

Concept Note  
*WELCOMING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE*  
International Migrants Day  
A Zoom event on December 18, 2020  
9-10:30 a.m. ET

How can the voice of non-governmental organizations be effective for people on the move? This is a reoccurring issue for many small, faith-based organizations whose experience on the ground with migrants is invaluable, but often goes unheard. Civil society at the UN works hard to ensure the maintenance of public space for voices from the grassroots. However, at all levels in an organization challenges remain to understand the system and the essential role of the experts at the grassroots. In a time when multilateralism is a major and growing challenge for UN States, civil society can have their own struggles to work together effectively, both within organizations and with each other. How do we act locally while also thinking globally?

This event addresses the question of effective collaboration within and among civil society groups, especially the smaller faith-based organizations. In order to look at practical partnerships for action, this event will look at a current experiment of the Society of the Sacred Heart to form a *Transformative Community of Practice* for people on the move. Presenters will:

- 1) Introduce the experiment of the Society of the Sacred Heart with a *Transformative Community of Practice* dedicated to on people on the move
- 2) Share some findings about living into a *Transformative Community of Practice*, using examples from some local contexts of the Society of the Sacred Heart in Europe and Africa
- 3) Give an overview of the system available to NGOs at the UN to address issues of migration in ways that are collaborative and effective
- 4) Share some ways forward for a *Transformative Community of Practice*

On International Migrants Day, we come together to understand more clearly the role of the experts (migrants) and those supporting them in the field for effective action at the UN. The event is for those at the grassroots and for UN Representatives of small NGOs affiliated with ECOSOC at the UN who are looking for ways to understand more clearly and engage more effectively in the civil society system that is set up to welcome and listen to the voice of migrants.

The presenters are:

Cecilie Kern: Global Policy and Research Advocate with MIA-Mercy Global Action and Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration

Yolanda Jimenez: JPIC (Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation) Assistant for the Society of the Sacred Heart, Rome

Sheila Smith, rscj: UN Representative for the Society of the Sacred Heart

*Welcoming People on the Move* is co-sponsored by the Society of the Sacred Heart, Mercy International Association - Mercy Global Action, the NGO Committee on Migration and JCoR.