



Invitation for International Webinar & Call for Papers

MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS AMID COVID-19: Issues, Challenges and Policy Options

15-17 October 2020

organised by

Centre for Indian Diaspora Studies (CIDS)

School of International Relations and Politics
Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala

in collaboration with

Department of Social Sciences, FLAME University, Pune

&

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), New Delhi

Concept Note

Human mobility has been an integral part of studies on migration and international relations. A multitude of factors and forces have contributed to the changing dynamics of human mobility throughout history. Currently, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented challenges to human mobility with its attendant consequences for the lives of migrants across the world. Pandemic and similar emergencies continue to impact on the life and livelihood of people in general. However, its impact on the vulnerable sections of the population such as migrant communities—composed of internal migrants, international migrants as well as displaced people (IDPs), asylum seekers and refugees—is often difficult to estimate. Lockdown, closing of borders, restrictions on travel, social distancing, quarantine, community containment etc. are being imposed by governments across the world as necessary measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic. Inevitably, sociopolitical and economic activities came to a near standstill all over the world. As a result, human mobility, in general, and the status of the migrant community, in particular, have been severely affected even as labour migration has been temporarily halted globally. In contrast, displaced people faced difficulties due to the lack of assistance (or a slowdown in the process of assistance) from the responsible agencies and they have been facing tremendous difficulties even to procure medical care and other emergency needs. The social, economic and psychological impacts of the crisis, with the onset of the COVID-19, are challenging and long lasting. For the migrants the crisis is multi-level having impacts on both the home and destination countries. India is a glaring example in this regard as the country has brought forth the highest number of migrants in the world with the largest amount of remittances. India is an important country of origin of international migrants apart from massive internal population movement. Similarly, India hosts several refugee communities—Tibetans, Sri Lankan Tamils, Rohingyas, and so on. Evidently, the plight of migrants, both voluntary and forced, and the adverse effects induced by the pandemic deserve special attention in this critical moment. The International Webinar covers the following themes related to human mobility and migrant communities amid COVID-19 pandemic in three thematic sections; 1) COVID-19 and Internal migration, 2) COVID-19 and International labour migration, and 3) COVID-19 and forced migration. The insights and observations generated from the webinar will be useful inputs for policy-making, academia and the civil society. The Webinar seeks to delve into the pandemic-induced impact on human mobility and the plight of migrants from a multidisciplinary perspective. All papers accepted for the international webinar will be published in a book bearing ISBN number.



Subthemes

- State and migrant communities
- Economic, political and policy dimensions
- International and national policy deficits
- Question of portability of rights
- Housing and workplace conditions
- Impact of travel restrictions
- Challenges facing migrant and displaced women amid COVID- 19
- Challenges facing migrant and displaced children amid COVID- 19
- Issues of access to health care and relief
- Disruption of migration and refugee services
- Crisis in migration and refugee management
- Psychosocial impact of COVID- 19 on migrant communities
- Return and reverse migration
- Protests and resistance
- Civil society interventions
- Role of international organisations

Guidelines for Submission

- ❖ We invite scholars to participate in and contribute to the webinar. There will be NO registration fee for the seminar.
- ❖ Interested scholars to present papers should submit an abstract (must not exceed 350 words, including title and key words) on or before 4 October 2020.
- ❖ All abstracts will be peer reviewed and evaluated before final acceptance.
- ❖ Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to present their paper at the seminar.
- ❖ The abstract and the final submission must be typed in Times New Roman, with font size 12 and 1.5 line acing.

Important Dates

Last Date for Submission of Abstract (Soft-copy): 4 October 2020

Intimation on Selection of the Abstract: 8 October 2020

Deadline for full paper draft submission: 14 October 2020

Useful Links

For Registration/ Submission of Abstract : <https://forms.gle/srhuGofvRgSd8dJy6>

To join WhatsApp group : <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Jzflkeyvz9hJtbLRzaMIjq>

About the Organisers

Mahatma Gandhi University

Mahatma Gandhi University, one of the major Universities in Kerala, is a premier educational institution that strives to fulfill the higher educational needs of the people of Central Kerala. The University was established on 2 October 1983. At present, MGU offers research programme in forty disciplines through its own schools as well as its approved research centres. The University is also involved in active collaboration with research institutions of international reputation. The School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP) was established as one of the founding academic departments of the Mahatma Gandhi University. It has made a mark in its sphere of scholarly activity and is one of the few institutions in the country to offer instruction and engage in research in areas like politics, international relations, human rights, as well as public policy and governance.

FLAME University

FLAME University is a liberal education state private university based in Pune, Maharashtra. FLAME is the pioneer of Liberal Education in India. It is an active centre of teaching and learning as well as research. It hosts renowned national and international personalities who have distinguished themselves in diverse fields as well as numerous international and national conferences, symposiums and workshops every year independently as well as in collaboration with international and national institutions of excellence. The Department of Social Sciences offers four majors: Psychology, International Studies, Sociology and Public Policy.

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT)

GRFDT is a consortium of researchers and policymakers drawn from national and international universities, institutes and organizations. It is presently based in India and is shaping as the largest such group in India focusing specifically on the issues related to migration governance, diaspora and transnationalism. It works as an academic and policy think tank by engaging national and international experts from academics, practitioners and policymakers, industry experts in a broad range of areas such as migration policies, transnational linkages of development, human rights, culture, gender to mention a few.

Coordinators

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