



2018/19

Annual Review and  
Strategic Priorities  
to 2021

Migration  
Exchange

at  Global Dialogue

# Who we are

Migration Exchange is an informal network of independent funders, established in 2010. We work together to improve the lives of people who migrate and receiving communities in the UK, by informing public debate on migration and supporting welcoming communities. The network is independent and non-partisan, and has been a programme of Global Dialogue since 2015.

We work with a wide range of partners including NGOs, academics, think tanks, journalists and other funder networks in the UK and Europe. Our activities include commissioning analysis to support funders and key partners to take effective action on shared concerns; supporting bold ventures where aligning grants enables activity to take place at scale or increases the potential for success; and using the convening power of members to support, connect and strengthen good work.



*“Migration Exchange is able to step back and explore where the gaps are and why the sector hasn't (yet) shifted the dial on these issues in the way we all wish to. MEX is in a position to see how aspects of our work could be strengthened, and to share this learning towards more informed funding by foundations, and better-oriented work by NGOs.”*

Sector partner feedback

# 2018/19 in focus

This year we have organised briefings with expert speakers from around the UK. Topics have included:

- The Immigration White Paper and the future of the immigration system after Brexit with input from Institute for Government, NIESR, Fragomen LLP, British Future, Institute for Public Policy Research and Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
- Parliamentary and funder briefings on attitudes to immigration, using findings from the Ipsos MORI longitudinal tracker
- Asylum accommodation contracts, with input from Scottish Refugee Council, Asylum Matters and Sisters United
- Advice needs of EU citizens after Brexit, with input from Eastern European Resource Centre, Transition Advice Fund at NPC, the 3 million and Migration Observatory
- Regional communications on migration: context, challenges and opportunities, with input from NEON and IMIX
- A reflection on communications hubs in the UK, US and Europe, learning from the Oak Foundation's strategic reflection report
- Pop Culture and public attitudes on migration and race, with Wellcome Trust and Unbound Philanthropy

We have provided resources, support and networking spaces for organisations working on migration and to funders, including:

- An independent assessment of the leadership development needs of the migration sector, including a list of leadership resources and training providers in the UK social sector
- Three focus groups and consultations on leadership development in London and Leeds
- Resources and signposting information for organisations supporting EU citizens on settled status

- A summary of civil society responses to the Immigration White Paper
- Field reflections on the Windrush scandal, by an independent researcher and evaluator
- Free 'Handling the Whistleblower' training by Public Concern at Work and crisis communications training by IMiX
- A strategy share and networking session for generalist grant-makers interested in migration, attended by over 20 people
- A parliamentary breakfast in partnership with RAMP (Resettlement, Asylum & Migration Policy project) briefing parliamentarians on shifting public attitudes
- Private briefings on future scenarios related to Brexit by British Future, to inform planning and strategy

We have provided small grants for convening and coalition building, including for the 'Lift the Ban' coalition, Global Future's work developing links between the immigration and the social care sector, and to New Horizons for building communications capacity in Muslim civil society. We have funded a regional communications coordinator in the West Midlands, hosted by the Refugee and Migrant Centre.

All our publications and briefings are shared on the Ariadne portal and a digest of our resources is published on the Global Dialogue website.

**We would like to thank all those who have engaged with and supported our activities this year and look forward to working with you to build hope, power and change in 2019/20 and beyond.**



*"Migration Exchange's preparedness to invest, in a number of ways, in the better coordination of the communications and advocacy work of migration and refugee protection NGOs has been valuable."*

Sector partner feedback

# What we want to achieve...

Our broad strategic priorities to 2021 are to:

- 1 Improve understanding of public attitudes on migration and how they relate to politics, policy and communities
- 2 Use this knowledge, locally and nationally, to improve accuracy and depth of conversations about migration, integration and identity
- 3 Develop strong networks that forge alliances and build public support for welcoming and thriving communities for all
- 4 Promote an immigration system that treats people fairly and with dignity and respect, and which has public confidence and consent

# How we do it...

Convening funders to provide space for peer learning and identifying areas for collaboration or alignment

Facilitating connections between funders and the sector to understand emerging trends and needs to strengthen the sector

Commissioning research and supporting organisations to apply insights to help achieve their goals



*“The most useful working group / network that I am part of. As someone that is still pretty new to the sector I find the info and sessions ... incredibly insightful.”*

Funder network member



*“Migration Exchange has been very beneficial to our work in terms of research, influencing and shaping our understanding of migration in the UK.”*

Funder network member

# Looking ahead

We know that public attitudes have shifted since mid-2015, with the salience of immigration reducing and some more positive attitudes (though these are nuanced and contradictory). We will continue to support efforts for immigration system reform, and to build and demonstrate public support for welcoming communities. In addition, in 2019/20, our proactive work will:

- **Help organisations to translate and apply insights on public attitudes and use strategic communications to help achieve their goals:** We will work with key organisations to co-create insights on attitudes relevant to the change they are seeking and support them to apply these in their work. We will focus on supporting communications infrastructure for the sector, in particular outside of London, and support the delivery of a longitudinal Attitudes to Immigration Tracker with Ipsos MORI and IMiX
- **Support a resilient and effective sector through leadership development opportunities, particularly for people with a refugee or migrant background:** We will launch a sector leadership development programme, building on the research we commissioned in 2018. The programme will:
  - **Increase the resilience and capabilities** of current and potential leaders, supporting them to lead at a time of great volatility and uncertainty
  - **Create a talent pipeline** of people with diverse backgrounds to move into formal leadership roles in the sector
  - **Improve access to resources, tools, peer support and networks** that are of wider benefit to the sector, beyond the life of the leadership programme
- **Develop the communications and learning outputs of the Migration Exchange network to improve accessibility and support sustainable shared action:** We will commission digests of key data on public attitudes and share in bite-sized communications. We will make the insights from our commissions and learning more digestible and easier to action. We will continue to support a range of voices and perspectives, and prioritise work that can be sustained over the medium term

# How to get involved

Trustees and staff from trusts and foundations are able to join Migration Exchange as funder members. There is no joining fee. Migration Exchange funders meet three times a year to exchange information, and throughout the year they can share information through our Ariadne portal community.

Migration Exchange convenes occasional events which are open to all those interested in migration and integration in the UK.

To register your interest, or to find out more information please email [MEX@global-dialogue.org](mailto:MEX@global-dialogue.org)

## For grant seekers

Migration Exchange is not a grant making programme. Decisions on funding applications are made by individual foundations. Grant seekers should approach foundations separately and consult the funding criteria and guidelines for each foundation. Migration Exchange holds a small budget to support activities that inform, connect or strengthen work that advances our strategic priorities. If you have ideas that you would like to discuss, please contact the Programme Director, Sarah Cutler, via [MEX@global-dialogue.org](mailto:MEX@global-dialogue.org)

For more information about Migration Exchange and the latest updates, please visit:  
[global-dialogue.org/programmes/migration-exchange](http://global-dialogue.org/programmes/migration-exchange)

Funders involved in Migration Exchange include the Barrow Cadbury Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Migration Foundation, Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Trust for London, and Unbound Philanthropy.

Migration Exchange is hosted by Global Dialogue, a registered charity (1122052) and limited company (5775827) promoting human rights and social change through innovative and collaborative philanthropy.

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