for high-risk AI systems used in biometric identification, biometric categorization and emotion recognition systems used for border management, along with those used in migration, asylum applications and border control management.[16]

This approach reflects a broader commitment to addressing the ethical challenges raised by the deployment of AI. The Global Digital Compact, in turn, takes these concerns further by providing an answer and commitments to each ethical concern (Cf.: The growing consideration of ethical issues raised by the uses of artificial intelligence in migration management) and tends to address the issues raised by the uses of digital technologies and AI in an exhaustive way (Table 3).

The Global Digital Compact aims to establish common principles for global digital governance able to address a wide range of ethical issues.

[13] Ludivine Sarah Stewart, "The regulation of AI-based migration technologies under the EU AI Act: (Still) operating in the shadows?" *European Law Journal*, 30(1–2):122–135 (2024).
[14] Objective 1 of United Nations, 2024.
[15] Alessandro Mantelero, "The fundamental rights impact assessment (FRIA) in the AI Act: Roots, legal obligations and key elements for a model template", *Computer Law & Security Review*, 54:106020 (2024).
[16] European Data Protection Board, Statement 3/2024 on data protection authorities' role in the Artificial Intelligence Act framework (16 July 2024).

However, while the Artificial Intelligence Act establishes legally binding obligations, enforceable before national and European Union courts, in contrast, the Global Digital Compact remains a non-legally binding instrument. It seeks to establish broad ethical guidelines and normative expectations, but its effectiveness will depend on voluntary adherence by States and private actors rather than on direct enforcement through legislative or judicial mechanisms.

Leave no one behind: Promotion of national digital inclusion surveys

The SDG Indicators guidelines stated that "[t]he overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – 'leave no one

Table 3. How the Global Digital Compact relates to artificial intelligence–ethics concerns

Recommendations of the Global Digital Compact	Ethical concerns addressed
"Assess the future directions and implications of artificial intelligence and promote scientific understanding; … establish … a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel"	• Algorithmic bias leading to discrimination • Racial, cultural or linguistic biases within AI algorithms • Lack of accountability in AI decision-making processes
"[S]haring best practices and promoting common understanding"	• Ethical responsibility of States and organizations
"Promote transparency, accountability and robust human oversight of artificial intelligence systems, in compliance with international law"	• Surveillance and privacy invasion, data security and unauthorized sharing • Lack of transparency about AI systems' processes • Loss of human oversight in critical decisions • Automated systems replacing compassion-driven discretion
"Establish … a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel … to promote scientific understanding through evidence-based impact, risk and opportunity assessments"	• Algorithmic bias leading to discrimination • Risks of profiling based on nationality, ethnicity or socioeconomic status
"Initiate … a Global Dialogue on AI Governance involving Governments and all relevant stakeholders"	• Lack of mechanisms for challenging AI decisions • Ambiguities in legal accountability potential for repressive surveillance and control
"We call on standards development organizations to collaborate to promote the development and adoption of interoperable artificial intelligence standards"	• Ethical responsibility of States and organizations
"Preserve linguistic and cultural diversity and take that into account multilingualism"	• Language barriers and exclusion in AI tools • Impact on social integration and autonomy • Erosion of trust and social stigmatization

Source: Author's own elaboration based on United Nations, 2024.

behind' – calls for more granular and disaggregated data than are currently available in most countries."[17] Bridging the digital divide is crucial for ensuring to the leave no one behind promise of the 2030 Agenda. Through its call for targeted interventions and the inclusion of migration status in surveys, the Global Digital Compact aims to guarantee that emerging technologies are accessible to displaced populations, while upholding ethical standards in their deployment.

It should also be recalled that inclusion was part of the Global Digital Compact consultative process: the United Nations invited input from individuals or groups, as well as associations and organizations to contribute to the Global Digital Compact and impact the deliberations during the Summit of the Future. The Global Digital Compact specifically affirms that "The inclusive participation of all States and other stakeholders is the cornerstone of this Compact" (8a),[18] highlighting the role of collective efforts in fostering an inclusive approach.

