



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 69th World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda item 14.7 Promoting the health of migrants

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

The IFMSA strongly supports priorities identified by the Secretariat during the last WHO EB in addressing the health needs of migrants and refugees and we call upon all member states and major stakeholders to uphold these.

Through consultations with young migrants in different countries we were able to touch upon the main health challenges faced by migrants all the way during their journey. We now, more than ever, recognize the shocking threats to the health of migrants inflicted by the environmental, political, and humanitarian crisis and acknowledge the dire need to act now.

We call upon Member States, academic and clinical institutes to recognize the need to increase capacities among the health workforce to understand and address the health issues associated with population displacement, and reinforce health professionals education by incorporating necessary knowledge, skills, competencies and attitudes to meet the specific health needs of migrants.

We call upon member states and major stakeholders to:

- to prioritize research on demographic information about migrant populations disaggregated by gender, age, socioeconomic status, as well as migrant type and legal status
- to prioritize research and identify issues of access, appropriateness, acceptability and equality of health systems and services for migrants
- to provide access to health-related information to migrants including those who are refugees in an accessible easily understood format, using plain-language messages that speak to different groups of society
- to involve migrants and refugees in decisions relating to the delivery of health care services so as to enhance integration and self-reliance and improve overall public health.

As the tolls of the migration crisis only continue to increase, the implications on public health will continue to rise. It is the time to act now to give what migrants are entitled to and to prevent decadence of public health.