

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Building a Global Movement to Balance the Narrative on Migration

Panel discussion organized by Canada, Ecuador, the GFMD Mayors Mechanism and the International Organization for Migration

January 25th, 2021, 16:00-18:00 CET

Background and concept

In a global context where public attitudes towards migrants and migration remain deeply polarized, this side event will highlight how concrete action and collaboration between a variety of actors can turn the tide on misinformation and promote a more balanced discourse, in keeping with the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

This event will showcase "[It Takes a Community](https://ittakesacomunity.org/)", a collaborative campaign developed by the GFMD Working Group on Public Narratives on Migration that aims to shift the narrative on migration by sharing stories about the positive impact migration can have on communities worldwide. Building on the campaign's soft launch, which took place on 18 December 2020, panelists will introduce the objectives of "It Takes a Community" and reflect on the crucial role that diverse stakeholders, particularly those at the community level, have to play in shaping a more balanced dialogue on migrants and migration. As promoting evidence-based discourse on migration is one of the main objectives of the GCM, this side event will provide a valuable opportunity for the GFMD to play a concrete role in advancing international dialogue on GCM implementation.

Current participants in the campaign will share how they have implemented "It Takes a Community" in their own contexts to-date, and will also share a concrete call to action for members of the GFMD community to join in the campaign's implementation throughout 2021. Participation in this event is encouraged from countries, cities, businesses, civil society groups, international organizations and youth.

Additional information about the campaign is available online at <https://ittakesacomunity.org/>.



Event overview

- 16:00-16:05 Opening remarks
- 16:05-17:05 Panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Leonard Doyle (Head of Media and Communications and IOM Spokesperson, International Organization for Migration)
- Ambassador Diego Morejon, Representative of Ecuador to the GFMD Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility
 - Ms. Alexandra Young, Director, International Migration Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
 - Ms. Gabriella de Francesco, Councillor, City Council of Mechelen, Belgium (*TBC*)
 - Mr. Gary Slaiman, Consultant, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, and Corporate Outreach Advisor, Talent Beyond Boundaries
 - Ms. Clara Skupien, Co-Coordinator, GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office
 - Ms. Alexandra Muntean, Community Engagement and Campaign Lead, Migration Working Group, UN Major Group for Children and Youth
- 17:05-17:55 Question and answer/discussion period
- 17:55-18:00 Closing remarks