



## Public Services International

People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA)

Lunchtime Side Event:

# Access and Portability of Social Protection for Migrant Workers

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, 1.30pm – 3.00pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Church Center of the UN, 777 UN Plaza (Corner of 44<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue), New York City

Of the 232 million international migrants worldwide, more than half are migrant workers. Despite their increasing number through the years, migrant workers -- particularly women and undocumented workers -- are often excluded from social protection coverage and schemes. Migrants in general lose some or all of their acquired social security benefits when they return to their home countries. The territorial nature of social security and the various conditions associated with entitlement to benefits create particular hurdles for migrant workers to avail of their rights. The shift towards temporary and circular migration models further make it difficult for them to access social protection.

The workshop will look at the different obstacles related to the provision of social protection for migrant workers. It will serve as a venue for trade unions and civil society groups from both origin and destination countries to develop a Social Protection Agenda and contribute to building a movement that will advance access and portability of social protection for migrant workers.

### Questions of interest:

1. What is social protection for migrant workers?
2. What are the challenges related to access and portability of social protection for migrant workers?
3. What are the roles of trade unions and civil society organizations in ensuring access and portability of social protection for migrant workers?
4. What international human rights instruments / mechanisms can be used in advancing social protection for migrant workers?
5. What are examples of successful/promising national/bilateral/regional practices by trade unions/civil society organizations in promoting access and portability of social protection for migrant workers?
6. How can trade unions and civil society organizations work together in advancing social protection for migrant workers at the national, regional, and international levels?

**Moderator:** Genevieve Gencianos, *Public Services International*

**Presentation by Dr. Nicola Piper,** *University of Sydney/GMPA/Consultant, ILO Decent Work Across Borders Project*

### Responses:

**Jillian Roque,** *Public Service Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK/Philippines)*, perspective from trade unions in countries of origin

**Sari Koivuniemi,** *The Union of Health and Social Care Professionals (Tehy/Finland)*, perspective from trade unions in countries of destination

### Discussion

Workshop Co-sponsors:

Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA) and Women and Global Migration Working Group (WGMWG)

*Sandwiches and refreshments will be served.*