

## **Fact Sheet No.24, The Rights of Migrant Workers**

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*The term "migrant worker" refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.*

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT  
WORKERS  
AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES (Art. 2, para. 1),  
adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990.

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### **Introduction**

In December 1990, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (see [annex](#)).

The Convention opened a new chapter in the history of efforts to establish the rights of migrant workers and to ensure that those rights are protected and respected. It is a comprehensive international treaty, inspired by existing legally binding agreements, by United Nations human rights studies, by the conclusions and recommendations of meetings of experts, and by the debates and resolutions on the migrant worker question in United Nations bodies over the past two decades.

Like all other international human rights agreements, the Convention sets standards which create a model for the laws and the judicial and administrative procedures of

individual States. Governments of States which ratify or accede to the Convention undertake to apply its provisions by adopting the necessary measures. They undertake to ensure that migrant workers whose rights have been violated may seek judicial remedy.

After outlining the types of problems which cause the greatest concern to migrant workers and their families, this Fact Sheet describes the action taken internationally to promote and defend their rights.

## **Human rights and migrant workers**

The migrant worker is not a product of the twentieth century. Women and men have been leaving their homelands in search of work elsewhere ever since payment in return for labour was introduced. The difference today is that there are far more migrant workers than in any period of human history. Millions of people now earning their living- or looking for paid employment-came as strangers to the States where they reside. There is no continent, no region of the world, which does not have its contingent of migrant workers.

### ***Why do they emigrate?***

Poverty and the inability to earn enough or produce enough to support oneself or a family are major reasons behind the movement of work-seekers from one State to another. These are not only characteristics of migration from poor to rich States; poverty also fuels movements from one developing country to others where work prospects seem-at a distance, at least-to be better.

There are other reasons why people go abroad in search of work. War, civil strife, insecurity or persecution arising from discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or political opinion all contribute to the flow of migrant workers.

### ***Preparing to migrate***

Some States encourage their citizens to go abroad to work; others actively recruit foreign workers. There are, in certain cases, bilateral agreements between States covering migrant labour.

Ideally, migrant workers-whether under contract or other formal arrangements, or simply setting off on their own initiative-should be given a basic understanding of the language, culture and legal, social and political structures of the States to which they are going. They should be informed in advance of the wages and working conditions and general living conditions they can expect to find on arrival.

Article 33 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families requires States parties to take the measures they deem appropriate to ensure that migrant workers and members of their families are informed, upon request, free of charge and, as far as possible, in a language they are able to understand, of their rights under the Convention and on all matters that will enable them to comply with administrative or other formalities in the State of employment. Furthermore, article 37 of the Convention establishes the right of migrant workers and members of their families to be informed "before their departure, or at the latest at the time of their admission to the State of employment" of all conditions applicable to their admission, as well as of "the requirements they must satisfy in the State of employment and the authority to which they must address themselves for any modification of those conditions".

Where official employment services assist in managing migration flows, there is a better chance that migrants will receive the minimum preparation for life and work abroad than if recruitment and placement are left in the hands of private agents.

The fact remains that vast numbers of migrant workers are uninformed and ill-prepared to cope with life and work in a foreign country. Equally, most of them are unaware of the human rights protection and fundamental freedoms which they are guaranteed under international treaties and national laws.

### ***Problems of adjustment***

Migrant workers are aliens. They may, on this account alone, be the targets of suspicion or hostility in the communities where they live and work. In most cases financially poor, they share the handicaps economic, social and cultural of the least-favoured groups in the society of the host State.

Discrimination against migrant workers in the field of employment takes many forms. These include exclusions or preferences as regards the types of jobs which are open to migrants, and difficulty of access to vocational training. Different standards are often applied to nationals, on the one hand, and migrants, on the other, as regards job tenure, and contracts may deprive migrants of certain advantages.

Article 25, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families establishes that "Migrant workers shall enjoy treatment not less favourable than that which applies to nationals of the State of employment in respect of remuneration" and other conditions of work and terms of employment. Paragraph 3 of the same article requires States parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure that migrant workers are not deprived of these rights.

Cases are cited of legal and administrative rules which force migrants to remain in certain occupations and specific regions, as well as of inequalities in pay and grading for identical jobs. Migrant workers are known to have been excluded from the scope of regulations covering working conditions, and to have been denied the right to take part in trade-union activities.

A widespread tendency is to regard migrants as a complementary labour force, and to assign them to the jobs which have the least attraction for nationals.

