



## **APPG on Diasporas, Development and Migration (APPG DDM)**

Meeting of the APPG on Diasporas, Development and Migration (APPG DDM) on:

### **The UN Global Compact on Migration (GCM) – How do we manage migration for the benefit of all? Perspectives from diaspora communities the UK**

**Committee Room 11 Palace of Westminster, Houses of Parliament, 4-5pm 26 February 2018**

#### **Introduction**

The APPG DDM aims to promote parliamentary and public understanding of the key issues affecting diaspora communities in the UK, and to expand and enhance their contributions to the international development agenda.

Due to the UK's history as a country that has long welcomed refugees and migrants, and is home to long-standing and vibrant diaspora and migrant communities, the country has an important role to play in informing and shaping international agreements on how we manage migration better in the future.

The APPG DDM is holding its first meeting of the 2017-2018 schedule to consider **diaspora and migrant perspectives from the UK on the [Global Compact on Migration \(GCM\)](#)**. Worldwide consultations on this UN Global Compact on Migration are underway, and the recommendations and outcomes of the APPG DDM meeting will be turned into a summary report and formally submitted as part of this consultation.

The keynote speaker at the meeting will be **Gervais Appave, Special Advisor to the IOM Director General**, who will introduce the GCM, and the meeting chair will be **Jeremy Lefroy MP**. Other speakers will include representatives of African, Asian, and Latin American diaspora and migrant organisations involved in development and humanitarian response.

Anyone interested in attending this APPG DDM meeting should RSVP using this weblink: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-un-global-compact-on-migration-gcm-how-do-we-manage-migration-for-the-benefit-of-all-tickets-39768595941>

The APPG DDM invites all those concerned with migration and development issues, to provide short written or video submissions on issues raised by the GCM prior to the meeting (please see guiding questions below) no later than **17.00 GMT on 01 February 2018**.

The Secretariat of the APPG DDM is provided by AFFORD UK. For further information or in case of any questions, please contact: Paul Asquith, Engagement & Policy Manager, AFFORD by email at: [paul@afford-uk.org](mailto:paul@afford-uk.org) or by phone on +447855036817.

## **Background and Context**

While for understandable reasons much of the debate on migration in the UK has focused on inward migration to Britain and other European states, migration is a bigger issue for countries in the developing world, which are much less able to manage such migration flows. Supporting the capacity of developing nations to manage migration will therefore be an important priority itself in terms of UK foreign and domestic policy.

Refugee, migrant, and diaspora communities all make important contributions to development, 'there' and 'here'. They are not merely tragic aid recipients, but deploy their financial, social, and intellectual capital to improve the lives of communities in countries of origin, transit, and destination.

Diaspora and migrants are also first responders in humanitarian emergencies, and are important mobilisers of resources for relief efforts, as we have seen in the cases of Somalia, Syria, Sierra Leone, and, most recently, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

At the same time, poorly managed migration can have a negative impact on wider communities and migrants themselves in countries of transit and residence, and the same transnational links and networks they create are vulnerable to exploitation by criminals, giving rise to concerns about crime and security. Indeed, migrants are too often themselves the victims of crime, trafficking, and slavery.

This APPG meeting builds on and complements the UK government's recent stakeholder consultation meeting organised by DfID and IOM at ODI on 06 October 2017.

## **The UN Global Compact on Migration (GCM)**

The need to improve the management of migration flows – both regular and irregular – and to strengthen the international architecture of migration governance, underpins moves by UN member states to reach a global agreement on migration. On September 19, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly hosted a High-Level Summit in New York (<http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/summit>), marking the first time world leaders, heads of state and government, came together at the UN with the aim of improving international cooperation and governance of migration and refugee issues.

The New York Declaration was the outcome of this Summit (summary and link to full text at <http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>). In it, the 193 UN Member States committed to negotiating two "Global Compacts", a "Global Compact on Refugees" and a "Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration." Informally, the two compacts together are referred to as the Global Compact on Migration (GCM)

The Summit and the resulting compact process show how important international migration issues have become on the international stage. States are showing a new willingness to cooperate with one another on migration policy. The stakes are high: migration is a high political priority, but the debate comes amidst a wave of populist scapegoating of migrants and rising racism and xenophobia around the world. It is a challenging yet crucial time to negotiate an agreement to manage migration flows more effectively, and protect the rights and interests of national citizens and migrants.

The consultation phase of the GCM is currently ongoing and will end on 30 November 2017. During this time, civil society, government, the private sector, diaspora communities and migrant organisations are encouraged to contribute to the process. Details of this GCM consultation can be found here: [<http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/consultation-phase> ]

The APPG DDM is inviting short written submissions or video clips on this topic from interested parties.

These can be sent via email at [paul@afford-uk.org](mailto:paul@afford-uk.org)

Submissions will be used to inform the APPG discussion and subsequent outcome report.

### **Guiding questions for submissions to this APPG meeting and GCM consultation**

The UN New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants sets out 24 priority themes to be considered for a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which recognise the positive contributions of migrants and diaspora to sustainable and inclusive development. For the purposes of this APPG event, the focus of discussions will specifically focus on diaspora contributions to development. Below you will find a description of this theme, along with guidance questions to help inform any submissions you wish to make.

### **Diaspora contributions to development**

Diaspora and migrant communities contribute to development in countries of residence, transit, and destination, by deploying different forms of capital – financial (remittances, investments, business); intellectual (knowledge and skills transfer); social (trust and access to networks ‘here and there’) and voluntarism. However, there are barriers to be overcome in terms of maximising the benefits of migration.

- How can diaspora and migrant communities maintain and increase their contributions to development?
- What policies can be implemented at a local level to enable diaspora and migrant contributions to have greater impact, and that encourages greater inclusion and integration?
- What national policies can be introduced to: reduce the costs of remittances; improve the portability of entitlements and earned benefits (e.g. pensions)?
- What role can the diaspora play in facilitating legal migration to avoid situations of vulnerability?
- How can the UK government support diaspora humanitarian response better?

Submissions to this APPG meeting will be open until **17.00 GMT on 01 February 2018**



AFFORD UK provides the Secretariat for the APPG DDM.



This APPG meeting is organised with support from IOM.