

6.1.3. External Resolution: Addressing Modern Trends in Human Mobility

Title of proposed resolution	Addressing Modern Trends in Human Mobility
Proposed by	Executive Secretary Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla
Seconded by	International President Dr Catherine Bosshart
Supported by	Young BPW Co-ordinator Tomi Odunsi-Fadina
Financial Impact	None

MOTION:

Acknowledging that Objective 5, one of the 23 objectives in the Agreed Outcome document (December 18, 2018) from the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration deals with enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

Noting that to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration as well as to realize the Sustainable Development Goals the following SDG targets must be met:

- (i) Implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies SDG 10.7
- (ii) Promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies SDG 16.2

The central promise of Agenda 2030 is to “Leave no one behind” However, challenges like climate change, poverty and conflicts impede the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly when it comes to addressing the rights and needs of refugees, internally displaced individuals and those forced to flee their own countries because they are at risk of serious human rights violations, persecution and violence.

Be it Resolved:

That Affiliate Federations and Clubs urge their governments to:

- a. expand humanitarian pathways to address modern trends in human mobility; and
- b. facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways and increase awareness of options available.

RATIONALE FOR THE RESOLUTION:

Since 1951 international regulations governing refugee admissions have remained unchanged. These were specifically designed to respond to the tragic events of World War II. However, international law has not evolved to address recent pressing threats such as the spread of firearms to non-military actors, escalating drug related and gang violence, devastation and loss of land due to climate change, and life-threatening economic crisis leading to starvation.

The numerous visa types per country are each regulated by complex requirements. Most legal frameworks categorise migrants as “voluntary” or “forced”. To summarise, voluntary migrants are those who wish to relocate to advance their career and socioeconomic status, re-unite with family, invest in a business or study. Meanwhile, forced migrants are those faced with persecution and whose lives are in danger. However, in the modern-day world there are numerous individuals who do not fit into either one of those categories. In fact there are forced migrants who don’t meet the definition of a refugee in the meaning of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The antiquated and restricted definition of a refugee must change to keep up with today’s terrors. We need to go beyond the 1951 meaning of persecution which is limited to political beliefs, religion, race, nationality, membership of a particular social group. As global

citizens, we must urgently respond to the world's modern trends in human mobility by expanding humanitarian pathways because human lives are at stake. BPW members around the world have a role to play in leading discussions and presenting resolutions to influence migration policies, access justice, promote inclusion, and international protection as an humanitarian act consistent with the spirit of international solidarity

IMPLEMENTATION:

Affiliates of BPW International can implement the initiatives in clauses a) to c) of the resolution and BPW International can also advocate on this issue through UN agencies and global stakeholders while understanding that BPW is in a position to lead the conversation on planned and well-managed migration policies, building and expanding humanitarian pathways through all visa types, as well as upholding human rights through access to justice.