### ***Social and cultural handicaps***

Living conditions for migrant workers are often unsatisfactory. Low incomes, high rents, housing shortages, the size of migrants' families, and local prejudice against foreign elements in the community are the main factors which combine to cause a serious accommodation problem.

Although migrant workers contribute to social security schemes, they and their families do not always enjoy the same benefits and access to social services as nationals of the host State.

In very many cases, migrant workers leave their families in their home State. A solitary existence handicaps the development of normal contacts with the community in which the migrant lives and affects his or her well-being. This is one of the issues tackled in certain international legal instruments which are referred to in this Fact Sheet, and which call upon States to facilitate the reunification of migrant workers' families.

The integration of migrant workers and their families into the social environment of receiving States without loss of their cultural identity is another problem which has been the subject of international debate. It has often been said that the children of migrants-studying in a different language and trying to adapt to new customs-cannot be expected to equal the performance of their fellow pupils unless special measures are taken to overcome their difficulties. The factor of resistance on the part of local parents who fear that overall educational standards will decline with the admission of migrant children has become a sensitive issue in some States.

### ***Arbitrary expulsion and voluntary return***

International legal instruments establish protection for migrant workers against arbitrary expulsion when, for example, an employment contract ends, and also provide for the right of appeal against expulsion orders.

Articles 22 and 56 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families address the issue of expulsion and arbitrary expulsion. Paragraph 1 of article 22 expressly prohibits measures of collective expulsion. An expulsion decision must be taken by the competent authority in accordance with law (art. 22, para. 2) and only for reasons defined in the national legislation of the State of employment (art. 56, para. 1). Paragraph 4 of article 22 requires that, except where a final decision has been pronounced by a judicial authority, "the person concerned shall have the right to submit the reason he or she should not be expelled and to have his or her case reviewed by the competent authority, unless compelling reasons of national security required otherwise".

Migrant workers have the right to return home if they so wish. The view in international discussions has been that this question should be handled through cooperation between the State of origin and the receiving State. Returning migrants should benefit from guidance services and be given the opportunity to use the skills they have acquired abroad.

### ***Illegal and clandestine migration***

Migrant workers face the gravest risks to their human rights and fundamental freedoms when they are recruited, transported and employed in defiance of the law. Mass poverty, unemployment and underemployment in many developing countries offer a fertile field of recruitment to unscrupulous employers and private agents; in some cases, the undercover transfer of workers takes on the character of a criminal operation.

Without status, the illegal migrant is a natural target of exploitation. He or she is at the mercy of employers and may be obliged to accept any kind of job, and any working and living conditions. In the worst cases, the situation of migrant workers is akin to slavery or forced labour. Illegal migrants rarely seek justice for fear of exposure and expulsion, and in many States have no right of appeal against administrative decisions which affect them.

### ***Halting the traffic***

In times of economic recession, it is a common practice to restrict legal migration by foreign workers. Raising the barriers to legal entry, however, tends to have only a temporary or limited effect, and turns the flow of would-be migrants towards illegal channels.

Stiffer penalties for middlemen who recruit, and for employers who accept, illegal migrant labour have been proposed and introduced in some States.

Under article 68 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, States parties are required to "collaborate with a view to preventing and eliminating illegal or clandestine movements and employment of migrant workers in an irregular situation". More specifically, States parties are required to take appropriate measures against the dissemination of misleading information relating to emigration and immigration; measures to detect and eradicate illegal or clandestine movements; and measures to impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which organize, operate or assist illegal or clandestine migration, use violence, threats or intimidation against migrant workers in an irregular situation, or employ such workers.

However, there is little hope of wiping out the clandestine traffic in foreign labour without attacking the basic causes of all worker migration, namely economic underdevelopment and chronic underemployment. In this sense, measures which promote economic development and narrow the gap between the industrialized countries and the developing regions are an evident way of helping to solve the problem.

Three aspects of illegal migration have been underlined in international debates. They concern the unlawful migrant as a violator of immigration laws, as a worker, and as a human being. The conclusion has been that each of these situations has its own legal consequences which should not be confused to the detriment of the individual worker's rights.

### **Aspects of international action**

#### ***International Labour Organization***

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been in the forefront of efforts to secure and maintain a fair deal for migrant workers and their families since the 1920s.

ILO's contribution to achieving greater justice for migrant workers takes two main forms. First, certain ILO conventions and recommendations set the pattern for national laws, as well as judicial and administrative procedures, relating to migration for employment. Secondly, through its technical cooperation projects, ILO helps to secure the human rights of migrant workers.

