

## GFMD Youth Forum Session Outcome Report

<b>Session:</b>	Central America Youth Forum - October 2022
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### Youth Priorities - What do we care about?

Inputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● One key challenge youth face regarding gender and migration amid climate change is the disproportionate impact of climate-related disasters on certain groups.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ For example,<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Women and girls are often more vulnerable to the effects of climate-related disasters due to social, economic, and cultural factors. This can lead to increased rates of migration for women and girls, which can, in turn, expose them to additional risks such as exploitation and abuse.</li><li>▪ LGBTQ+ youth may also face discrimination and stigma in the places they migrate to, which can further compound their vulnerabilities.</li></ul></li><li>○ It is essential to recognise the gendered dimensions of climate displacement and to insist on a gendered approach to climate justice.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Considering the specific experiences and needs of young girls and women in addressing and responding to the impacts of climate change, promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls to participate in decision-making processes.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>● Another challenge is the lack of protection and support for young migrants, particularly those who are undocumented or seeking asylum.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Youth who migrate due to climate change may not be recognised as refugees under current international laws, making it difficult for them to access legal protections and assistance. This can leave them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and make accessing education and other resources challenging.</li></ul></li></ul>

### Youth Actions - What are we doing to address these priorities?

Inputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Latinas en Poder has been doing an excellent job in empowering women and young girls to address the push and pull factors in the migration of girls and women in Central America, especially around the role that climate displacement has in the lives of young women and the importance of insisting on a gender approach in the field of climate justice.</li><li>● MYCP offers an excellent platform for youth to engage in migration-related activities. Siding with the Latinas en Poder collaboration opened an additional pathway for young people in the region to be exposed to discussions with relevant stakeholders.</li></ul>

- MYCP has been able to amplify youth voices by actively seeking out and giving platforms to young people to share their perspectives, experiences, and ideas. While this can be done differently, the Youth Forum platform allows young people to feel empowered to make decisions that affect their lives.
- MYCP encourages young people who have never participated in human rights events to participate in this kind of space due to the fact there was no selection criteria to participate in the Central America Youth Forum. This allowed young people to start talking about human rights and different problematics they faced as migrants even though they are no experts

### **Policy Asks - What are we asking governments and other stakeholders to do?**

#### **Inputs**

- Develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programs related to climate change and migration: This can include incorporating a gender perspective into disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning and policies and programs related to migration and development. It can also include ensuring that young girls and women have a seat at the table in decision-making processes and can actively participate in developing and implementing these policies and programs.
- Strengthen legal protections and support for young girls and women: This can include advocating for the rights of young girls and women to migrate safely and legally and increasing access to legal assistance and other support for those who have experienced abuse or exploitation. It may also involve working with governments to ensure that laws and policies are in place to protect the rights of young girls and women and advocating for the inclusion of gender-specific provisions in international agreements and protocols related to migration and climate change.
- Enhance access to education and employment opportunities: Youth may advocate for increased investment in education and training programs for young girls and women and initiatives that promote economic empowerment and increase access to employment opportunities. This may involve working with governments, civil society organisations, and businesses to create targeted programs and initiatives that support the education and employment of young girls and women.
- Promote gender equality and empowerment: Youth may advocate for initiatives that promote gender equality and empower women and girls, such as education and training programs, and may also work to ensure that women and girls are included in decision-making processes at all levels. This may involve working with governments, civil society organisations, and businesses to develop and implement policies and programs that support the empowerment of women and girls.
- Address discrimination and stigma: Youth may work to raise awareness about the impacts of discrimination and stigma on young girls and women and may advocate for initiatives that promote inclusivity and diversity. This may involve working with governments, civil society organisations, and local actors to develop and implement policies and programs that promote acceptance and understanding of diverse groups.