

12.4 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

This statement is from MMI, supported by PHM.

We note the draft GAP to promote the health of refugees and migrants and are concerned with two key omissions in the GAP as compared to the NY Declaration on Refugees and Migrants 2016.

- Whilst the action plan recognises the dramatic increase in the number of migrants and asylum seekers over the last two decades, it ignores the root causes, particularly, a global system that is economically unstable with widening economic inequality. It is destabilising the human environment, including through climate breakdown, and is generating economic, food and personal insecurity for billions. We urge MS to address the structural causes of migration in the GAP.
- We are deeply concerned by the global narrative around migration. Many HICs have abdicated their global responsibility, introduced hostile environments towards migrants, encouraging fear, racism, xenophobia and denied access to health. The consequences are catastrophic and people are facing ill health and dying as a result. Health is a fundamental human right and must be ensured to all without any distinction of race, religion, gender or sexuality. We urge MS to uphold the right to health and create peaceful and caring societies with inclusive health systems.

This is not a *Refugee Crisis* as it is often called, rather a crisis of political will. Health for all can not be achieved until migrants are included in local, national and global health planning. We call on MS to act with compassion, humanity and in solidarity and create a more just and caring world.

Total: 254 words