



ENHANCING THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF YOUTH MIGRANTS: THOUGHTS ON THE CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

This article examines youth migration as it has become an issue of grave concern around the globe today due to its phenomenal increase recently. Youths migrate as dependent family members or are motivated by current labour opportunities and immediate financial returns. The article examines some of the concerns, challenges and successes experienced by youth migrants outside their home countries as international migrants. More so, the article argues that adopting a human rights-based approach can resolve youth migration issues. In advancing this argument, the article revealed that several challenges linked to youth migration contribute to unabated harmful practices against migrants. The article adopts an analytical approach based on a literature review and evidence-based analysis in addressing youth migrant issues. Against this backdrop, this article advanced several conceptual arguments to support its views. Recommendations are made with a conclusion that the desired protection of the rights of the migrant youths can only be achieved through robust international human rights frameworks and immigration laws. The article further concludes that examining the paradigm shift in youth migration is to ensure that it will not undermine the gains of migration.

Keywords: Youth Migration, Human Rights, Refugees education, Migrant families

INTRODUCTION

Youth migration has become an integral part of the working of international society to the extent that it has become the face of globalization which is viewed as a mark of evolving global interdependence.¹ Human mobility has gained increasing international attention in recent years. Thus, in a period in which technology and social networks tend to have a growing influence in world labour markets, a number of the fundamental pillars of contemporary nature are being questioned. How would the rights of these migrants be adequately protected outside their country of origin? Are the existing migration laws still realistically applicable? Do the legislations, policies, and administrative regulations that affect youth migrants still comply with international obligations under international human rights, labour, and refugee laws? These are among the questions raised in this article which aims to address the core elements of youth migration.

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¹ P. Sunderland, "Migration is Development" 15 March 2013 Available at <http://www.projectsyndicate.org/commentaries/migrants-and-the-post-2015-global-development-agenda-by-peter-suther-land> accessed 30 August, 2020.

It has been observed that the rising population of the male gender has led to the proportion of female migrants being indignant to the total population of those who embark on migration.² However, while there is a growing concern about youth migration around the globe, young people migrate for a plethora of reasons which include obtaining higher education, finding and starting work, or getting married. Indeed, the main reasons for migrating have been to secure high-paying jobs, meet business opportunities, search for marriage partners and friendships in developing and developed countries.³

In light of this finding, it must be emphasized that a two-tier perception of youth migration can be sketched out at the strategic and tactical levels. At the strategic level, youth migration is often linked to the search for decent livelihoods due to lack of employment, under-employment, unacceptable working conditions and poor economic prospects in migrant countries of origin. While at the tactical level, youth migration may result from natural disasters, war, persecution, humanitarian crises and family reunification. Aside from the above, in many cases, gender-based discrimination or restriction of women's rights could trigger youth migration. According to Article II of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ State Parties should respect and ensure the rights contained in the Convention without discrimination.

It is essential in the United Nations context to understand the interpretive approach of youth migrants or migrant adolescents, a specific category of migrants between the age of 15-24 years whose unique needs, rights and challenges are not provided or addressed as part of the more considerable migration policy debate. While extensive literature analyses the problems that affect youth migration around the globe, this article aims to present possible solutions and identify the best methods for the future, particularly regarding the framework of relations between migrant countries of origin and host countries.

This article adopts an analytical approach based on a literature review and evidence-based analysis in addressing youth migrants' issues. In this context, the article presents several conceptual arguments to support its views using the legal basis of immigration laws and international human rights laws that affect their lives along with review of several government policies for economic development.

² See Global Migration Group: Migration and Youth (2014). Available at <http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/sites/default/files/> accessed 30 August 2020.

³ International Labour Organization (ILO), World Employment and Social outlook Trends for youth (2016) available at <<http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/youth/2016>> accessed 30 August 2020.

⁴ Article II of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979).



This article is divided into three sections. The first part examines the object of the article and explores some of the arguments put forward for proper understanding and emphasis. The second part examines some of the concepts in the article and demonstrates how these concepts can be better understood. The last section initiates a reflection on the underlying causes of youth migration and considers the means that can be used to develop sustainable legislation on youth migration.

