

GENDER-SENSITIVE REPORTING ON MIGRATION GUIDE

A gender-sensitive story is stronger and more nuanced. It has depth and reflects different viewpoints and voices. It assesses relations, representations, social hierarchies, structures and power dynamics between men and women and other gender identities, and their different experiences in society.

- Aim to use words that remove sexist biases and frameworks. Avoid reference to a person's race, class, sexual orientation, nationality or marital status when irrelevant to the story.
- Consider gender-aware alternatives to terms such as 'manpower' (labour force or work force); 'girl', when speaking about an adult (female, woman); 'cleaning lady' (domestic worker), 'prostitute' (sex worker) etc. Gender-aware language seeks to avoid assumptions about the nature and roles of women and men in society, and hence, to challenge discriminatory representations of men and women.
- When reporting, consider the migration and labour issues most saliently faced by women, including gender-based violence, marriage migration, pay inequity, discrimination, and maternal healthcare and rights.
- Avoid considering family, children, contraception and maternity the sole responsibility of the mother.
- Be aware of gender-based discrimination in migration policies, such as migration bans based on age, marital or maternal status; and how the jobs available abroad perpetuate gender roles.
- Although not always available, strive to include gender-disaggregated data, in all reporting.
- Recognize the significant amount of unpaid care work that women perform, and how this affects their lives as workers and as migrants.
- Recognize that domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, and human trafficking can be experienced by men and boys too.
- When conducting interviews, try to gather different points of view from men and women to equally represent their different voices and perceptions.
- Gender concerns should also apply to the use of images and pictures which can reinforce social constructions of femininity and masculinity and gender roles.
- When quoting from sources using demeaning or sexist language, put their sexist words or phrases between quotes to draw attention to its offending usage.
- Consider the shifting gender roles and dynamics that can result from migration. Migration can challenge the traditional gender division of roles, resulting from deep male unemployment, women as breadwinners, and women's increasing presence in the public domain, among others.