

CSW 2026 Concept Note

Event Title: Crossing Borders, Claiming Rights: Gender-Responsive Approaches to Migration

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026

Time: 9:00 - 10:30 AM EST

Location: Virtual



A Call to Action

Migration is one of the defining global challenges of our time, disproportionately affecting girls and women who face heightened risks of exploitation, violence, and systemic discrimination. Yet, it is also a story of courage, resilience, and leadership. Around the world, communities are developing creative and rights-based approaches to safeguard dignity and promote inclusion for people on the move.

This event will bring together global and regional perspectives to examine migration through a gender-just lens. Featuring representatives from Good Shepherd programs in the U.S., Latin America, and other regions—as well as migration experts—the discussion will highlight both policy dimensions and lived realities. Together, speakers will explore experiences from both sides of migration: those leaving their home countries and those welcoming migrants into new communities. Emphasis will be placed on gender-responsive, community-centered approaches that strengthen protection, resilience, and empowerment.

As a peer-learning session, the event will create space for participants to share experiences, exchange good practices, and reflect on how collaborative approaches can build more inclusive migration systems.

Theme

Advancing human rights, strengthening protection systems, and promoting resilience in migration contexts through shared practices and peer learning.

Strategic Objectives

This side event seeks to:

- Foster exchange among policymakers, civil society, and community leaders.
- Highlight good practices in migration policy and community-based responses.
- Amplify the gendered dimensions of migration, with a focus on girls and women.
- Strengthen solidarity and shared capacity through peer learning and collaboration.

Event Structure

- I. Opening

- A. Welcome remarks by organizers
- B. Framing on migration, gender justice, and community-based protection
- II. Keynote Address
 - A. Overview of the links between migration and gender justice
 - B. Both sides of the border: those migrating and those receiving migrants from an international perspective
 - C. Emphasis on the importance of knowledge exchange and peer learning at the grassroots level to the UN
- III. Panel Presentations
 - A. Perspectives from both sides of the border: those migrating and those receiving migrants - from around the world
 - B. Stakeholders share regional experiences, good practices, and lessons learned
 - C. Discussion of gender-responsive approaches to migration policy and community protection
- IV. Closing Reflections
 - A. Key takeaways and recommendations for advocacy and partnership

Note: The event will be recorded for use in future learning and advocacy initiatives.

Opportunities for Engagement

1. Advocacy Partnership
 - a. Sponsor the event and join as panelists or respondents.
 - b. Share commitments to strengthening gender-responsive migration policy.
2. Technical & Logistical Support
 - a. Provide resources for online interpretation and accessibility
 - b. Support wide global participation through virtual platforms.
3. Visibility and Policy Uptake
 - a. Integrate lessons into upcoming UN processes and intergovernmental commitments.