The two major ILO conventions concerning migrant workers are the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) (No. 97) of 1949 and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention (No. 143) of 1975.

Convention No. 97 contains a series of provisions designed to assist migrants for employment. For example, it calls upon ratifying States to provide relevant information to other ILO member States and to the organization, to take steps against misleading propaganda, and to facilitate the departure, journey and reception of migrants.

The Convention also requires ratifying States to put migrants lawfully within their territory on the same footing as their own nationals in applying a wide range of laws and regulations relating to their working life, without discrimination on the grounds of nationality, race, religion or sex.

Convention No. 143 deals in Part I with migration in abusive conditions, and in Part II with equality of opportunity and treatment. States which ratify the Convention have the option to accept the whole instrument or one or other of its two parts.

The Convention provides that States must respect the basic human rights of all migrant workers. They must also prevent clandestine migration for employment and stop manpower trafficking activities. Furthermore, States must declare and pursue a policy to secure equality of treatment in respect of matters such as employment and occupation, social security, and trade union and cultural rights.

With regard to technical cooperation, ILO has developed an interregional project to combat discrimination against migrant workers. The project, which focuses on industrialized migrant-receiving States, aims at tackling informal or de facto discrimination-unequal treatment of migrant workers which, according to the statute-books, should not occur. Preliminary research findings have made it clear that this kind of discrimination is widespread and persistent. The objective of the project is to assist States in fighting discrimination by informing policy makers, employers' and workers' organizations, persons engaged in anti-discrimination training activities and non-governmental organizations how legislative and related redress mechanisms and training activities can be rendered more effective, on the basis of an international comparison of the efficacy of such measures and activities.

In 1995, in a document submitted to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, ILO pointed out that its activities had contributed substantially to acceptance of the concept of equality in the treatment of migrant workers and to the elimination of discrimination. It also referred to new activities aimed at protection of migrant workers in Africa, America, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe through the application of international norms within the framework of the constitutional and national legislation of host States.

### ***Education of migrants and their families***

Both the United Nations Commission for Social Development and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have given particular attention to the educational needs of the children of migrant workers.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has also in recent years been looking more closely at the promotion and protection of the rights of children of migrant workers, who are full beneficiaries of all provisions in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A number of research publications from UNICEF's International Child Development Centre have dealt with their situation, both as migrants *per se* and as ethnic minorities in the host State.

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In dealing with particular aspects of migrant workers' rights, or with situations specific to certain regions and countries, all the initiatives described above helped to lay the foundation for an international convention: an instrument that would comprehensively cover the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant workers and their families and be sufficiently flexible to be applied throughout the world.

## **Towards a comprehensive agreement**

### ***A. Introduction***

Illegal trafficking in labour was the issue which brought the question of migrant workers' rights into the orbit of debate in the United Nations at the beginning of the 1970s.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) expressed alarm in 1972 at the illegal transportation of labour to some European States organized by criminal elements, and at the exploitation of workers from some African States "in conditions akin to slavery and forced labour" (resolution 1706 (LIII), preamble). The Council deplored the fact that advantage was being taken of mass poverty, ignorance and unemployment in the States of origin to exploit and profit from labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking, and appealed to Governments to track down and try the culprits and to take legal steps to combat the problem.

Later the same year, the General Assembly condemned discrimination against foreign workers and called upon Governments to end such practices and to improve reception arrangements for migrant labour (resolution 2920 (XXVII)). It also invited Governments to ensure respect for the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and urged them to ratify ILO Convention No. 97.

States were again urged to ratify ILO Convention No. 97 and to conclude bilateral agreements on migration for employment in a 1973 ECOSOC resolution (1789 (LIV)), which asked the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on the Status of Women to study the question of illicit and clandestine trafficking in labour.

### ***B. Relevant studies and seminars***

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, after agreeing that there were two aspects to the problem-illicit and clandestine operations, on the one hand, and discriminatory treatment of migrant workers in host States, on the other requested one of its members, Mrs. Halima Warzazi, to undertake a study of the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking. Mrs. Warzazi's final report and recommendations were considered by the Commission on Human Rights in 1976.

In the meantime, the World Population Plan of Action had been adopted by the United Nations World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974. The Plan of Action contained recommendations on the international migration of workers and dealt in particular with the control of discriminatory practices and illicit traffic.

