



# NO BORDERS TO EQUALITY

GLOBAL MAPPING OF ORGANIZATIONS  
WORKING ON GENDER AND MIGRATION

A publication by  
Women in Migration Network &  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Author  
Paola Cymant  
January 2021



FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG



## Objectives of the Mapping

- Identify key organizations and leaders addressing the rights of women in migration at the local, national, regional and global levels
  - Assess how these organizations are responding to the current Covid-19 and ask them how the lives of women in migration are being impacted by the pandemic.
  - Assess realities of women in migration by region.
  - Lay the basis for future regional and global organizing within the context of migration governance, women's rights movements, labor organizing and other relevant sites of intervention.
- 



## Methodology

- Identify organizations working on gender and international migration
- Conduct a broad online survey
- Conduct in-depth interviews with leaders and experts by region
- Data systematized and analyzed in order to elaborate this study

More than **500 organizations** identified in a database organized by regions

**315 organizations** surveyed

**19 in-depth** interviews

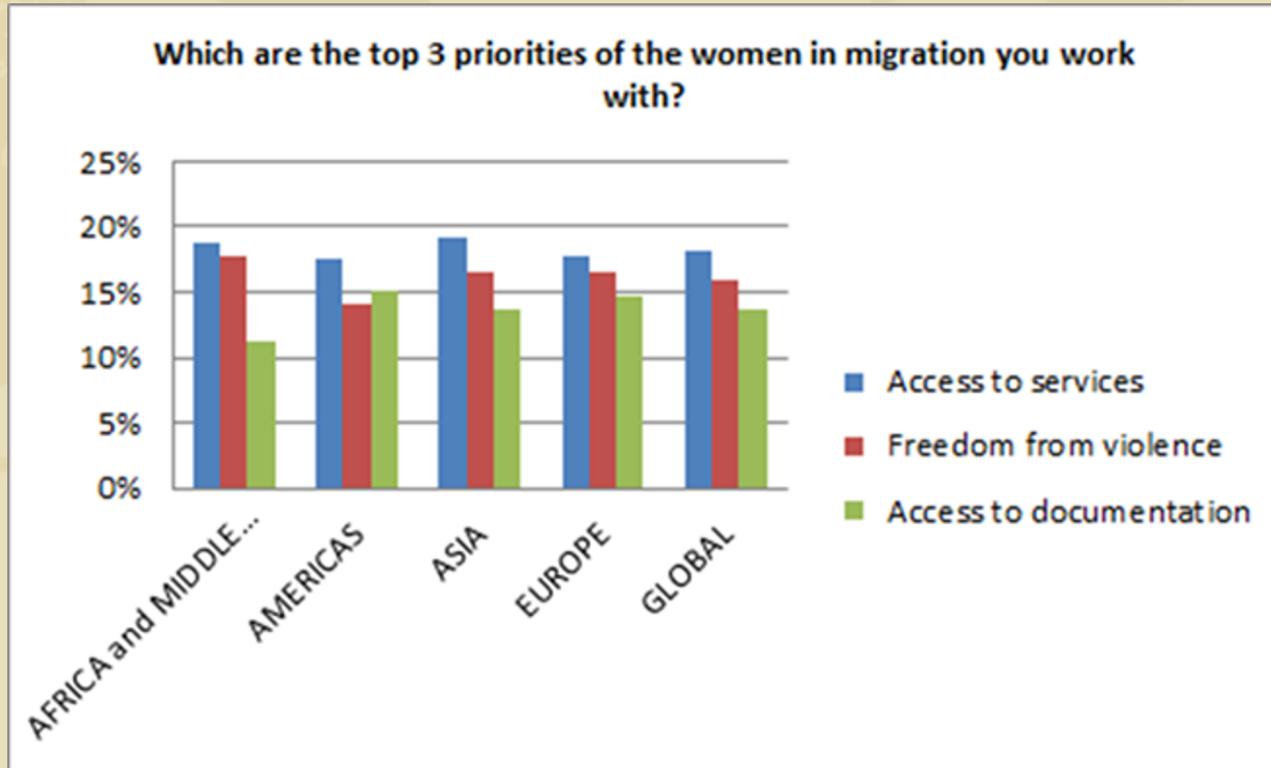
Conclusions represent WIMN and FES's assessment of the data



The background features a light beige world map. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are decorative circular patterns consisting of concentric arcs in shades of brown, red, and green.

