

## VIRTUAL LAUNCH OF THE MIXED MIGRATION REVIEW 2020

### Mixed migration and cities: Highlights. Interviews. Essays. Data.

*“Urban frontlines for displacement and mobility”*

**Wednesday, 18 November 2020, 15h00 – 16h30 CET**

**Register to join us:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_b89HjzQ3Rv-8WecufIPQYg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b89HjzQ3Rv-8WecufIPQYg)

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Cities are on the frontlines of receiving the majority of those in mixed migration. With an accelerating urbanisation, the future of migration will be increasingly shaped by how cities address migration, often against the background of heated debates about national migration policies. What are the experiences of refugees and migrants in different urban centres around the world? Which risks and opportunities do cities present to refugees and migrants, and vice-versa? To what extent do cities offer protection to refugees and vulnerable migrants? How will refugees and migrants in cities be affected by climate vulnerabilities? How to make the most of the myriad of opportunities that cities offer and what role does urban migration play in regional development? How do different global and regional processes influence urban approaches to mobility, and what can we learn from how cities govern migration issues compared to national migration policies? Why is there often a tension between national versus city-level migration policies? And how has Covid-19 impacted on the relation between cities and migration?

All this and more is explored in the 2020 edition of MMC's annual flagship report, the [Mixed Migration Review](#) (MMR), examining the role of cities in mixed migration and human mobility as an overarching focus. The MMR2020 contains the year's regional mixed migration overviews, essays, interviews with leading experts and thought leaders, short urban spotlights, as well as individual stories of refugees and migrants in cities ('urban voices').

The launch of the Mixed Migration Review 2020 will take place in the form of a panel debate bringing together migration experts from different fields. It will focus on three selected aspects of the report: cities of risks, cities of opportunities and national vs. local migration policies.

**15:00 - 15:15 Welcoming and Opening Remarks**

**Charlotte Slente**, Secretary-General of the Danish Refugee Council  
**Bram Frouws**, Head of the Mixed Migration Centre

**15:15 - 16:30 Presentation, panel debate and discussion, zooming in on 3 selected topics**

*Presenter*

**Chris Horwood**, Lead Editor of the MMR2020

*Moderator* **Paddy Siyanga Knudsen**, Migration Governance Expert

*Panellists*

**Ottilia Maunganidze**, Head of Special Projects, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria  
**Marta Foresti**, Director ODI Europe & Lead of the Human Mobility Initiative, ODI, London  
**Samer Saliba**, Head of Practice, Mayors Migration Council, New York

*Topics*

Protection and risks in cities - risky cities, mean streets?

Refugees and migrants in urban settings often face greater dangers, including crime, discrimination, and harassment, than other residents, and yet they frequently stand accused of bringing criminality to their cities of destination. What are potential causes for this heightened vulnerability? Do refugees and migrants also pose a risk to cities? What can governments, civil society actors and urban residents do better or differently to mitigate threats and increase protection; can we identify good practices to learn from?

Cities of opportunities - arrival cities enabling local integration and boosting economic development?

Generally, it is cities rather than national governments that are the first to respond to the needs and aspirations of refugees and migrants. Building inclusive urban destinations not only improves individuals' ability to establish livelihoods, but also promotes wider community cohesion and sustainable urban development. How to create a win-win situation, offering the best economic opportunities and access to services to refugees and migrants in cities and boost local economic development through urban migration? How can cities work together, across borders, to contribute to smarter, more productive and humane migration policies?

National versus local migration policies - pragmatic rebellion?

In many countries, there can be contested space between national and city-level approaches to migration. Cities seeking practical solutions may defy national migration and refugee policies, (such as in the case of 'sanctuary cities'), or in some cases have a tougher stance on migration than national policy. Whether for ethical, practical or political reasons, what can we learn from some city's positive and progressive approaches to mixed migration? What did the Covid-19 pandemic tell us about the importance of urban migration responses? Should cities be given a greater voice in the design of effective migration and refugee policies at the national, regional, and global levels?

### Ottilia Maunganidze

Ottilia Anna Maunganidze joined the ISS in 2009 and is currently Head of Special Projects in the office of the Executive Director. Before joining the ISS, Ottilia was a Junior Legal Advisor and Human Rights Education Officer. She explores new areas of work for the ISS and helps to inform institutional strategy. Ottilia's areas of interest are international criminal justice, international human rights law, and migration trends and policy. She has a Master of Laws degree in Fundamental Rights Litigation and International Human Rights Law from the University of South Africa.



### Marta Foresti

Marta is the Director of ODI Europe and leads ODI's Human Mobility Initiative, managing the institute engagement on migration at global, regional and local level. She is visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Global Affairs and the London School of Economics. She is member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Migration Policy and Practice as well and the Board of PorCausa.org.

### Samer Saliba

As Head of Practice for the Mayors Migration Council, Samer Saliba helps cities resource and implement local solutions to support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced efficiently and at scale. Samer has over 10 years of experience making cities more inclusive of displaced and marginalized people. As the lead urban technical advisor at the International Rescue Committee, Samer worked directly with the cities of Amman, Athens, Milan, and Kampala, among others, to implement and institutionalize inclusive projects, policies, and plans within city government structures. Samer has produced countless knowledge products and practitioner resources and has fundraised tens of millions of USD to deliver programs in the cities most adversely impacted by migration, displacement, and conflict. A respected practitioner in the space, Samer has also played leadership roles in advocacy coalitions like the Global Alliance for Urban Crises. A Boston son of Lebanese immigrant parents, Samer has a BA in Urban Studies from Boston University, a Master of Urban Planning from NYU Wagner School of Public Service and is currently a PhD student at The New School.