THE CONCEPT OF MIGRATION

The emerging norms of the international law of development require that states cooperate for development. This is the logical and necessary result of youth migration. These norms are incompatible with classical notions of sovereignty and the associated doctrines of territorial exclusivity and integrity. Migration issues have become more complex and challenging, and understanding this novel area under international law has become more daunting. However, it remains questionable whether a different arrangement would make a difference when the existing laws on migration did not address the issue of migrant adolescents and youth in the more considerable migration policy debate. From an operational point of view, and in literal terms, the concept of 'Migration' is the shifting of people or an individual or group of individuals from one cultural area to another, which may be permanent or temporary. In another vein, 'migration'⁵ is defined as 'the act or an instance of moving from one country or region to settle in another'. In this context, it seems legitimate to argue that 'migration' has various meanings or interpretations. The purpose of migration is changing simultaneously with time. Thus, the scope and definition of migration have become more complicated.

While it has been argued that references in treaty law on youth or adolescent migrant are surprisingly scant, it must be emphasized that the increasing importance of migration under international law has led to the definition of an international migrant as a person who moves from one country to another other than that of their usual residence for at least a year⁶. Aside from this fundamental definition developed for measurement purposes, the improvement in the concept and illustration of migrant would allow further classification of migrant or characterization of the complexity of migration. This article argues that, by

⁵ See Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 10th ed (1999).

⁶ Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018).



necessary implications, migration is conceptualized as a response to labour opportunities, which suggests that youth undertake migration to foster educational attainment.⁷

The 2030 proposed Agenda seeks to address the issue of international migration by including explicitly some migration-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals, which encourage countries to 'facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility and to implement well-managed migration policies'⁸ considering international migration from the perspectives of migration.

The wording of the proposed Agenda makes it clear that migration is one of the defining features of the twenty-first century. It contributes significantly to all aspects of economic and social development everywhere and will be the key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The truth now is that there is a correlation between migration and development. In this sense, the immediate challenge is that the conceptual definitions of 'orderly', 'safe', 'regular; and 'responsible' migration were adequately provided as they apply at the international level. Besides being widely held by academic writers, this view is also reflected in everyday life. Thus, the characterization of these types of population mobility often entails ambiguity, having much room for subjective interpretation.

The argument is that since there are conceptual difficulties in the definition of migration, there is no universally accepted definition. Based on this approach, one question which might be asked is whether the notion of misconceptions and misinformation about migration and migrants still constitute one of the biggest challenges faced by Governments in countries of origin, transit and destination. Indeed, the changing patterns of migration and the growing diversity of migrants whether regular or irregular, permanent or temporary, male or female, old or young, and across the skill range have further complicated migration issues and the lives of individual migrants and their families. Also, it has sometimes been argued that popular misconceptions surrounding migrants and migration is sufficient to lead to harmful stereotyping, anti-immigrant discrimination, xenophobia, social exclusion, abuse of migrant rights, and social unrest.

Who is a migrant ?

Under international law today, recent challenges and developments have made the writers examine the conceptual difficulties arising from a definite interpretation of the above concept

⁷ J. Boyden, 'We Are Not Going To Suffer Like This In The Mud: Educational Aspirations, Social Mobility and Independent Child Migration Among Populations Living in Poverty' [2013] (43) *Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 5: 580-600.

⁸ (n7).



to ascertain whether a migrant has the right to enter and remain in his host state. In other words, much has been said or written about the concept of 'migrant', but more importantly, it has a source of controversy which has forced all states to rethink not only their policies of admission but also their allocation of rights, burdens, and benefits to citizens and other residents.

The lack of a centralized, or at least uniform conception of the above concept has led to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) perceiving a migrant as a person who departed from their usual abode within their country or across the international border to live in another country temporarily or permanently. The movement can be attributed to several reasons.⁹ In practice, however, and by extension, migrants may be classified as legal workers or migrants who are smuggled to other countries. They go there independently, and their vacation is unknown under international law.¹⁰ However, there is no universally accepted definition of migrant due to its changing pattern. The method for identifying migrants is not precise and has left much room for interpretation. In this sense, the potential for divergent interpretations in humanitarian agencies has led to the definition of the migrant as, 'Any person or individual domiciled in a state other than their state of origin or stateless persons outside their domicile'¹¹ to seek protection or opportunities for a better livelihood.'