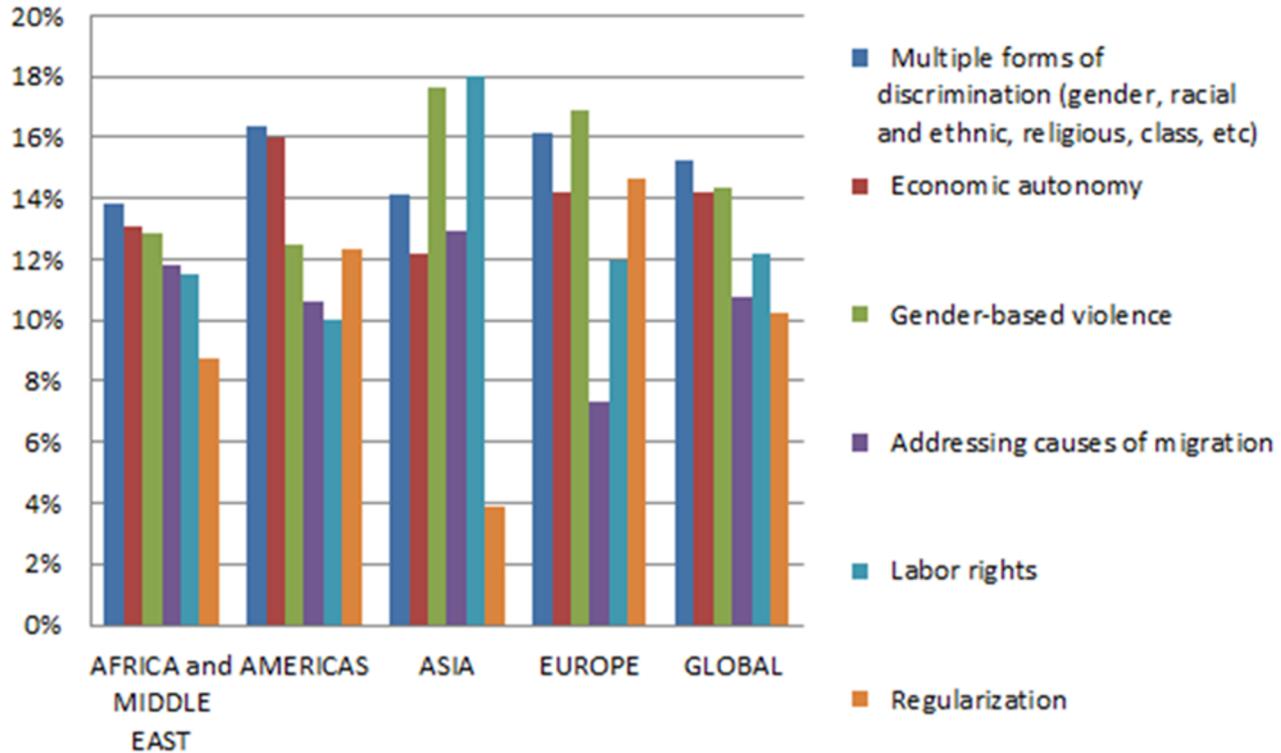
# Key global findings: Realities of Women in Migration

