

Migration and Human Rights

Capacity Building Workshop on Migration
Governance in the Arab Region

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OHCHR's work on migration and human rights



1. **Who** we are
2. **What** we do
3. **How** we can assist

& recap:

GCM & human rights

Human rights are at the heart of the GCM

- **The GCM** rests on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights instruments (*preamble*)
- **Guiding principles**: Human rights / People-centred / Gender-responsive / Child-sensitive / Rule of law and due process /...
- **23 objectives**: most are linked to specific human rights standards, including commitment to protect the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations, irrespective of their migration status



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International human rights law



Applies to **all migrants at all times**, regardless of their citizenship, migration status, reasons for moving, or any other factor. **Migrants are human beings first and foremost.**

OHCHR – about us

- **High Commissioner:** Michelle Bachelet, Chile (2018 -)
- **Staff:** Over 1300 globally (HQ Geneva)
- **Mandate:** protect the enjoyment and full realization, **by all people**, of **all rights**
- Focal point within the UN System on human rights of migrants .
- Member of Executive Committee of the UN Network on Migration



OHCHR – What we do

- **Advocacy** for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of all migrants
- Standard setting and **policy guidance**.
- **Research and analysis**
- **Monitoring and reporting**
- **Capacity building and technical support** (i
- Support the implementation of human rights standards on the ground through our field presences.
- Support UN partner agencies to mainstream human rights in their activities.



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Advocacy

- Building a narrative on migration based on our shared values and common humanity
- Working with UN partners, civil society, media, migrants and the private sector to reframe narratives on migration to counter racism, xenophobia, discrimination
- *#StandUp4Migrants* Campaign



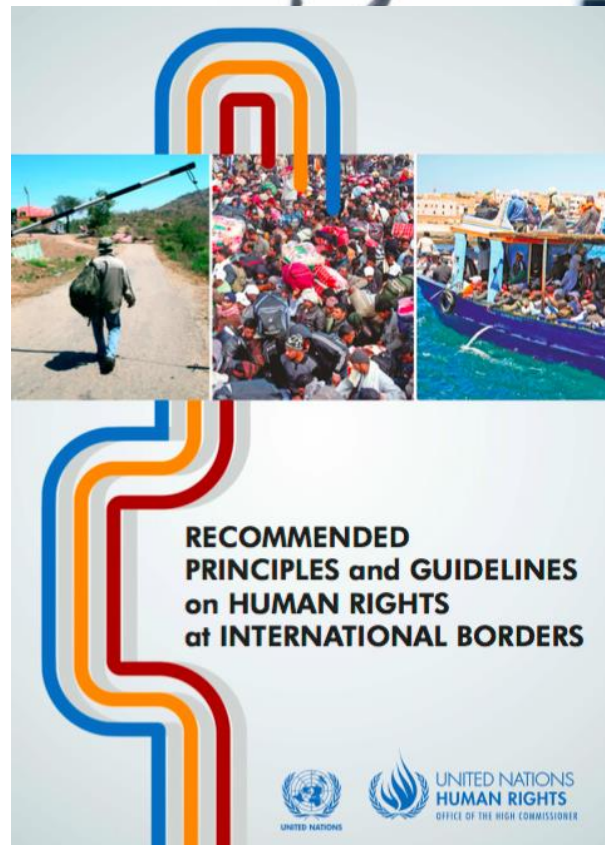
Standard setting and policy guidance

- Supports the work of the human rights **treaty bodies** and **special procedures** (*incl. SR on human rights of migrants; on IDPs; on trafficking in persons; on contemp. forms of slavery; on sale & exploitation of children*)
- Produce reports to the UN **Human Rights Council** and **General Assembly** on migration and human rights
- Support Human Rights Council resolutions on migration and human rights



Research and analysis

- Conduct research on emerging and critical human rights issues in the context of migration
- Provide law and policy recommendations for the implementation of human rights standards in practice



Monitoring and reporting

- Undertake monitoring missions to speak directly with migrants about their experiences and to report on their situation
- Objective, independent voice in the face of human rights violations
- Publicly report on the findings and liaise with governments on recommendations



Capacity building and technical support

- Provide **training and capacity building** support to States
E.g. capacity building for law enforcement agencies on respecting human rights at international borders / in border control.
- Provide technical **advice on legal reform** to align national laws with international human rights norms and standards
- Convene **expert meetings and workshops** to provide technical support on the implementation of human rights standards
- Assist States in ensuring a “whole of society” approach, by facilitating inclusive, **multi-stakeholder consultations** and sharing of practice and lessons learned.



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Migration – human rights challenges



- Discrimination, hate speech and xenophobia
- Lack of access to services (health, education, food, water)
- Limits or barriers to freedom of movement
- Criminalisation of irregular migration / victims of smuggling & trafficking
- Disproportionate border controls
- Immigration detention
- Dangerous interception practices
- Dangerous return practices

Thank you for your attention

More information at www.ohchr.org >
Issues > Migration and Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/MigrationAndHumanRightsIndex.aspx>

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