Digital inclusion surveys

In line with IOM and UNHCR,[19] the Global Digital Compact emphasizes the importance of developing and conducting digital inclusion surveys at the national level. Such surveys have already been undertaken, for example in Trinidad and Tobago.[20] The information collected was aimed at informing national policies, related to improving information and communications technology access per geographic areas and to address issues affecting vulnerable population at risk of being digitally excluded. However, the survey did not include data related to the participants' migratory status. A 2023 report pointed out metrics for certain core components of digital inclusion are underdeveloped, and that some questions on technology skills may need to be adapted to developing countries.[21]

The aim of the Global Digital Compact is to promote international standards including migrants' right to access digital tools. Digital gaps affect vulnerable populations who face barriers to integration in digital spaces. This is particularly crucial in the context of migration, where digital connectivity enables access to resources necessary for migrant integration. For example, migrants are likely to face difficulties in accessing essential services (health care, education or job opportunities), which are very often delivered digitally.[22]

Disaggregated data

The Global Digital Compact advocates for the use of disaggregated data and namely include migration status. The aim is to identify disparities and inequalities, ensuring that emerging technologies are accessible to displaced populations while upholding ethical standards

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *Guidelines on Data Disaggregation for SDG Indicators Using Survey Data* (Rome, FAO, 2021).
[18] See 8(a) on United Nations, 2024:38.
[19] IOM, Digital inclusion (n.d.); UNHCR, Digital inclusion (n.d.).
[20] Example of a national digital inclusion survey in Trinidad and Tobago: Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, *National Digital Inclusion Survey 2021: Accelerating Digital Transformation* (Barataria, Trinidad and Tobago, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, 2022).
[21] Matthew Sharp, "Revisiting the measurement of digital inclusion", *The World Bank Research Observer*, 39(2):289–318 (2023).
[22] Sabiroh Md Sabri, Nurul Labanihuda Abdull Rahman, Nursyamilah Annuar, Hasyeilla Abd Mutalib, Sharifah K. Musairah, Iwan Kurniawan Subagja, "Exploring the measurement of digital Inclusion: A review of literature", Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on the Future of Asean 2023, *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research* (29 July 2023).

in their deployment and enabling the design of targeted intervention.[23]

The use of disaggregated data enables more precise policy adjustments and helps monitor potential discriminatory impacts of technologies, particularly AI, on migrants and, by identifying inequalities, to refine national digital policies.

Other guidelines have previously recommended the use of disaggregated data to ensure inclusive and equitable development, particularly in relation to migration status and other vulnerable groups (Table 4).

The Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (2016)[24] stresses the importance of disaggregation by migration status as part of broader data collection aligned with fundamental principles of official statistics. Similarly, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSTATS) Framework (2019)[25] extends this guidance, promoting the disaggregation of data by key factors including migratory status to ensure inclusion in monitoring progress towards the SDGs. The 2021 SDG Indicator Guidelines repeat the need for data disaggregation, providing clear guidance for surveys, yet there is less specificity regarding the targeted use of this data for digital inclusion.

In contrast, the Global Digital Compact is innovative as it promotes national digital inclusion surveys (Cf.: Digital inclusion surveys) collecting migration status alongside other characteristics (income, sex and disability). Other frameworks do not have this focus on digital access, which makes the Global Digital Compact more aligned with the necessity of bridging the digital divide. Integrating these surveys into broader data frameworks – as recommended by UNSTATS – could improve their impact.

Regarding migration-related guidelines, while the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018)[26] highlights the importance of data in tracking migration, it does not explicitly address digital inclusion or detailed demographic characteristics of migrants related to their digital rights. Additionally, the General Data Protection Regulation (2018)[27] of the European Union addresses data protection but is limited in scope to European territory and do not explicitly focus on migrants or on border control contexts. The Global Digital Compact represents a step forward towards a global framework that can apply to migrants, regardless of their status or location.

[23] "Data disaggregation allows humanitarian actors to identify and analyze specific needs, vulnerabilities and inequalities affecting particular groups of people and to provide targeted protection and assistance to them. In the absence of disaggregated data, vulnerabilities of different refugees and members of the host community risk being overlooked. Disaggregated data, properly collected, analyzed and reported, helps ensure a comprehensive and inclusive response." (UNHCR, Data disaggregation for an evidence-based humanitarian response in Moldova (Protection Working Group, December 2023)).

[24] United Nations Economic and Social Council, Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1) (19 February 2016).

[25] Yongyi Min, Data disaggregation and the Global Indicator Framework (UNSTATS, 2019).

[26] United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195 on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/RES/73/195) (19 December 2018).

[27] European Union, 2016.

Table 4. How guidelines on disaggregated data address migration

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1)	United Nations Statistics Division data disaggregation and the global indicator framework (2019)	Guidelines on data disaggregation for Sustainable Development Goals Indicators using survey data (2021)	Statement by the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group on the limitations of mandatory population data disaggregation (April 2024)	Global Digital Compact (September 2024)
"Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (General Assembly resolution 68/261)."	"Policy [p]riorities for different vulnerable groups: … • Migratory [s]tatus [p]olicy priorities: • Provide access to basic services (education and health care) and social protection for migrants; • Ensure fair recruitment, decent work and labour rights protection for migrants; • Eliminate all forms of discrimination and reduce violence against migrants; and • Ensure access to information for migrants."	"[A]t the core of the Framework there lies an overarching principle of data disaggregation, stating that 'SDG Indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics in accordance with the Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics.'"	"[A]ll data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations, with a particular emphasis on sex, age, disability status, geographic location, and displacement status."	"13. We commit, by 2030, to: … (d) Develop and undertake national digital inclusion surveys with data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, to identify learning gaps and inform priorities in specific contexts (SDGs 5 and 10)."