## Women in migration's **access to services** is the top priority



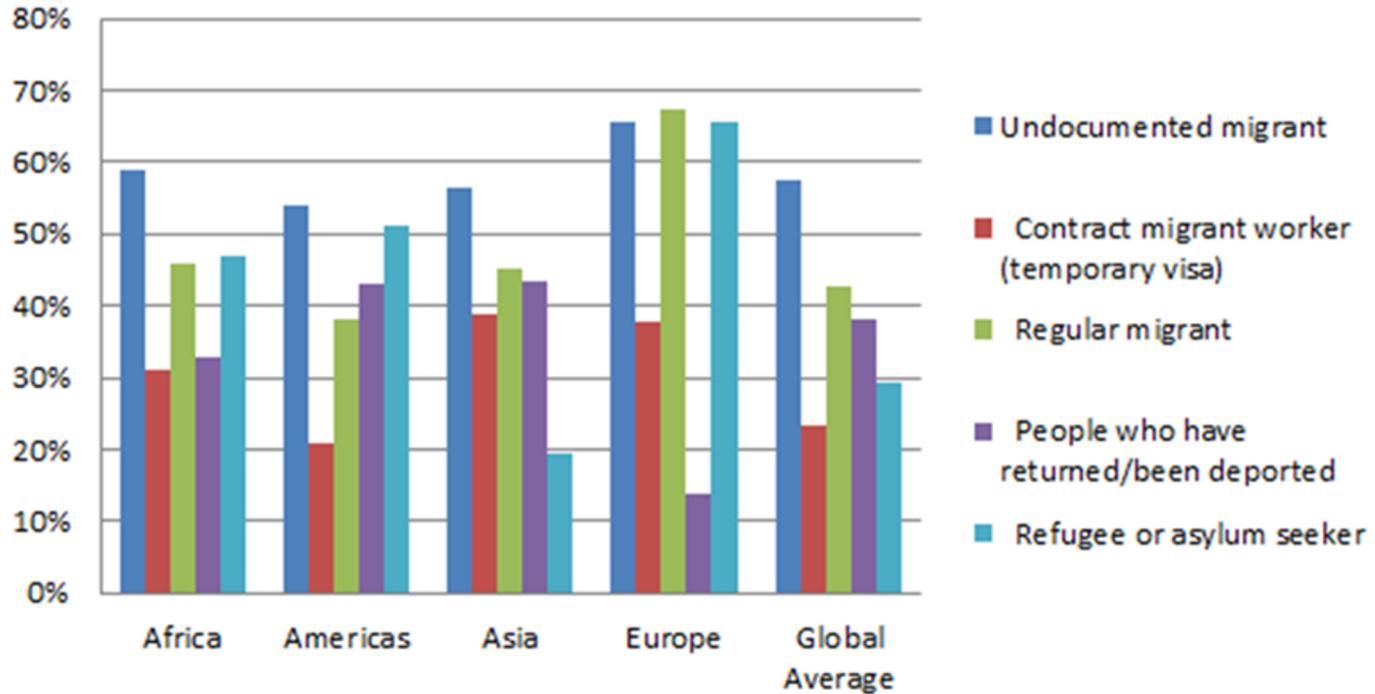
**Violence against women** is a major concern for women in migration. Almost **60 percent** of the organizations surveyed work with **survivors of violence**

