

Call for submissions: Empowering Global Diasporas in the Digital Era

Who: A collaboration between Routed Magazine and iDiaspora:

- [Routed Magazine](#) is an online publication on migration and (im)mobility. Bridging the divide between specialist academic literature on human mobility and popular portrayals of migration in the media, Routed Magazine hopes to bring a fresh, critical perspective to the study of how and why people move, as well as the contexts of mobility.
- [iDiaspora](#) is a global engagement and knowledge exchange hub for diaspora communities and those looking to engage with them. It provides comprehensive, regularly updated data and analysis relevant to diaspora communities, policy makers, NGO actors, and showcases successful diaspora actions and partnerships.

What: A special issue on the theme of ‘**Empowering global diasporas in the digital era**’, to be published in **June 2021**.

Diasporas are agents with the capacity to respond innovatively to provide protection to their communities both in their countries of origin and in their countries of residence. As such, diasporas have been at the forefront in developing transnational initiatives to alleviate the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Technology provides an invaluable tool to galvanise these diasporic efforts, from making music to participating in politics and supporting families abroad. Since the beginning of the pandemic, diasporas have created informative campaigns using digital platforms to stop the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable people within their communities. Digital platforms have also been very useful as a tool to collect funds to distribute goods, personal protective equipment, and sanitary equipment. In addition, technology has allowed diasporas to communicate efficiently, reinforce existing networks, and contact the relevant stakeholders involved in the response to the pandemic such as international organisations, governments, and experts.

For this special issue, we welcome contributions that explore the following themes:

- **Empowerment of diasporas through technology.** How have diasporas used technology to empower themselves as development actors and empower their communities? How can diasporas implement technological tools to enhance their initiatives? Which online strategies have they developed to create partnerships in response to the health crisis?
- **Technological tools and platforms.** Which technological tools facilitate diasporas’ transnational engagement? How have diasporas used mobile applications and online platforms to respond to the pandemic? How has technology facilitated cultural and political diasporic efforts?
- **Looking at the future of diaspora engagement in the digital era.** What are the challenges that diasporas are facing to engage in transnational activities in the era of digitalisation? How can they address these challenges? What are the technological opportunities that diasporas can leverage to engage in transnational initiatives?

We are also keen on receiving pieces that analyse how diasporas have responded to the pandemic globally. We welcome pieces from all the regions of the world.

We are particularly interested in publishing work from diaspora members, migrant leaders, diaspora organisations, government offices, international organisations, businesses, and start-ups.

Articles should address a broad audience, made of experts and non-experts, and should be originally written in **English, Spanish, or French**.

When: The deadline for proposals is **23 April 2021**.

How: If you are interested in proposing a submission for this issue, please submit a short abstract no longer than 250 words via [the webform available on iDiaspora's website](#). We would also like to hear about your relationship to migration and mobility (if you are a migrant, a researcher, a student, a practitioner...)

Article guidelines:

1. The length of the piece should be between 700 and 1000 words.
2. The article should consistently use British spelling and grammar, if you're writing in English.
3. The simpler the language the better. Try to briefly explain or add links to any concepts, organisations, policies... introduced in the article.
4. Concepts and cited works/legislation/articles should be inserted in the article as hyperlinks.
5. All acronyms should be specified in parentheses.

Some notes on the publication process:

1. Once you send us your proposal, we will get back to you after the deadline for all submissions (**23 April 2021**).
2. First drafts are due on **21 May**, for publication on **21 June 2021**. After you send us your first draft, your editor will get back to you with their comments, which you will review before publication.
3. The article will be translated and promoted on social media.
4. We understand this topic may be highly sensitive. If any writer wishes to remain anonymous, we commit to protecting their identity.
5. Please be aware that any opinions you express in your article will be yours alone and not reflect Routed's, iDiaspora's, or IOM's general stance.