



## **The state of the migration debate: building the foundation for change Migrant Voice Conference**

**National Education Union Hamilton House,  
Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD**

**27-28 February, 2025**

### **Agenda**

#### **Day 1 –**

10:00 - 10:30 **Arrival and registration – tea and coffee**

10:30 - 10:40 **Welcome** (*from the board of Migrant Voice*)

10:40 - 11:00 **Keynote speech and introduction to the day** (*Nazek Ramadan, Director Migrant Voice*)

11:00 - 12:30 **Conference opening debate - setting the context**  
**The state of the migration debate: how did we get here and how do we get out of this mess?**

*Migration continues to be weaponised for political gain, and toxic rhetoric and scapegoating of migrants fuels dangerous violence and riots. Across Europe, far right movements are strengthening, while mainstream parties move towards more restrictive border and immigration policies, undermining rights and worsening the situation for migrants.*

*While more migrant voices are heard and seen in the coverage of migration issues these days the under/mis-representation of migrants in media and political narratives is as prevalent as ever.*

*This panel discussion will look at the current state of affairs and how migration can be depoliticised.*

12:30 - 13:30 **Networking Lunch**

13:30 - 14:30 **Panel discussion: Excluded from justice**

*This discussion will look at how political decisions can create injustices leading to individuals ending up in limbo outside the justice system.*

*What can we learn from scandals such as Windrush and TOEIC (international students falsely accused of cheating on English language tests), and how campaigners can overcome the challenges to achieve justice.*

14:30 - 15:00 **Networking break**

15:00 - 16:00 **Workshops – (3 workshops running concurrently)**

**Workshop 1 Immigration policy: Inhumanity as political choice**

*This workshop will look at what to expect from the coming Border Security Bill and the lessons learned from campaigning against previous immigration bills.*

**Workshop 2 Meet the press**

*This workshop will focus on how we can engage with the media, hearing from journalists about how migrants can be better represented in coverage about migration. We will also be presenting our media analysis of the election coverage.*

**Workshop 3 Creatively changing migrants' representation**

*This workshop will explore how you can use creative tools to promote the representation of migrants in public spaces. Focusing on exhibition and cultural spaces and telling our stories directly through visual mediums.*

16:00 - 17:00 **Panel discussion: The cost of migration: paying to work**

*This panel will look at the global fight for the rights of migrant workers, including successive governments' attempts to stop agencies making people pay to find work. Now this has been replaced by the same governments charging extortionate visa fees for the ability to work. The panel will delve into how current visa systems and costs can create exploitation and precariousness.*

17:00 – 17:30 **Closing plenary including reporting on earlier workshops.**

17:30 – 18:00 **Networking break/reception**

18:00 – 20:30 **Celebration of Migrant Voice's 15th anniversary**

## **Day 2 –**

9:30 - 10:00 **Arrival and registration – tea and coffee**

10:00 - 10:15 **Migrant Voice: Welcome and introduction to the day**

*Includes an update from Day 1  
(Nazek Ramadan, Director Migrant Voice)*

10:15 - 11:30 **Panel discussion: Pathways to regularisation, learning from other countries.**

*Panellists will look at the situation for irregular migrants around the globe and the pathways to regularisation in different European countries. The discussion*

*will then be brought back to the UK and what can be done to influence policy, in this wider global context.*

11:30 - 12:00 **Networking break**

12:00 - 1:00 **Panel: Anti-racism through education**

*This panel will discuss the need for including anti-racist and migration content in the schools' curriculum and other places as one of the ways of addressing and preventing the kinds of rhetoric and violence we saw last summer. We will take inspiration from the work of Show Racism the Red Card and Action for Race Equality, among others.*

13:00 - 14:00 **Networking lunch**

14:00 - 15:00 **Workshops – (3 workshops running concurrently)**

**Workshop 1 Art of campaigning**

*Creative tactics for campaigning, including the use of stunts and visualisations in policy campaigns. We will be learning from experts and generating ideas for creative ways to elevate campaigns.*

**Workshop 2 Telling your story - Creating Zines**

*A hands-on workshop on telling your migration story through zines. Express yourself and share your message through mini stories, drawings, photographs, and collage.*

**Workshop 3 Building a stronger campaign for regularisation in the UK**

*Interactive session to discuss and exchange ideas and learning from other campaigns for regularisation including across Europe.*

15:00 - 15:30 **Reflections and closing remarks**

15:30 **End of Conference – let the work begin**