### What are the longer term top 6 priorities of the women in migration you work with?

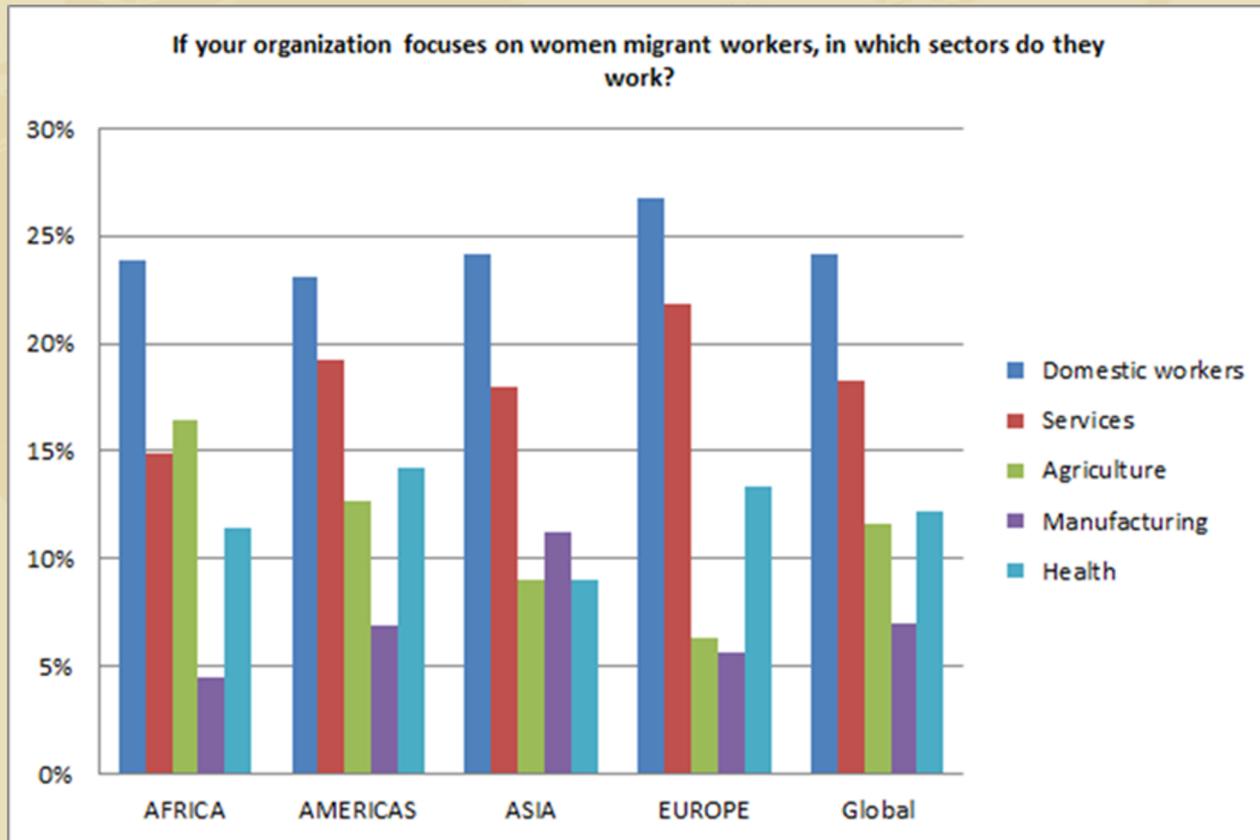


Surveyed organizations saw **multiple discriminations** as a top concern for women in migration

### What is the profile of the women in migration you work with?



Organizations surveyed work mostly with  
**undocumented migrant women**



Women migrant workers are highly concentrated in **domestic work**, while also participating in services, agriculture, and manufacturing



# Other key findings of the survey

- **Climate change** is an emerging issue driving migration, noted respondents in several regions.
  - **COVID-19** has meant a loss of livelihoods, intensification of poverty and hunger, and the rise of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence for women in migration, according to those surveyed.
  - Most of the organizations surveyed are aware of the **UN Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM)**, though few are working on implementation of the compact.
- 



## LGBTIQ+ Migrants: In Search of Visibility and Protection

- LGBTIQ+ migrant issues continue to be **marginalized from the agenda** of most mainstream migrant civil society organizations
  - LGBTIQ+ local groups and global networks are increasingly focusing on those **seeking asylum** or granted **refugee status** based on persecution due to sexual orientation and gender identity
  - Some **international LGBTIQ+ rights organizations** (ILGA) are starting to incorporate the particular concerns of LGBTIQ+ migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees into their work
- 

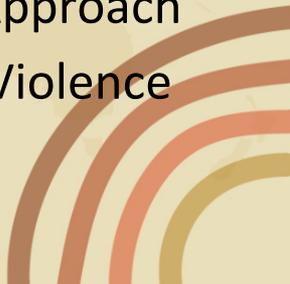


# Challenges Faced by Civil Society Organizations

- Limited resources and lack of capacity make it hard for organizations to go beyond addressing immediate needs
  - Feminist movements have only begun to put migration on their policy agenda
  - LGBTIQ+ migrants' issues are not on the agendas of most mainstream migrant civil society organizations.
  - Report also assesses public policy challenges affecting the lives of women in migration and makes recommendations for governments
- 



# Moving Forward: Recommendations for Strategy and Organizing

- **Cross-sectoral alliances** with feminist, labor, migrant, climate justice, economic justice groups;
  - Promote **LGBTIQ+** migrant leadership and include their concerns into both migrant and feminist agendas and spaces;
  - Particular realities of **Black and Indigenous migrant women**
  - Support **migrant women leaders** in roles of organizing and advocacy to claim rights.
  - Make use of the **Global Compact for Migration** Whole-of-Society Approach
  - **ILO Conventions 189** (Domestic Workers) and **190** (Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work) for campaigning and advocacy
- 



## Regional highlights

**The Americas:** Berenice Valdez, Instituto Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI), México, and Bloque Latinoamericano – WIMN member

**Europe:** Petra Snelders, RESPECT Network of Women Migrant Domestic Workers in Europe – WIMN member

**Subsaharan Africa:** Prof. Alice Ncube, senior lecturer, University of the Free State, South Africa

**Middle East and North Africa:** Dr. Jean D’Cunha, UN Women Senior Global Advisor on International Migration, based in UN Women Regional Office for Arab States





## Regional highlights – Focus on Asia

**South Asia:** Sumaiya Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra (BNSK), Bangladesh

**Southeast Asia:** Misun Woo, regional coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development – (APWLD)

**The Pacific:** Maeve Brown, Programs and Service Delivery Manager of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia

