11 March 2015 - New York, CSW59:

GMPA, in partnership with the Young Leaders Caucus and NGO CSW-Geneva, carried the momentum from the regional review forward to a panel on Human Rights and Migrant Women at the CSW Global Review in New York. Jitka Markova, vice-chair of the European Network of Migrant Women acted as moderator. Dylan Terry (GMPA, YLC) introduced the panel, giving an over-arching, global context to the themes discussed. She urged participants to prioritize diversity in strong coalition building through inter-regional, cross sectoral, and intergenerational alliances.

Three panelists presented the work their organizations are doing to address each of the three themes. Melissa Garcia Velez, co-coordinator of the New York State Youth Leadership Council, gave her personal account of struggling for access to education as an undocumented young person in America. She emphasized the role of young activists to publicly influence the immigration debate in the USA, especially in securing in-state university tuition for undocumented youth.

Alicia Arbid, coordinator of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association – Belgium, highlighted the need for a pro-active approach to encourage and empower migrant women to engage in the social and cultural life of the countries in which they live. She called for the celebration of the pluralities and diversities of migrant women's identities, especially in Arab communities.

Roksana Mun, "Youthpower!" campaign coordinator at DRUM South Asian Organizing Center, spoke passionately against the criminalization of migrant communities in New York City, calling in particular for reform of the "school-to-prison pipeline" that disproportionately affects youth from migrant and/or minority communities. She emphasized successful grassroots campaigns against structural violence that have relied on strong alliances across communities.

Finally, the panelists and participants exchanged ideas on how best to identify common interests and move forward with mutually reinforcing advocacy and programmatic strategies.