



United Nations
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Human rights of migrants: the work of OHCHR

Protecting human rights in the context of migration



OHCHR :

- works on the human rights of *all* migrants, regardless of their migratory status
- makes the point that migration is a human rights issue
- seeks to make practical interventions in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants globally

Important thematic focus areas

1. Improving the evidence base on migration and human rights
2. Combating xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants
3. Protecting the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants
4. Advocating for access to safeguards in the context of immigration detention and to alternatives to the detention of migrants
5. Protecting human rights in the context of migrants in transit and at international borders
6. Promoting the human rights of migrant domestic workers

What do we do ...

- Speeches and statements of the High Commissioner
- Studies and reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council
- Reports tasked to OHCHR by the UN System
- Expert seminars, consultations and workshops
- Publications, fact sheets, information notes, press articles, other public information
- Input to legislation, constitutions, administrative regulations, codes of conduct
- Engage with governance processes; High-level Dialogue, GFMD, post-2015 agenda, Human Rights Council
- Mainstream human rights through the work of the UN System on migration

Migration and human rights in the field

- Develop learning tools on a human rights-based approach to migration for use by OHCHR field offices
- Training for NGOs and national human rights institutions
- Capacity-building for parliamentarians and government officials





Global Migration Group

- OHCHR is a founding member of the Group of 19 agencies
- To “promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration”
- OHCHR chairs Working Group on Human Rights, Gender and Migration

OHCHR support to human rights mechanisms

- Committee on Migrant Workers (General Comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, GC No. 2 on irregular migrants, forthcoming joint general comment with CRC)
- Special Rapporteur on human rights of migrants (recent work on detention, governance, migration policies at the Euro-Med borders)
- Other treaty bodies and special procedures (e.g. CRC, CESCR, CERD, SR on Health, SR on Adequate Housing)
- Universal Periodic Review (State peer review re: ICRMW, non-discrimination, access to justice detention)

Core international human rights instruments

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*
- International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*
- Convention Against Torture*
- Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearances
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

* Some treaties are supplemented by optional protocols dealing with specific concerns

In the words of the High Commissioner



“Whether or not they have visas, these are people, with the same human rights as all of us here today. They have faces: young and old, women and men, and children – accompanied or, in many cases, separated from their parents. They flee atrocities; biting poverty; places with no access to even basic services, and where the rule of law is broken. I am shocked and shamed by the frequent demonization of migrants that we see in many countries whose people benefit from prosperity, peace and ease. I call on all of you to take a stand against this very dangerous trend.”

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the human rights of migrants, 15 June 2015



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