

**Is the Global Compact for Safe,
Orderly and Regular Migration
(GCM) disability-responsive?**

Easy-to-Read Version



Easy-to-Read - Is the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) disability-responsive?

Author: Ben Thatcher

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NOTE

There are some words in this document that might be hard to read or understand.

Hard words in this document are in a **blue bold** print.

You can click on these **blue bold** words, and it will take you to a definition of these words, which are on page 17 and page 18.

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WHAT IS THIS REPORT



Migration is a human right that helps both people and economies grow.



Current migration **policies** focus more on economic value than on human rights, affecting persons with disabilities a lot.



Persons with disabilities face extra barriers when migrating and often lack any support.

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The [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#) aims to protect all migrants.

The [**GCM**](#) guides [**governments**](#) on how to create fair and safe [**policies**](#) and practices for migrants.



This report looks at how well the [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#) aligns with the [**Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)**](#) principles.

Key areas of focus include:

- Non-discrimination
- Participation and inclusion
- Equality of opportunity
- Accessibility

The goal is to understand if the [**GCM**](#) is inclusive of persons with disabilities or if further action is needed.

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SITUATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



The [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#) is an agreement made in 2018 to improve global migration governance.

It includes 10 Guiding Principles and 23 objectives to help [**governments**](#) manage migration fairly.

Although the [**GCM**](#) a good step, it has been criticised for inconsistencies, limited accountability and unclear language.



Migrant organisations and women groups influenced the [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#) in its early development.

They used real-life stories to push for [**policy**](#) inclusion, especially for women and children.

Gender and child issues received attention, but disability was largely overlooked.

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Migrants with disabilities face multiple barriers, including legal restrictions, employment **discrimination** and lack of support services.

The **Global Compact for Migration (GCM)** mentions disability only 6 times, making it hard to measure progress or implement changes.



Migrants with disabilities face many challenges:

- They experience **exclusion** due to **citizenship** rules, economic barriers and social stigma.
- Many struggle to access healthcare, employment and legal protections.
- The high cost of disability **diagnosis** means people may not even be aware they have a disability.
- **Migrants with disabilities** may hide their disabilities as they fear **discrimination**.

HOW WE DID THIS REPORT



A researcher looked for important documents about the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) on the internet.

The researcher then went through these [GCM](#) documents to see how disability issues are included.

An [Organisation of Persons with Disabilities \(OPDs\)](#) validated for accuracy.



In total 5 documents were looked at.

3 documents about what the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) does.

2 documents about how the [GCM](#) has been put into action.



The research evaluated the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) in 2 ways:

1. Counted how often the words disability, gender and children appeared in the 5 [GCM](#) documents.
2. Information was then put into 4 categories, using the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) General Principles.
 - Non-discrimination
 - Participation and inclusion
 - Equality of opportunity
 - Accessibility

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WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS IN THIS REPORT



Global Compact
FOR Migration

The [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) mentions 3 main groups with specific requirements:

- Gender (gender-responsive approach)
- Children (child-sensitive approach)
- Disability ([disability-responsive](#) approach)



Disability is mentioned far less often than gender and children.

Gender and children are included as Guiding Principles in the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#), but disability is left out.

This suggests that disability is added as an afterthought rather than being a key part of migration [policies](#).



The [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) refers to disability in some areas (Objectives 7, 15, and 20), but it lacks specific guidelines and actions for [migrants with disabilities](#).

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There are key gaps for disability in the [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#):

Data Collection: The [**GCM**](#) does not require disability data collection, making it harder to create [**policies**](#) based on evidence.



Social Security: The [**GCM**](#) mentions protections for women and older persons but does not include disability-specific social security or support systems.

Labour Mobility: There is no mention of inclusive employment [**policies**](#) for persons with disabilities, reinforcing barriers to work.

Accessibility: The [**GCM**](#) mentions access but does not define accessibility for persons with disabilities, making implementation unclear.



The [**United Nations Network on Migration**](#) also lacks disability inclusion.

It is unclear whether disability voices are included in decision-making or consultations.

The evidence on the [Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#) implementation shows there are not many cases of [disability-responsive](#) solutions.



