



## Expert Forum

### International protection and the Global Compacts in the time of Covid-19: lessons and challenges from South(ern) Africa

26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

1.30 – 3.15pm SAST

Registration: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jjgagIGfQ1yvDqYR\\_MNIIQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jjgagIGfQ1yvDqYR_MNIIQ)

This Expert Forum has been convened to take stock of the role of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in South(ern) Africa, two years after their adoption. It will examine the extent to which the GCR and GCM are influencing the implementation of South Africa's legal and institutional frameworks surrounding refugee and migrant protection in cities such as Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The Forum will also explore the unique challenges the global COVID-19 pandemic has created in terms of implementation of the two Compacts at the city, national, and regional levels. Equally, looking forward, the Forum will ask if the pandemic may offer some opportunities to utilize the Compacts further to improve international protection structures for refugees and migrants. For example, by developing more inclusive 'whole of society' approaches to healthcare systems at the local and municipality level.

The Forum is part of ["PROTECT The Right to International Protection. A Pendulum between Globalization and Nativization?"](#)

PROTECT is an EU funded research project which studies the impact of the UN's Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration on refugees' right to international protection. The vision of PROTECT is to discover ways of advancing the international protection system within today's turbulent political context. We consist of 11 partner universities in Europe, Canada, and South Africa. More information can be found on the project website: <https://protectproject.w.uib.no/>

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**Protect**  
The Right to International Protection



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**Programme**

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|---------------|--|
| 1.30 – 1.35pm | <p><b>Welcome</b><br/>Associate Professor Jo Vearey, Director, African Centre for Migration &amp; Society (ACMS), Wits University</p>  |
| 1.35 – 1.45pm | <p><b>Introduction to the PROTECT Project</b><br/>Professor Hakan G. Sicakkan, Principal Investigator of PROTECT, University of Bergen</p>   |
| 1.45 – 3.15pm | <p><b>International protection, the global compacts and Covid-19 in South(ern) Africa: a conversation</b></p> <p><i>A series of brief interventions, reflections and a group discussion.</i></p> <p><i>We invite questions and comments from participants in the ‘chat box’ during the panel. These will be used to guide the discussion.</i></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Caroline Wanjiku Kihato - Independent Researcher, Writer &amp; Associate of the African Centre for Migration &amp; Society (ACMS), Wits University</p> <p>Angele Dikongue-Atangana, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Deputy Director for Southern Africa</p> <p>Lily Sana, International Organization for Migration (IOM): Chief of Mission, South Africa,</p> <p>Celine Bankumuhari, African Union (AU): Migration Policy Advisor, Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Directorate of Political Affairs</p> <p>Nicholas Maple, African Centre for Migration &amp; Society (ACMS), Wits University</p> <p>Sharon Ekambaram, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR): Head of the Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme</p> <p>Prof Loren Landau, African Centre for Migration &amp; Society, Wits University &amp; Oxford University</p> |
| 3.10pm        | <p><b>Close</b><br/>Associate Professor Jo Vearey, Director, ACMS, Wits University</p>   |

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