

Foreword

People are increasingly on the move for economic, political, humanitarian and other reasons. Migration is not a new phenomenon, but in the era of globalization has reached a new proportion. The number of people on the move has dramatically increased in the past few years. The human rights causes and implications of migration are manifold. Migrants, especially irregular migrants, are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations and abuses.

One of the main challenges of the 21st century is the establishment of migration policies and systems that are respectful of the human rights of migrants. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) advocates for a human rights based-approach to migration and migration “management”. International human rights instruments and standards provide a broad framework for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms of all human beings, including non-citizens. The purpose of this series of web-papers is to show how such norms and standards translate in practice with a view to providing practical guidance to all actors in matters relating to migration.

This series of brief papers on different aspects of migration reviews, for each subject, the applicable international human rights standards and norms and then considers their actual implementation in practice. In the preparation of the papers, the OHCHR uses as sources of information on the actual situation the reports of special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and the concluding observations and jurisprudence of the human rights treaty bodies. The papers do not necessarily reflect the official position of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or of her Office but are meant to encourage further debate and exchange of views.