

Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at AUC Statement on the Occasion of World Migrants Day 2018

On the occasion of World Migrants Day, an event commemorated annually on December 18 by the United Nations, the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at AUC would like to show respect for and urge everyone to celebrate the diversity of migrants across the world and call for increased international cooperation to assist migrants throughout the entirety of the journey anywhere on the globe.

We at CMRS recognize the inherent dignity of every migrant and the benefits they provide both to their host country, as well as to their country of origin. The beauty of migration lies in the multifaceted opportunities now available, which migrants can now more easily undertake in this 'era of migration'. Likewise, the different aspects and fields of migration research, including protection, access to social and legal rights, integration, and the skills possessed by migrants which benefit both the host and receiving countries are gaining more interest by the best scholars, journalists, and humanitarian workers to ease the migration experience and make it a successful endeavor for all involved.

With the advancement of a dominant migration discourse in the media, CMRS recognizes the increasing number of challenges migrants face in reaching their desired destination. With a world population of 258 million migrants, approximately 3.3% of the world's population, reality seemingly contradicts a narrative of large migration flows, invasions of outsiders, and caravans of foreigners out to overtake the country of destination. It is imperative for CMRS to regularly put forth well-researched and timely work which disproves these oftentimes dangerous narratives.

CMRS would like celebrate this important occasion just eight days after the signing of the Global Compact for Migration in Marrakesh, Morocco, and 70 years to the date of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which more than 160 countries agreed to optimize the positive aspects of migration. It is our sincere hope that such cooperation will continue for many decades to come. Let us come together, then, to salute the resilience of migrants on a day dedicated to celebrating their humanity.