

**Reception on the Occasion of International Migrants Day:  
Bringing Communities Together Through Art**

16 December 2024

1:00-3:00pm

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

**Co-Sponsors:** NGO Committee on Migration (CoM), Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

**Theme:** Strengthening social cohesion and inclusion of migrants with local communities, and promoting balanced migration narratives.

**Background:** In the current global context of historically high levels of people on the move, the need to promote balanced and evidenced-based narratives of migrants, alongside social cohesion and inclusion, has become increasingly important. Since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), UN member states and civil society organizations have been seeking effective strategies to combat xenophobia and foster social inclusion and the rights of migrants for the implementation of objectives 16 and 17. One of the roles of the NGO Committee on Migration (CoM) has been to advocate for and bring awareness to good practices in this regard, such as initiatives to transform perceptions of migrants, promote positive narratives, and disseminate fact-based information.

**Concept and Objectives:** For years, the NGO CoM has highlighted the powerful role of the Arts in raising awareness and establishing effective practices to shape narratives of migration based on solidarity and inclusion. The previous two years the Committee has collaborated on events for International Migrants Day with the Canadian Mission and cosponsored by the GCM Champion countries and Group of Friends of Migration. This year it is our pleasure to collaborate again with the Canadian Mission to celebrate International Migrants Day, highlighting the powerful role of art in cross-cultural communication and community cohesion. The event showcases several artists who have used visual arts as a means of promoting social cohesion and inclusion for migrants and their communities, as well as a means of sharing migrant stories which highlight their experiences and perspectives. Art has the power to advance narratives that reflect lived experience of people on the move, as well as develop strong connections with local communities.

**Proposed Format:** The event will be a lunch reception, with brief remarks of welcome, and introductions from each participating artist or collective. Attendees will then have the opportunity to explore the exhibition and speak with the artists about their work.

**Participating Artists:**

- [Nathalie Sayago](#), based in Venezuela & New York City, is a photojournalist and documentary photographer focusing on social and human rights issues.
- [Marie Saint-Cyr](#): Saint-Cyr Art Studio is a mural agency run by two sisters from Haiti with the mission to beautify spaces with meaningful murals while creating opportunities for communities to be engaged in the process.

- [Sanika Phawde](#): An illustrator, educator, cartoonist and reportage artist born and raised in India and based in Boston whose work strives to capture and communicate instances of emotional connection, queer immigrant culture and conversations people have over meals

The event will take place in person on Monday, December 16th, 2024, from 1-3pm at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations.

We hope that this will present Member States and civil society with a refreshing approach that can heal across divides, and mobilize action to create inclusive and cohesive societies.