**Panel 5: Social cohesion and community resilience: countering discrimination and xenophobia against migrants**

**Introduction**

* United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth – Migration Group 🡪 brief introduction of the organization and our work
  + Objectives, mission and vision
  + Composition of the group
  + Commitment with the Global Compact on Migration
* Context and relevance of youth and migration
  + Numbers of young migrants and refugees
  + Reasons of leaving their countries, social contexts
  + Relevance of including and involving children and youth in counter negative narratives on migration to end discrimination and xenophobia

**Perspectives on narratives on migration**

* Why narratives are important
* Public attitudes, the relevance of knowing and learning about the public opinions about migrants and migration
* Drivers on migration 🡪 politics, mass media, social media, owns fears, perspectives, discrimination and xenophobia
* Criminalization and dehumanization 🡪 securitization, economic factors

**COVID-19 and narratives**

* Positives 🡪 our dependance on migrants, collective solidarity, reduction of misinformation
* Negatives 🡪 economic impacts of the pandemic, more movement control, restrictions, guilt
* Opportunities 🡪 how we tell the stories after this, how do we combat xenophobia and discrimination with COVID-19

**Youth and narratives**

* Youth priorities on narratives
  + Change one-dimensional narratives
  + Specific communications and tailored messaging audiences and public concerns
  + Urgent need for new narratives that are more inclusive and intersectional
  + Ensure that migrants have a platform to be able to speak and share their perspectives
* Youth activities
  + Emphasizing commonality and shaping values through universal languages
  + Community engagement
  + Awareness through education
* Youth actions and campaigns
  + More than Migrants campaign – showing stories to young people about young migrants
  + Young people are working on the migration sphere through 1) advocacy, Information Sharing, 2) Supporting Vulnerable Groups, Access to basic services - Food/Nutrition/education, 3) Young Migrants working on other countries to give medical/mental health support to other migrants
  + Activities in social media that invite young people to write, or create art in different way to stop discrimination and stigma fueled by the virus, there are online spaces that give the voice to migrants for them to share their stories, experiences and the challenges they face with COVID19 (including discrimination experiences) through blog entries, or videos, art, etc.

**Youth policy recommendations**

* Creation of an international framework
* Create public spaces in which there can be interaction between host communities and migrants
* Strict collaboration between youth/civil society/national and local governments
* Move towards more evidence-based narratives around migration
* Honest and authentic storytelling led by the voices and perspectives of migrants themselves
* Recognize vastly different local and national context and look to localizing narratives

**Conclusions**

As communities around the world face a rapid global outbreak of COVID-19, the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth calls for strengthened multilateralism and a renewed commitment to democratic values, human rights and health equity.

So we believe that children and youth can and are an asset for shaping narratives on migration and that that in the face of this challenge, we must now find alternative and innovative ways to move forward.