The Seminar on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers, organized by the United Nations, was held at Tunis in November 1975. Among its conclusions, the seminar emphasized the



need to accord migrant workers equality before the law with regard to human rights and labour legislation; to treat humanely aliens who remain in a State illegally; and to avoid situations in which migrant workers are kept in illegal status for long periods. The seminar also drew attention to the fact that States of origin, as well as receiving States, had responsibilities towards migrant workers.

Another milestone along the road to the international convention was the study on international provisions protecting the human rights of non-citizens prepared by Baroness Elles for the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in 1979. The study concluded that the rights of aliens were not yet universally protected and that the application of international human rights norms to aliens was unclear and uncertain. Baroness Elles therefore suggested the adoption by the international community of a draft declaration on the "human rights of individuals who are not citizens of the country in which they live".

In 1985, the Economic and Social Council recognized the need for further efforts-national, bilateral, regional and international-to improve the social situation of migrant workers and their families (resolution 1985/24). The Council invited member States to establish or expand welfare programmes to meet new needs and problems created by changes in the international migration of labour. It emphasized the protection of migrants' families and sought a substantial improvement in the conditions for family integration-particularly of women and young people-into the host society. Special care, the resolution stated, should be paid to the education of children so that they develop knowledge of their maternal language and cultural heritage.

The International Seminar on Cultural Dialogue between the Countries of Origin and the Host Countries of Migrant Workers, organized by the United Nations, was held at Athens in September 1989. The seminar was held in response to a request by ECOSOC (resolution 1988/6, paras. 11-12) for the Secretary-General to pay special attention to the situation of migrant workers and their families.

In dealing with the integration of migrant workers and their families in a regular situation, the seminar underlined the catalytic role of education. Participants agreed that learning the language of the host State was of crucial importance for successful integration. At the same time, it was important that children should maintain their identity; to this end, education should be bilingual.

The seminar also concluded that migrant workers should have the right and the opportunity to form and join associations of their own. Membership of trade unions opened a way to participation by migrant workers in public affairs. Non-governmental organizations had an important role to play in the integration process. In its recommendations on civic rights, the seminar called upon host States to facilitate the use by migrant workers of voting rights in their State of origin and to consider-where possible extending to them the right to vote and stand for election. The seminar also recommended implementation of the right to family reunion.

### ***C. The drafting of the International Convention***

It was the first World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978, which recommended the elaboration of an international convention on protection of the rights of migrant workers. The General Assembly made a similar recommendation in a 1978 resolution (33/163) on "measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers".

A working group open to all Member States was established in 1980 to elaborate a convention and the international organs and organizations concerned the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization-were invited to contribute to the task.

Reconstituted at successive annual sessions of the General Assembly, the working group completed the drafting of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990.

The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1990 and opened for signature by all Member States of the United Nations. Individual States could then ratify the Convention. Ratification requires the approval of the competent national authority-generally the parliament. States may also accede to the Convention by combining signature and ratification in one act. The Convention will enter into force following ratification or accession by 20 States. When a State ratifies or accedes to the Convention, it becomes a State party.

### **The Convention and its application**

The main thrust of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (see [annex](#)) is that persons who qualify as migrant workers under its provisions are entitled to enjoy their human rights regardless of their legal status.

The Convention takes into account the relevant international labour standards, as well as the Slavery Conventions. It also refers to UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Declaration of the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

The Convention first expresses the fights in question in ways which relate directly to the situation of migration for employment. It reflects an up-to-date understanding of

migratory trends as seen from the point of view of both States of origin and host States of migrant workers and their families. It distils more than half a century of expert opinion on the problems of migrant workers and takes into account the requirements of a wide range of international and national legal instruments.

The Convention breaks new ground in defining those rights which apply to certain categories of migrant workers and their families, including:

"frontier workers", who reside in a neighbouring State to which they return daily or at least once a week;

seasonal workers;

seafarers employed on vessels registered in a State other than their own;

workers on offshore installations which are under the jurisdiction of a State other than their own;

itinerant workers;

migrants employed for a specific project;

self-employed workers.

Part VI of the Convention imposes a series of obligations on States parties in the interest of promoting "sound, equitable, humane and lawful conditions" for the international migration of workers and members of their families. These requirements include the establishment of policies on migration; the exchange of information with other States parties; the provision of information to employers, workers and their organizations on policies, laws and regulations; and assistance to migrant workers and their families.

The Convention establishes rules for the recruitment of migrant workers, and for their return to their States of origin. It also details the steps to be taken to combat illegal or clandestine migration.

### ***Application of the Convention***

Under article 72 of the Convention, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is to be established to review the application of the Convention once it has entered into force, i.e. after ratification by 20 States. The Committee is to consist of 10 impartial experts, rising to 14 when 41 ratifications have been registered.

