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
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.
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.
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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