Sources: Author's own elaboration based on the following sources: United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2016; Min, 2019; FAO, 2021; Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group, Statement by the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group on the limitations of mandatory population data disaggregation (endorsed 24 April 2024); United Nations, 2024.

Note: Highlighted text show how the guidelines use disaggregated data in relation to migration.

Conclusion

The Global Digital Compact is innovative in introducing a specific framework for digital inclusion and namely referring to migrants and displaced persons. Building on international law and the SDGs, it complements existing instruments and offers the perspective of better protection of migrants in the face of advancements in AI.

Key takeaways from the Global Digital Compact on migration management

- Highlight the importance of digital inclusion for vulnerable groups, including migrants and displaced persons;
- Support stronger international digital cooperation;
- Provide ethical recommendations to address AI-related issues in migration management;
- Promote digital inclusion surveys based on disaggregated data, including migration status, to serve targeted policies bridging digital gaps.

Global Digital Compact follow-up: Recommendations

- More concrete action is needed to ensure that the Global Digital Compact's goals lead to tangible changes:
  - Create standards for digital migration practices and ensure that governments and the private sector comply with them by adopting binding regulatory frameworks at international, regional and domestic levels:
    - International level: Integrate minimum legal safeguards for AI use in migration within binding human rights instruments (protocols or soft law mechanisms, similar to the International Labour Organization's binding labour standards).
    - Regional level: AI and migration-specific obligations could be established through amendments (for example, supplementary regulations to the Artificial Intelligence Act or similar frameworks in regional organizations).
    - Domestic level: National legislators should adopt enforceable AI governance rules to ensure due process guarantees for migrants affected by AI decisions. This could include judicial review mechanisms on AI-based decision-making in asylum, visa and immigration procedures.
- Work towards actionable steps to safeguard the migrants' digital rights:
  - Address the risks generated by the private sector involvement in AI technologies, especially in border control or surveillance, as their interests might not align with human rights:
    - International level: A legally binding instrument on business and human rights targeting the technology industry could require AI developers and providers to conduct human rights impact assessments. However, international negotiations are often difficult, and enforcement remains

uncertain. Soft law instruments such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which recommend corporate human rights due diligence, could serve as a basis for an international treaty.

  - Regional level: The European Union has adopted binding corporate due diligence rules with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. This Directive will require companies to prevent human rights risks across their value chains. This could be expanded to include obligations specific to migration-related AI. Other regional organizations could develop AI governance frameworks inspired by the European Union rules.
  - Domestic level: National governments could add binding due diligence obligations into domestic AI and migration laws.

- Provide clear mechanisms for migrants to contest decisions made by an algorithm. Protect the right to meaningful human review and access to remedies through national courts.
  - International level: A global framework for AI accountability in migration governance can be established. However, this would require an international consensus, making it difficult to adopt a legally binding treaty. Existing bodies (for example, the Human Rights Committee) could expand their scope to address AI decision-making in migration.
  - Regional level: Legislation can be enforced at the regional level. Regional bodies (such as Inter-American Court of Human Rights or the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights) could play a role in developing jurisprudence related to migration and AI decisions.
  - Domestic level: National laws should ensure that affected individuals can file a case before independent bodies or courts. This requires guarantees of due process, the right to a human review of AI decisions and the establishment of institutions able to process migration-related complaints.
- Provide clear guidelines for national digital inclusion surveys: A digital inclusion survey template can be written to enable migration-related data collection.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

PUB2025/004/EL

The *Migration Policy Practice* editors welcome submissions from practitioners, policy officials and applied researchers worldwide. Articles should:

- » Not exceed 2,500 words and be written in a non-academic and reader-friendly style (with a maximum of 10 footnote references).
- » Wherever possible, include statistical information analysis in graphs, tables and/or infographics.
- » Provide analysis, findings and responses that can be applied/adapted by relevant public administrations or civil society in other countries.
- » Articles on evaluations of specific migration policies and responses, including both findings and innovative methodologies, are particularly welcome.

Suggested citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2025. *Migration Policy Practice, Vol. XIV(1): Summit of the Future Special Issue*. IOM, Geneva.

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