

## **International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Statement, 2022**

This statement has been prepared by Settlement Services International (SSI), a non-governmental organisation in Australia. SSI is driven by a commitment to support people who have experienced vulnerability, including refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants. SSI is committed to influencing and developing policy, advocacy, capacity building and developing strong partnerships nationally and internationally. The organisation is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working towards building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

SSI is committed to advancing the rights of migrant communities and is working towards the following key objectives set out in the Global Compact on Migration:

**Objective 6.** Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

**Objective 16.** Empower migrants and societies to realise full inclusion and social cohesion

**Objective 17.** Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

**Objective 18.** Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

**Objective 19.** Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

Operating from a human-rights and people-centred approach, SSI's programs in resettlement, integration, jobs and livelihoods all promote inclusion and social cohesion. In addition, successfully implementing community engagement programs that provide a platform for arts and culture, sports, festivals and volunteering that has showcased the importance of the full, meaningful participation of migrants in the communities in which they live, building the foundations for belonging.

Since its establishment, SSI has demonstrated its firm commitment to advancing gender equality and empowering migrant women. SSI has developed a Strategic Plan 2021-2023 to increase the focus on the needs of women and girls and gender equality within the organisation. The Plan recognises the breadth of gender diversity, encompassing transgender women, people who identify as non-binary and other diverse genders, acknowledging the intersectional layers of identify. The Plan lists strategic pillars, a number of which intersect with the GCM's objectives and the SDGs. The goals include economic empowerment, leadership and growth, health and wellbeing.

The Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees has highlighted the importance of the complementarity between the two Compacts. This is of particular interest in Asia and the Pacific, where there are large numbers of refugees and mixed migration. As a partner of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), SSI supports the work of the network in strengthening civil society collaboration in implementing both Compacts.

Furthermore, SSI's partnerships with APRRN and other refugee and migrant-led initiatives in Australia and internationally which aims to reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

Partnerships and working collaboratively with communities has resulted in SSI successfully supporting refugees and migrants. For example, SSI leads a consortium of 21 organisations in Australia that form the NSW Settlement Partnership have supported 185,866 people. Since 2015, the consortium has supported migrants speaking over 160 ethnic languages through their settlement, promoting social cohesion and productive diversity, meeting the objectives of the GCM.

In 2018, SSI hosted the Metropolis conference, leading dialogue on migration, and the organisation continues to engage in forums where evidence-based research and practices are shared in the sector. Findings from research conducted by SSI, such as the recent pulse study collating data on COVID-19 impacts on people seeking asylum; with 62% of individuals interviewed indicating they had gone without meals, 76% could not pay rent/mortgages and 52% had to forgo their medication, clearly indicating inequalities have increased in Australia, with devastating effects on refugees and migrants.

Ongoing research and evidence-based practice is the foundation of SSI's advocacy, including our communications strategy, where we promote public discourse that is humane and constructive on migration-related issues. SSI's Diversity Training is committed to a diverse and inclusive society where everyone is valued and can meaningfully participate and reach their potential, providing learning experiences that transform how people respond to diversity. The training has been delivered to more than 30,000 people, including employers to promote inclusive workplaces for migrants. Furthermore, aligning with **objective 18** of the GCM, SSI's employment and entrepreneurship programs support migrants and refugees into sustainable employment and livelihoods. SSI is committed to working with the private sector and employers to develop innovative pathways to support migrants into the labour market and fair work.

SSI commits to working towards the objectives of the GCM and the GCR to continue its work with migrants and forcibly displaced communities, including communities displaced by the impacts of climate change and disasters. Recognising that migration results in thriving communities, SSI continues to advocate for increased solutions. We promote collaboration through a whole-of-society approach to achieve our mandate, aligning our goals with the objectives of the Compacts and the SDGs.

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