In addition, taking into account the potential for divergent interpretations and conceptions of migrants, there are no specific provisions for adolescent and youth migrants, rather the Convention¹² only provides for migrant workers and their families who are usually not citizens of the country they live and work in. This does not alter the fact that there is no authoritative interpretation, and there is room for further understanding of the above concept. This perspective considers specific legal categories, such as youth and adolescent migrants, and whether special protection should be accorded to them under international human rights law or Refugee Law. The question then becomes how to deal with this emerging trend of youth and adolescent migrants.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families 1990, there seems to be

⁹ See International Organization for Migration, 'Glossary on Migration' 2nd ed [2011](25) *International Law, Geneva*, 61-62.

¹⁰ Article 2(1) of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990).

¹¹ See Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders, OHCHR Geneva, (2014), Para. 10.

¹² International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies 'Policy on Migration' (2009).



no clear definition of a migrant. Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Convention¹³ defines a 'migrant worker' as a person who is to be engaged is engaged or has been involved in a remunerated activity in a state in which they are not a national. Article 3 of the Convention¹⁴ excludes the application of the term to persons sent to be employed by international organizations and agencies, those who are deployed to render official assignment outside their own country of origin; persons taking up residence as investors in a state other than that of which they are nationals, refugees or stateless persons, students and trainees and seafarers, and workers onshore installations who are yet to take up paid employment in the migrated environment. Given the above scenario, it may be pointed out at this juncture that, although the preamble to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families only provided for the protection of the Rights of Migrants workers and their families, and does not address the issue of youth migrants. This means that despite the complexity of the term 'migrant', there is still room for improvement. It is submitted that creating a better awareness of the emergence of youth and adolescent migrants, given their vulnerability to human rights violations, will remain a shared concern of all those who wish to see an all-embracing definition of who a migrant is. Concerning the meaning of a migrant, it might be argued that integrating and including youth and adolescent migrants under the relevant Convention as those entitled to human rights protection would suffice. This view, which finds some support in legal literature,¹⁵ was upheld by the Global Migration Group.¹⁶

Youth Migration

The present conception of youth migration can only be understood against the background that youth and adolescent migrants between the ages of 15 and 24 years are predominantly involved in youth migration. It is essential to highlight that the operational reality in today's status of youth migrants has shown that these concerns remain of timely relevance, as insecurity and exploitation of these vulnerable youth migrants, many of whom were kept in conditions akin to slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labour which have a significant impact on them. In recent years, youth in developing countries have been diversifying their opportunities through domestic and international migration.¹⁷ However, research has shown

¹³ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of their Families (1990).

¹⁴ (n13), Article 2(1) .

¹⁵ Ibid, Article 3.

¹⁶ Global Migration Group: Migration and Youth Report, (2014).

¹⁷ D.J. McKenzie 'A Profile of the World's Young Developing Country International Migrants' (2008)34 Population and Development Review, 1, 115-135.



that no accurate data indicates the exact estimate of these youth migrants, primarily from low and middle-income countries.

Whilst this can be said or seen to form the basis for irregular migration, it should be noted that those below eighteen years old present approximately one-fourth of all migrants and the proportion of youth as migrants are increasing daily.¹⁸ It is worth highlighting that in recent years, youth are either dependent migrants who moved alongside with parents or labour migrants driven by wage differences in their countries of residence, who will, in turn, provide financial assistance to their parents in their countries of origin.¹⁹

Youth migration is often linked to the search for decent livelihoods due to a lack of employment, underemployment, and poor economic prospects in countries of origin. This culturally normative conception of youth migration clearly shows that they represent a specific category of migrants whose unique needs, rights and challenges are not addressed in the more considerable migration policy debate. With this concept in mind, youth migrants are referred to as persons between 15-24 years of age who the United Nations defines as 'youth' without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.²⁰ Could it be said that International Human Rights Law has an added value to the protection of the rights of youth migrants about the provisions of adequate protection of their human rights outside their country of origin. It is argued here that despite an international framework designed to protect and promote the rights of all individuals and despite the specific provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child²¹ protecting those under the age of eighteen (18) years, adolescent and youth migrants still experienced numerous human rights violations. The above question is all the more significant in view of the fact that a wide range of political, religious and social issues have arisen: which must be tailored towards the protection of youth migrants.

