

10 key messages

A positive peace approach to migration calls for:

1 A Broader Understanding of Violence and Forced Migration



Responses to migration must not only focus on the connections between direct violence and forced migration. They must also recognise the devastating effects being exposed to structural and cultural violence have on people's lives. These experiences can lead to people considering migration their only viable coping strategy. Therefore, forced migration must be understood as not only caused by direct violence but also structural and cultural violence.

2 Eliminating All Kinds of Violence and Forced Migration



The different kinds of violence that destroy people's lives and force them to migrate and that continue to negatively affect their lives in countries of transition and destination must be eliminated. This includes murder, unlawful and inhumane detention, gender violence, pushbacks and pullbacks and enforced returns. It also includes unequal access to essential resources such as food, shelter and employment and being exposed to stereotyping, prejudices, unnuanced narratives and discrimination. A commitment to non-violence in all these areas will lead to a world where no-one feels forced to migrate. This will make migration a voluntary choice some people might choose to make, and it will ensure that migration is safe. It will also make it much easier for migrants to choose to return to their country of origin.



3 Understanding and Appreciation of the Migration-Peacebuilding Nexus

This means understanding the complex and interdependent relationship between conflict, migration and peace. It involves acknowledging that peacebuilding can add invaluable contributions to migration research, practice and governance. It also means acknowledging that migration patterns need to be included in conflict analysis to identify how all the different kinds of violence affect migration. In addition, it means emphasising that preventing forced migration needs to be a peacebuilding objective and priority. Peacebuilding can play many different roles in eliminating the different kinds of violence that are linked to forced migration. Therefore, it is essential to shift the focus from short-term solutions to migration to long-term national and international policies and measures aimed at preventing the different kinds of violence and developing positive peace for all. This handbook provides many examples of how this can be done.



4 Adopting a Human Security Approach

Adopting a human security approach means focusing on people and their security rather than states and their security. This includes creating cultural, economic, environmental, political and social systems and structures that provide all people with equitable rights and opportunities to live in dignity and peace. Such an approach to security will also be better at addressing contemporary multinational challenges such as climate change, food insecurity and economic, political and health crises. A human security approach will not see migrants and migration as a threat, but rather appreciate that the security of all people is closely interlinked. Therefore, the security of migrants is closely linked to the security of the people and communities they encounter and vice versa.

5 Normalising Migration and Creating More Safe Regulated Pathways



Adopting a positive peace approach to migration entails normalising migration and seeing it as an ordinary part of life in response to changes in people's lives, circumstances and preferences. Migrants should be welcomed as fellow human beings with individual rights, skills, agency and aspirations and talked about in positive ways focusing on opportunities and mutual benefits. Many more regulated pathways should be set up to ensure that migration is safe for all. When migration is no longer seen as a problem, communities and societies can use their resources to address much more important issues, such as climate change and violent conflict, that threaten the survival of millions of people around the world. Efforts can be focused on developing socially integrated and cohesive communities, where all people are welcomed, included and valued.

6 Adopting People and Community Centred Approaches



Migrants and all the people and communities they encounter in their countries of origin, transition and destination must be at the centre of all migration and peacebuilding processes, policies, projects and practices. This means recognising each person as an individual with unique lived-experiences, feelings, needs, preferences, skills and values. It means mobilising resources and encouraging and enabling equity and social connectedness within local communities as well as increasing people's control over their lives. It includes striving to develop processes, policies, projects and practices that are mutually beneficial for all those affected and involved.



7 Ensuring Inclusive, Intentional, Meaningful and Active Participation and Engagement

All people, including migrants and the people and communities they encounter, with an interest in or a concern about an issue must be intentionally, meaningfully and actively involved in how that issue is addressed. This includes the scoping, design, planning and implementation of all migration and peacebuilding-focused processes, policies, projects and practices. Inclusivity involves ensuring that all people feel welcome, respected and valued regardless of their background. It also means considering how people's intersectional identities affect their agency and positionality. Intentional means making deliberate choices and taking deliberate actions, such as ensuring that marginalised groups are equitably included in all activities in ways that value their contributions, perspectives and roles. Meaningful and active participation and engagement mean that everyone has equitable opportunities to contribute their lived experiences, thoughts, views, ideas and skills, to influence discussions and decision-making and accomplish change on issues that affect their lives. Basically, any initiative should not be done for migrants and the people and communities they come into contact with, but with them, through participatory approaches that value their participation and engagement.



8 Developing Vertical and Horizontal Relationships and Networks

Developing relationships and networks across all levels of society, including between individuals, within and between communities, and between individuals, communities and institutions are essential for positive peace. Thus, developing relationships between migrants, between migrants and the people and communities they encounter and between migrants and local, national and international institutions must always be prioritised and supported in migration and peacebuilding processes, policies, projects and practices.

9 Ensuring Gender and Context Sensitivity



The scoping, design, planning and implementation of all processes, policies, projects and practices must be sensitive to gender and context. Being gender-sensitive includes acknowledging and challenging gender roles, responsibilities and privileges, considering the impact of actions on different genders and addressing gender inequalities, stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination and norms. Being context-sensitive includes thoroughly understanding and considering the special and complex circumstances in each context to ensure that every action taken is sensitive to the local context. This means carefully considering the local and national, historic, economic, political, cultural and religious context and drawing on local and national understandings, values, priorities, resources and practices. This will help ensure that all processes, policies and projects are not only locally owned but also locally led.

10 Using Reflective and Value-Based Practices



Using reflective and value-based practices such as critical thinking, curiosity, open-mindedness, empathy and compassion are essential for understanding and responding to the complex and continuously changing context of current migration and peacebuilding. They are also essential for the development of relationships and ensuring gender and context sensitivity. It is essential to use reflective and value-based practices in migration and peacebuilding research, practice and governance.