

Executive Summary

Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights

People, Power Communities: Building Bridges for Migrant, Labour, & Human Rights



**30 September to 4 October 2013
New York, New York - USA**

From September 30th to October 4th, 500 migrant community, civil society, and trade union delegates from 64 countries gathered in New York City at the Church Center for the UN for the 7th annual **People's Global Action on Migration, Development, & Human Rights (PGA)**. Representing a diverse cross-section of civil society, including migrants' associations, human rights NGOs, trade unions, workers' organizations, anti-poverty groups, faith-based organizations, and other social movements, we came together to build the movement for migrants' rights, strengthen our collective analysis, and demand a place in discussions that affect us.

The full PGA declaration is available online [<http://hld2013.gcmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/PGA-Final-Declaration-and-Recommendations.pdf>]. Its recommendations build on previous PGAs and the inputs of participants in the 2013 PGA, and are designed to reaffirm our shared values and vision, prioritize our most pressing concerns and to identify strategies to move us forward. The following summarizes the declaration's primary calls.

(1) A human rights framework for migration law and policy through the promotion, respect, and protection of the human rights of migrants and their families.

The PGA reaffirmed our consistent calls for a paradigm shift in the global governance of migration—from national security frameworks to a human rights-based approach focused on human development and social inclusion. We reasserted our calls for the ratification of all core human and labour rights standards, and for states to recognize the uneven impacts of globalization on all migrants, workers, and women. We denounced restrictive migration policies and discrimination and abuse in the migration process.

With a view to strategizing and movement building, we affirmed that we must continue to combat xenophobia, stereotyping, discrimination, and all forms of abuse and exclusion of migrants and their families, and to promote migrants' participation in all spheres of life in destination countries. We recommitted ourselves to cross-sectoral engagement to monitor state accountability through relevant international processes, emphasizing the importance of uniting our diverse voices in framing and articulating migrants' rights.

(2) Alternatives to the prevailing free market economic policies that benefit the few at the expense of the majority.

The PGA committed to actively pressing states to address the root causes of migration, particularly the neoliberal economic system and uneven development policies that contribute to deepening inequality and forced

migration and displacement. We agreed that states must be held accountable for the lack of people-centred development and the over-reliance on migrants' remittances as a development tool.

As an international movement, we committed to redoubling our efforts to bring to the global discourse our analysis and activism on how migration interacts with and changes the nature of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national or social origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, health, and legal status. We also reaffirmed the need to link with other global social movements to collectively insist on equitable trade terms that build economies in such a way that migration can become a genuine choice and not a necessity.

(3) An end to the criminalization of migrants

The PGA firmly denounced the increasing characterization of migrants, particularly irregular migrants, as “illegal,” with increased militarized enforcement actions in detention and deportation proceedings, and with no access to justice and basic protection of rights. We reject the extraterritorial enforcement and increasing militarization of borders at enormous human and financial cost. We call for strengthened international standards for the protection of the rights of all border crossers, and for governments to be held to account for discrimination, violence, and rights violations at the border. We urge states to create regular channels for migration that are safe and respectful of rights.

We acknowledged that our movement must envision longer-term strategies that recognize the necessity and power of intersectional alliances, actions, and goals. Beyond articulating our issues, we must consider proven cross-border tactical strategies and encourage initiatives to raise awareness and organize communities around critical issues.

(4) Movement-building with grassroots migrant organisations in leadership, at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

The PGA acknowledged that the global migrants' rights movement must build our power and strengthen alliances between migrants' rights organizing and other social justice movements, and build multi-ethnic and multi-sectoral coalitions with indigenous and non-migrant marginalized communities (e.g., youth, LGBT, workers, the homeless, the unemployed, etc.).

We reaffirmed that our movement should practice genuine solidarity with other social movements, including developing a greater consciousness that our victories do not come at the expense of others. We agreed to prioritize the strengthening of organizing among migrants, as agents of change, supporting a stronger migrant voice at all levels of organizing, advocacy, and leadership. Furthermore, we reasserted the need to call out xenophobic “otherness” when it is deployed by states or within civil society groups or minority communities ourselves.

We asserted that we would continue to take advantage of the spaces that civil society has gained in international forums to make our demands visible at the international level. In this way we will be able to participate in the construction of international normative frameworks. In these forums, we will bring forward collective, clear, and united demands complemented by a multiplicity of strategies coordinated for greatest impact, including community organizing, media, education, direct action, and legal and legislative tactics aimed at building people's power.

(5) Full and inclusive labour rights for all migrant workers.

The PGA reasserted our calls for states to uphold and promote the labour rights of all migrant workers, irrespective of legal status, and advocated for an end to the temporary, circular migration regime (including guest-worker and labour export programs) as an economic development model. We reject economic models that rely on remittances and treat migrant workers as commodities, and call on states to adopt rights-based approaches and to guarantee social protection for all migrant workers.

As a movement, we agreed that there is a need to deepen our collective analysis, strengthen partnerships, and engage in joint actions and cross-border campaigns on labour rights, regulating exploitative recruitment regimes, and ensuring social protection for migrant workers, including undocumented workers.

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