



The International Migrants Bill of Rights **Initiative**

GEORGETOWN LAW

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“A new era may well be dawning for the human rights of migrants and for human rights generally, through the growing recognition that adequately protecting one of the most vulnerable groups in many societies is today the true measure of our humanity.”

— **Ryszard Cholewinski, ILO Specialist in Migration Policies**

PURPOSE

The International Migrants Bill of Rights (IMBR) creates, for the first time, a single legal framework that protects the rights of all international migrants. This framework is a tool for migrants and advocates seeking to protect the rights of migrants and for states reforming migration policy to better comply with existing international law.

The IMBR draws from various areas of international law, including human rights law, refugee law, and labor law. Inspired by the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which consolidated different areas of international law related to the treatment of internally displaced persons, the IMBR compiles this law to make clear that a comprehensive set of fundamental human rights protects all migrants. The IMBR also provides a margin of enhancement to existing law that advances positive developments in migration law and practice consistent with progressive values. In 23 articles and 80 pages of commentary, the IMBR presents a dynamic blueprint for the protection of the rights of all migrants.

WHO IS A MIGRANT?

The IMBR affirms that all migrants are entitled to human rights protections, regardless of the cause of their migration. In the IMBR, a migrant is any person who is “outside of a State of which he or she is a citizen or national.” Individuals are migrants regardless of whether their migration is temporary, lawful, regular, irregular, forced, for protection, for economic reasons, or for any other reason.

ABOUT THE IMBR INITIATIVE

The IMBR Initiative started in 2008 as a student-led project through Georgetown Law’s Global Law Scholars Program. It has evolved through the collaborative effort of students and scholars from Georgetown Law, the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at American University in Cairo, the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Migration Studies Unit at the London School of Economics.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS BILL OF RIGHTS **PRINCIPLES**

Every migrant has the right to **dignity, including physical, mental, and moral integrity.**

Every migrant has the right, without any discrimination, to the **equal protection of the law of any State in which the migrant is present.**

Vulnerable migrants, including children, women, and disabled migrants, have the right to the **protection and assistance required by their condition and status and to treatment which takes into account their special needs.**

Every migrant has the **inherent right to life.**

Every migrant has the right to **liberty and security of person.**

Every migrant has the right to **recognition everywhere as a person before the law.**

Every migrant has the right to **an effective remedy.**

Every migrant has the right to **due process of law.**

Every migrant victim of crime has the right to **assistance and protection, including access to compensation and restitution.**

Every migrant has the right to **protection against discriminatory or arbitrary expulsion or deportation, including collective expulsion.**

Every migrant has the right to **seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum.**

Every migrant has the right **against refoulement.**

Every migrant has the right to **a nationality.**

Every migrant family has the right to **protection by society and the State.**

Every migrant has the right to **freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief.**

Every migrant has the right to **freedom of opinion and expression.**

Every migrant has the right to **freedom of peaceful assembly and association.**

Every migrant has the right to **participate in the civil and political life of his or her community and in the conduct of public affairs.**

Every migrant has the right to be **free from slavery, servitude, or forced or compulsory labor.**

Every migrant has the right to **work and to just and favorable conditions of work.**

Every migrant has the right to the **highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.**

Every migrant has the right to **an adequate standard of living.**

Every migrant has the right to **education.**

Every migrant has the right to **enjoy the migrant's own cultures and to use his or her own languages, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private.**



Contact Us

For more information about the IMBR, please visit www.imbr.info.

On our website, you will find: the IMBR text, the IMBR commentaries, and information about our current research and advocacy efforts.

To contact the IMBR Initiative, please email migrantsrights@law.georgetown.edu.

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