By the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)²² and Articles 7 and 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR),²³ everyone has the right to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions for work and as well the right of everyone to social security and social insurance. Interestingly,

¹⁸ Global Migration Group: Challenges and Opportunities (2014) New York, NY: United Nations Children Fund.

¹⁹ M.Tieda et al. New Frontiers, Uncertain Futures: Migrant Youth and Children of Migrants in a Globalized World. Zurich Switzerland: Background Paper Presented for Zurich Migration Workshop Vol. 17, 26 August 2007.

²⁰ Global Migration Group Symposium, Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development New York, (2011).

²¹ United Nations, 'Report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year' UN Document A/36/215, New York (1981) 18 See the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

²² The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

²³ Article 7 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949).



the articulation of human rights standards under international law has moved the applicability of human rights beyond the 'rights of citizens'. In this sense, this article argues that rights like economic, social and cultural rights must be seen in a long-term perspective which is evident from the general obligation under Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which provides that every individual has the right to equal protection before the law and be free from discrimination. This being the position of the law, the migrant youth is entitled to protection and free from racial and occupational discrimination²⁴

The provisions above would also illuminate the condition under which youth migrants are entitled to adequate protection outside their country of origin. It must be emphasized that youth migration may be forced or voluntary. That said, it is submitted that the literature on youth migration and its development impact at the household level and in countries of origin and destination is sparse. Today, it is clear that international migration is emerging as one of the critical issues affecting youth.²⁵ Migration policy-makers must recognize that adolescent and youth migrants are particularly at risk of human rights violations.²⁶ In other words, it must be emphasized that migration policies and practices that do not take into cognizance the respect for human rights leave the door open to a host of ills ranging from marginalization and discrimination, exploitation of youth migrants as cheap, disposable labour making them scapegoats for xenophobic rhetoric and practices. Also, when these policies ignore the human being who make up migration flows, they contribute to inequality, injustice, and incoherent policy responses.²⁷ One may think that even though there are international frameworks designed to protect and promote the human rights of all individuals with specific provisions protecting those under the age of 18 years, youth migrants experience numerous human rights violations in the context of migration. Essentially, it must be emphasized that the high demands for education, the limited availability of educational institutions in certain areas, and cultural values that encourage migration, amongst others, jointly prompted this migration by the youths.²⁸ While recognizing the increasing rate of youth migration around the globe, it may be argued that education migration amongst youths illustrate that migration motives vary across the life course, and families may use education migration to adapt to changing global contexts.

²⁴ (n23) Article7.

²⁵ K. Koser, 'Irregular Migration, State Security and Human Security' (2005).

²⁶ Human Rights Council, Report of Special Rapoorteur on Human Rights of Migrants, A/HRC/11/7 (2009) Para. 22.

²⁷ OHCHR, 'Out of the Shadows: A Human Rights Perspective on Irregular Migration and Development'.

²⁸ S. Bredl, 'Migration, Remittances and Educational Outcomes: The Case of Haiti' [2011](31) *International Journal of Educational Development*, 2: 162-168.

However, it must be acknowledged that there is a challenge in having a global definition of youth. The most significant case has been that very few countries adopted the United Nations definition when collecting global statistics on youth, which focused on persons between the age of 15-24 years of age.²⁹ One possible lesson to draw from this is that in some countries, their understanding of youth begins at the age of 12 years and ends at the age of 35 years, while in other countries, for instance, adolescents or youth may be construed as children as provided in the Convention on the Rights of the Child which defines a child as 'every human being below the age of 18 years'.³⁰ A question that is sometimes posed relates to the culturally normative conception of age as a determinant factor of 'who is a youth?' The fact that there are variations at the beginning of age has shown that current policies on migration do not take into cognizance the issue of age. Indeed, the situation foreseen by this article is that the impact of migration policies on youths and adolescents in terms of respect for the principle of non-discrimination³¹ and protection of other human rights deserves urgent re-examination.

