

Removing walls and fences in the 21st century. Towards a new paradigm of borders, free movement and people?

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Abstract

Adopted by 152 countries at the UN General Assembly in December 2018, the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) aims at achieving 'safe, orderly and regular migration along the migration cycle' through a number of commitments enshrined under 23 objectives. As highlighted by various commentators, the GCM primarily intends to facilitate mobility. Against this background, Objective 5 is, arguably, the most important. States commit to enhance, diversify, and expand the 'availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration'. Doing that should facilitate 'labour mobility and decent work', while at the same time upholding 'the right to family life' and responding 'to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability'. To realize such ambitious commitment, Objective 5 proposes the adoption of international and bilateral cooperation arrangements and offers three examples of what they could include: visa liberalization, labour mobility cooperation frameworks, and free movement regimes. While free movement regimes emerge as the most comprehensive and expansive of such arrangements, they are not defined in the Compact and few scholars have paid attention to them. This project attempts to identify, define and categorize free movement regimes at the global level and to distinguish them from other agreements facilitating mobility.

Biography

Diego Acosta is Professor of European and Migration Law at the University of Bristol. He has over 50 publications and his last book, *The National versus the Foreigner in South America*, is considered as the most important work in the region from a comparative and historical perspective. His new projects engage with free movement of people regimes at the global level. He has advised numerous governments, parliament, international organizations and law firms on migration and citizenship matters in the USA, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.