



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

---

NEW YORK, 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE MIGRATION GOVERNANCE THROUGH  
THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AURELIA FRICK, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Distinguished Co-Chairs, dear colleagues,

I am very grateful to UN Women and all our partners for organizing this event. It is an honor for me to add a few closing thoughts to our very substantial and also moving discussions. With all the expertise at this table this is not an easy task. The great leadership of Louise, Phumzile and so many others present here is deeply admirable, it can also be humbling at times. But first and foremost, as a women's rights advocate, I hope you all felt at home today at our event as much as I did.

We have heard many excellent interventions, arguments, questions, on the importance of gender responsive migration governance. A few things are crystal clear. Migration is a global reality. It is not a new phenomenon, while the current numbers are certainly unprecedented: There are an estimated 258 million international migrants, 48 per cent of which are female.

Women on the move face huge challenges and very specific risks and dangers. Discrimination is pervasive during migration and once the destination has been reached. Women often have to overcome gender specific hurdles to realize their employment opportunities, such as work visa regimes that do not allow for maternity leave. And there is the ever present danger of sexual and gender-based violence that migrant women and girls are so vulnerable to. Modern slavery and human trafficking are a particularly gruesome expression of such violence.

I am glad that the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) defines concrete measures to counter these crimes: strengthening cooperation between all relevant actors, including financial intelligence units, regulators and financial institutions, to identify and disrupt financial flows associated with human trafficking. This Monday, - together with my Australian colleague - I launched the “Liechtenstein Initiative for a Financial Sector Commission” with precisely this goal: Actors from retail banks, hedge funds, global regulators, institutional investors, survivors as well as the UN and the anti-slavery movement will develop measures for the global financial sector to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. We hope that this initiative will contribute to the protection of all migrant women and girls.

Better protection for migrant women is vital. But we also have to avoid looking at them only from a perspective of victimhood. Rather we should give a platform to the many strong women that write the stories of their families, by setting up new livelihoods, realizing their dreams, often at great sacrifice. We owe it to them to look at how we can maximize opportunities and potential. Migrant women significantly contribute to both countries of origin and countries of destination. The labor force participation of female migrants amounts to 67 per cent far above the global average. Female migrants tend to remit home a higher percentage of their earnings than men.

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is a central element of the GCM as is recognizing their independence, agency and leadership. I will personally use the means at my disposal to give this topic the prominence it deserves. I wish that we make gender equality a core feature of our debate in Marrakesh. If I look at the room today I don't have any doubt we will succeed in that. One first contribution from my end is to assure you that Liechtenstein will be represented at the political level, and by a woman.

I thank you.