It is also important to stress in this context that while undoubtedly, lack of reliable data on the number, age and gender of youth migrants persists, as well as on the specific conditions and treatment they faced in their host countries, effort should be made to design and implement evidence-based policies that will mainly emphasize undocumented youths and adolescent migrants. While this may be the case, it is nevertheless submitted that despite the current comprehensive human rights framework, migrant youths face numerous violations and barriers to accessing their human rights. Given the above analysis, it is worth mentioning that the African Youth Charter, Article 2 provides that 'Every young person shall be entitled to the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in this charter irrespective of race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, fortune, birth or another status.'³²

It is posited that it would be more legally and practically sound for state parties to undertake the necessary steps, following their constitutional processes to ensure that youths

²⁹ Resolution A/40/256 of the United Nations General Assembly, World Programme of Action for Youth (1985) Para. 19.

³⁰ Article 1 of the Convention on the Right of the Child (1989).

³¹ Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), Article 7 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990).

³² Article 2 of the African Youth Charter (2006).



are protected against discrimination based on status, activities, expressed opinions or beliefs, especially in the country of migration.³³

Similarly, the charter³⁴ further states that 'every young person has the right to leave any country, including their own, and return to their country. An evident and fundamental but sometimes overlooked threshold issue before any consideration or emphasis on youth migration is the changing rules and practices concerning policies of social incorporation of immigrants in recent times. Thus, a more specific obligation can be found in the United Nations 2013 World Youth Report, which offers further perspective on the situation of youth migrants, highlighting concerns, challenges and successes experienced by youth migrants.³⁵

UNDERLYING CHALLENGES ON YOUTH MIGRATION

To a large extent, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights of 1948 expresses the general acceptance by countries of the World of the essential elements of human rights. It emphatically stipulates those rights a citizen must have to enjoy a good life. It has been the practice of modern governments to entrench these rights in their constitution for specific purposes. Also, under International Human Rights Law, all individuals, irrespective of their immigration or administrative status, hold civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. As these rights are formally guaranteed in international legal instruments comprising the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³⁶ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³⁷ International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³⁸ and other core instruments, it must be emphasized that both the international covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Covenant on Economic and Political Rights incorporates specific provisions related to the treatment of migrants, including undocumented youths and adolescents.

In light of the above provisions, it is worth mentioning that Civil Rights include citizen's rights to freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and equality before the law, which provides for non-discrimination against anybody or group of people regardless of their social, economic, and political status. Economic rights seek to guarantee the welfare of the workers through commensurate salaries and better working conditions. Social rights provide for

³³ Ibid, Article 2(2).

³⁴ Article 3 of the African Youth Charter (2006).

³⁵ United Nations World Youth Report, Youth and Migration (2013).

³⁶ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

³⁷ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

³⁸ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966).



citizens' easy access to education, healthcare and other social benefits; and cultural Rights ensure that people's rights to their identities and traditions are protected.

More fundamentally, about numerous international and regional instruments on the human rights of youth migrants, there are still underlying challenges to youth migration in accessing their human rights outside their countries of origin. It must be emphasized that these underlying challenges and violations are often compounded when youth and adolescents lose their regular residence status or have migrated irregularly. While youth migration continues, this article acknowledges that despite the prevalence of independent youth migration, available data have not yet captured young people's migration motives or activities, nor has there been substantial research examining the extent to which young migrants receive support or send remittances. In this sense, the article further reveals that the lack of available data limits the development of youth-specific migration theories.³⁹

The question remains, can a continuous search for perfect legislation to address the changing pattern of youth migration be realizable? One possibility is a shift in interpretive emphasis from age and nature to the severity of harm. Therefore, a trend in interpretation that plays directly to the core concern of the severity of consequences, rather than their character, when examining the challenges faced by youth migrants without regular migration status operates below international human rights standards.

Also, migrant youths face numerous violations; a similar reinterpretation might extend to the disproportionate impact of limited access to services such as sexual and reproductive health care of young migrant women and girls. These issues have raised difficult questions. Given the increasing importance of youth migration, the treaties on international migration should be expanded to provide specific legislation on youth migrants.

