



EU-Canada Migration Platform: Integration of Migrant Women Event Summary - January 2021

In November 2020, the EU and Canada organised a series of events and policy dialogues with a focus on the integration of migrant women as part of their fourth joint migration platform. The evidence demonstrates that investing in women and girls is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart way to address inequality. The three webinars in November addressed topics on: [Promoting the Social Integration of Migrant Women](#); [Opportunities and challenges to the Labour Market Participation of Migrant Women](#); and [Sex, Gender and Equity in Health](#).

This event series culminated in a [closing session on December 18](#) to mark the occasion of the 20th anniversary of International Migrants Day. The final event featured migrant women speakers Anila Noor and Iman Daboussy; European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson; and [Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Marco Mendicino](#). The series focused on the valuable contributions of migrant women, the commitment of both Canada and the EU to the empowerment of migrant women, and highlighted the EU-Canada relationship and cooperation on migration issues. It was also an opportunity to launch the global communications campaign, [It Takes a Community](#), which Canada is advancing in its role as a Global Compact for Migration Champion, and co-leading in the Global Forum for Migration and Development.

We have an opportunity to ensure that women's hard-won economic, social, and political gains are not just protected at this challenging moment, but advanced.

*~ The Honourable Marco E.L. Mendicino
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship*

The events were attended by several hundred participants including migrant women with lived experience and expertise, migration policy experts, senior officials from the EU and Canada, civil society organizations, and the private sector. [Two podcasts](#) and a final [policy outcomes paper](#) are also available. The final policy recommendations stemming from the events are as follows:

1. Promote “enabling policies” to allow equal opportunities for immigrant women in accessing integration and labour market services, while avoiding stigmatisation.
2. Target the concrete individual needs of immigrant women by taking a whole-of-family approach to integration.
3. Promote social inclusion as a key and standalone pillar for any strategy to foster the integration of immigrant women.
4. Raise awareness among settlement service providers of specific health issues hampering the successful integration of immigrant women and how to address them.
5. Remove persisting institutional barriers to the equal participation of immigrant women in the host country's economy and society.
6. Upgrade immigrant women's responsibility in integration policy and settlement service design.
7. Change the narrative on immigrant women: from burdens to assets.
8. Develop solid datasets which allow the assessment of the intersectionality of gender, migration, and ethnicity and its impacts in all the areas of integration.
9. Promote transformative change in the host societies with respect to the role of men and women in the family, the labour market and broader community, and how these are portrayed in the public discourse