Members of the Committee are to be elected by States parties in a secret ballot, with due regard to fair geographical distribution, including both States of origin and States of employment of migrant workers, and to representation of the world's main legal systems. Members will serve in their personal capacity for a term of four years.

States parties accept the obligation to report on the steps they have taken to implement the Convention within a year of its entry into force for the State concerned, and thereafter every five years. The reports are expected to indicate problems encountered in implementing the Convention, and to provide information on migration flows. After examining the reports, the Committee will transmit such comments as it may consider appropriate to the State party concerned.

Close cooperation between the Committee and international agencies, in particular the International Labour Organization, is foreseen in the Convention.

Under article 76, a State party may recognize the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from one State party alleging that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. Such communications may be received only from States parties which have so recognized the competence of the Committee. The Committee will deal with a matter referred to it in this way only after all available domestic remedies have been exhausted, and may then propose its good offices in an effort to reach a friendly solution.

Under article 77, a State party may recognize the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals within that State's jurisdiction who claim that their rights under the Convention have been violated. Such communications may be received only if they concern a State party which has so recognized the competence of the Committee. If the Committee is satisfied that the matter has not been, and is not being, examined in another international context, and that all domestic remedies have been exhausted, it may call for explanations, and express its views.

## **Migrant workers and recent United Nations conferences**

### ***World Conference on Human Rights***

The World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in June 1993, invited States to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as soon as possible. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which it adopted (part II, paras. 33-35), the Conference urged all States to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and their families. The Conference stated that the creation of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of host States was of particular importance.

### ***International Conference on Population and Development***

The International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in September 1994, dealt with migration issues and, in particular, with the question of global migration. In chapter X of the Programme of Action which it adopted, the Conference called for a comprehensive international approach to dealing with

international migration. Among the areas requiring action, the Conference identified mainly the root causes of migration and called for measures to deal with documented, as well as undocumented migrants.

### ***World Summit for Social Development***

At the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in March 1995, States committed themselves, at the international level, to ensure that migrant workers benefit from the protection provided by relevant national and international instruments, to take concrete and effective measures against the exploitation of migrant workers and to encourage all States to consider ratifying and fully implementing international instruments relating to migrant workers.

In chapter III of the Programme of Action which it adopted, relating to expansion of productive employment and reduction of unemployment, the Summit workers recognized the need for intensified international cooperation and national attention regarding the situation of migrant workers and their families.

On the question of social integration (chap. IV), the Summit agreed that Governments should promote equality and social justice by, *inter alia*, expanding basic education and developing special measures to provide schooling for children and youth of, among others, migrant parents. It also agreed to promote equitable treatment and integration of documented migrant workers and their families.

In order to address concerns regarding undocumented migrants and satisfy their basic human needs, the Summit advocated various measures. It urged Governments to cooperate in reducing the causes of undocumented migration and in punishing criminals who organize trafficking in human beings, while safeguarding the basic human rights of undocumented migrants, preventing their exploitation, and offering them appropriate means of appeal in accordance with national legislation.

### ***Fourth World Conference on Women***

The plight of women migrant workers is also of concern to the United Nations, as they have been victims of violence and sexual exploitation. The Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in September 1995, paid considerable attention to the situation of migrant women. In the Platform for Action which it adopted (chap. IV.D), the Conference called on States to recognize the vulnerability to violence and other forms of abuse of women migrants, including women migrant workers, whose legal status in the host State depends on employers who may exploit their situation. It also urged Governments to establish linguistically and culturally accessible services for migrant women and girls, including women migrant workers, who are victims of gender-based violence.

In her preliminary report of November 1994 (E/CN.4/1995/42, para. 233), the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, called on sending and receiving States:

(a) To act affirmatively to regulate private recruitment agencies for women migrant workers;

(b) To establish outreach programmes for migrant women, providing legal, social and educational assistance;

(c) To ensure that police stations have trained female officers charged with helping migrant women to report cases of abuse;

(d) To ensure that migrant women are not excluded from the protection of national minimum labour standards, and actively to prosecute employers for violation of those standards.

### **Latest developments**

Recently, new trends of racism and xenophobia have emerged which could affect the social well-being of migrant workers. The Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly have therefore also urged States to ratify the International Convention.

As of 14 November 1995, only six States had ratified the Convention (Colombia, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Seychelles and Uganda) and it had been signed by Chile, Mexico and Monaco.

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