It can be seen today that the underlying challenges stem from barriers to accessing education, employment, and health services, access to adequate shelter, and access to labour markets. Challenges, including the absence of an unambiguous conventional legal standard that explicitly states that undocumented youth and adolescent must enjoy their rights fully and protection from immigration enforcement, have remained a significant impediment. In all contexts, this apparent anomaly highlights the separate development of both legal regimes but also suggests either that the standard applied to youth migrants may be too high or that the national legislation and regulatory frameworks are too complex and incoherent to the extent

³⁹ S. Yaqub Independent Child Migrants in Developing Countries: Unexplored Links in Migration and Development, Florence, Italy: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Discussion Paper; IWP-2009b.



that it is difficult to establish which authorities or organizations are responsible for securing migrant's rights.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has clearly stated that migrant smuggling is a crime, whether the smuggling is done for financial or material purposes, so long as the entry does not follow due process of law and the person so smuggled is not a national or regular resident of the smuggled destination. It must be emphasized that irregular migration in this context is in the form of migrant smuggling. Although, the concept of migrant smuggling differs from human trafficking, having to do with consent exploitation. In this sense, migrants engage with their smugglers consensually, while smuggling also occurs transnationally and ends upon arrival at the destination.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON YOUTH AND MIGRATION

Generally speaking, the World is transforming at an accelerated rate; while labour markets are shifting with a corresponding impact of new technologies and demands, communications are experiencing rapid population turnover and external shocks from conflicts, instability, natural disaster and climate change. In the international scene, technology has entered our lives as a global disruptive force that provides many challenges and opportunities. Also, with the intensification and globalization of technology arise many challenges, such as inequality and gaps among countries and societies, hostile rhetoric around minorities and migrants, intensified by social media that promote hate speech and xenophobia, or trend towards automation that may replace traditional low skilled jobs with robots and therefore challenge the future of work for many.

In light of the above development, youth migrants can find a means to connect and integrate into technology, especially in their country of origin. Technology allows access to knowledge and skills relevant to the local industry and not available in the country. It opens opportunities for engagement in the global community, contributing to finding innovative solutions for development and responding to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁴⁰ The preceding problem has become a continued cause for concern and worry despite concerted efforts at the international and regional levels to assuage it. However, these new technologies have brought new opportunities and possibilities, reflected in 2030 for Sustainable Development.⁴¹ That said, it should be noted that Sustainable Development Goal No. 17 has set out several targets related to technology transfer, investment and trade to

⁴⁰ The Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030.

⁴¹ *ibid.*



encourage more significant investment in developing countries in ways that promote sustainable development.⁴² It is essential to point out that technology has become a revolution in democratizing access to data. Yet, reality shows that social media contributes to the discourse of hate against minorities and migrants.

Also, the amount of information disseminated through social media contributes to the polarization that is evidenced by the link to the violent attack against the backdrop of the impact of technology issues connected with youth migrants; Carlos Rasmus Schwarz⁴³ has explained how the echo chambers in social media contributed to radicalized youth, as ideas are not challenged by anyone, thus contributing to further shifts into their extreme rhetoric, leading to increased violence actions.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having revealed the prevailing efforts, rules, regulations and practices in addressing youth migration issues around the globe, this article has examined migrant youths as critical stakeholders in developing policies, data, programs and laws that affect their lives and those of their host communities. Youth are recognized as actors of change, ready to engage and willing to be more active in decision-making policies and processes. Against the plethora of challenges besetting youths, there is need to embark on conscious and deliberate reforms. It is recommended that whilst drafting or amending legislation on youth migration, whether global, regional or national, the peculiarities of youths should be considered, given the thematic issues raised in this article. The following recommendations are therefore made for reforms and policy consideration:

1. There is a compelling need for proper evidence on the requirements that justify developing adequate policies on youth migration.
2. There is a need to enact elaborate legislation at the municipal level and establish comprehensive treaties capable of addressing the vulnerability of youth migrants by protecting and empowering them and ensuring sustainable integration.
3. Youths should be engaged, whether migrant or not, to support integration as communities of destination and foster development at the departing points so that migration becomes a choice and not an obligation.

⁴² The United Nations, World Youth Report, Youth and the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development (New York, United Nations, 2017).

⁴³ C.R Schwarz and K. Muller 'Fanning the Flames of Hate: Social Media And Hate Crimes' (University Of War Wick 2018).



4. Government at all levels should use existing data and develop new norms and practices for data sharing across sectors and agencies.
5. The government at all levels should involve the youth in developing and designing migration strategies.
6. Government at all levels can, through technology and innovation, support youth and migration.