Programs focus more on gender and child-related initiatives, leaving out persons with disabilities.

Legal protections mostly focus on gender and child-related vulnerabilities, sidelining disability concerns.

Migration [policies](#) assume an "able-bodied" perspective, ignoring the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

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WHAT WE THINK



**Global Compact
FOR Migration**

The [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#) does not fully protect or support [**migrants with disabilities**](#).

The [**GCM**](#) does not remove key barriers that stop [**migrants with disabilities**](#) from fully participating in society.



The [**Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)**](#) includes gender-responsive and child-sensitive principles but lacks [**disability-responsive**](#) ones.

The [**GCM**](#) has no clear actions for [**governments**](#) to take to make migration [**disability-responsive**](#).



Persons with disabilities and [**Organisations of Persons with Disabilities \(OPDs\)**](#) are not meaningfully included in migration decision-making.

A stronger role for [**OPDs**](#) is needed, both in [**government**](#) discussions and in civil society efforts.

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There is no clear definition of "disability-responsive" **policies**, making it harder to ensure fairness in migration.

Migrants with disabilities will likely continue to face barriers to jobs, services and social protections.



The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) mentions "accessible" services but does not define what this means for persons with disabilities.

Without clear accessibility standards, implementation will remain weak.



The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) does not do enough to protect and support migrants with disabilities.

It needs clearer commitments, stronger inclusion, and real action to ensure non-discrimination, participation, equal opportunities and accessibility.

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WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW



There is a need to review and update migration laws and **policies** to include the needs of **migrants with disabilities** to ensure **disability-responsive** practices are part of migration governance.



Migration leaders need to work directly with **Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** to create practical **disability-responsive** migration **policies**.



Persons with disabilities and **Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** must be included in migration discussions, just like gender and child rights groups.

Need to raise awareness among persons with disabilities about their rights in migration, work, wages and services.

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Governments should provide legal aid, assistive devices and accessible services for **migrants with disabilities**.

Governments need to guarantee reasonable accommodations at all stages of migration.



Migration leaders need to use data collection tools like the **Washington Group Short Set on Functioning** to track and understand disability in migration.



The **United Nations Network on Migration** should have a disability working group or focal point.

A monitoring system should track how well **disability-responsive** migration **policies** are applied.

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Clearly define "access" and "accessibility" from a disability perspective.

Ensure real inclusion of persons with disabilities in migration governance.

THE END

Thank you for reading.

This report was made by the Disability Migration Network (DMN). For questions about making easy-to-read resources, please contact our team at disabilitymigrationnetwork@gmail.com.

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GLOSSARY

Citizenship	Being a legal member of a country. It gives you rights, like voting, and responsibilities, like following the laws of that country.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	A global agreement that protects the rights of persons with disabilities and ensures they are treated equally.
Diagnosis	When someone identifies and confirms that someone has a condition that affects their daily life.
Disability-responsive	Being aware of and making sure that the needs of people with disabilities are met. This includes creating services, policies, or places that are accessible and fair for everyone.
Discrimination	Discrimination means treating someone unfairly or differently because of things like their race, gender, disability, or other characteristics.
Exclusion	Leaving someone out or not allowing them to take part in activities, opportunities, or groups because of who they are or their situation.
Global Compact for Migration (GCM)	An agreement by many countries to work together to make migration (people moving from one country to another) safer, fairer, and more organised.
Government	The group of people who make decisions and rules for a country.
Migrant with disabilities	Workers with disabilities who move to another country.
Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)	Are a group formed by persons with disabilities to advocate for their rights, provide support, and promote inclusion in society

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Policies	Rules or plans made by governments or organisations to guide decisions and actions.
United Nations Network on Migration	A group created by the United Nations to help countries follow the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and support people who move from one country to another.
Washington Group Short Set on Functioning	A set of six questions used in surveys to find out if someone has difficulty with basic activities like seeing, hearing, walking, or remembering. It helps collect data about disabilities.

**Towards Disability-Responsive Migration
Disability Migration Network (DMN)**

E: disabilitymigrationnetwork@gmail.com

F: <https://web.facebook.com/disabilitymigrationnetwork/>