



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 May 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Migration: A Historical and Ongoing Human Journey**

Since the earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of work or economic opportunity, to join family, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution or large-scale human rights violations. Still others move in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters or other environmental factors.

Today, more people than ever live in a country other than the one in which they were born. According to the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), as of 1 July 2020 the global number of international migrants was estimated to be 281 million. International migrants comprise some 3.5 per cent of the global population, compared to 2.8 per cent in 2000 and 2.3 per cent in 1980.

While most people migrate out of choice, others migrate out of necessity. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimated that, by the end of 2022, the world hosted an estimated 35.3 million refugees under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), as well as 5.4 million were asylum-seekers.(1)

In many cases migrants are well integrated into the economy and society of the country of destination. However, those working in the informal sector and those in an irregular situation, are often among the most vulnerable. Migrants in an irregular situation tend to be disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and marginalization, often living and working in the shadows, afraid to complain, and denied their human rights and fundamental freedoms. A human rights approach to global migration governance is needed to ensure the protection of human rights of all migrants and their families.(2)

Migration remains a critical global challenge, impacting millions of lives and demanding urgent attention and action. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan is committed to addressing the multifaceted problems faced by migrants and contributing to their well-being and integration.

### **Understanding Migration as a Global Problem:**

Migration, both internal and international, has been a defining feature of human history, driven by factors such as conflict, economic instability, environmental disasters, and the pursuit of better opportunities. However, migration also presents significant challenges:

#### **Economic Instability:**

Migrants often leave their homes due to lack of employment opportunities, poverty, and economic disparity. Upon arrival in new locations, they frequently face difficulty securing stable jobs, leading to further economic insecurity.

#### **Social Integration:**

Migrants often struggle to integrate into new communities due to cultural differences, language barriers, and discrimination. This lack of integration can lead to social isolation and marginalization.

#### **Access to Basic Services:**

Migrants frequently face challenges accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, and housing. This can exacerbate their vulnerability and hamper their ability to build stable lives.

### **Legal and Administrative Barriers:**

Migrants often encounter complex legal and administrative barriers in host countries, including issues related to residency status, work permits, and legal protections, which can lead to exploitation and abuse.

### **Human Rights Violations:**

Migrants are at heightened risk of human rights violations, including trafficking, forced labor, and violence. Women and children, in particular, face increased risks during migration.

The Importance of Addressing Migration Issues is because of many reasons but few of them are as follows:

### **Economic Contributions:**

Migrants contribute significantly to the economies of both their host and home countries. They fill labor shortages, contribute to innovation, and through remittances, support their families and communities back home. Addressing migration issues ensures that these contributions are recognized and maximized.

### **Social Cohesion:**

Ensuring the successful integration of migrants promotes social cohesion and stability. It reduces tensions between migrants and host communities and fosters mutual understanding and respect.

### **Human Rights and Dignity:**

Every migrant deserves to live with dignity and respect. Addressing migration issues is essential to uphold the human rights of migrants, ensuring they are protected from exploitation and abuse and have access to justice and basic services.

### **Sustainable Development:**

Migration is closely linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Addressing migration issues contributes to poverty reduction, economic growth, and social inclusion, aligning with the global development agenda.

Indian government has also undertaken several initiatives to address the challenges faced by migrants, focusing on their protection, integration, and empowerment. India has enacted various laws and policies to protect migrants, including: Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979: Regulates the employment conditions of inter-state migrant workers and aims to protect their rights.(3)

National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015: Includes provisions for skill development programs tailored for migrant workers to enhance their employability.(4) Several welfare schemes have been launched to support migrants: Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY): This scheme, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided financial assistance, food security, and other support to migrant workers.(5)

One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC): Ensures food security for migrant workers by allowing them to access subsidized food grains from any Fair Price Shop across India.(6) During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian government took specific measures to support migrants like the Free Food Distribution which Provided free food grains and meals to migrant workers under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.(7) Arranged special trains and buses to facilitate the safe return of migrants to their home states.

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan has been actively involved in supporting migrants, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Our initiatives aim to address their immediate needs and promote their long-term well-being and integration.

### **Immediate Relief Efforts through Food Security:**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan distributed food rations to migrant families, ensuring they had access to essential nutrition. This included staples like rice, wheat, pulses, and cooking oil.

### **Hygiene Kits:**

Recognizing the importance of hygiene in preventing disease, especially during the pandemic, Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan provided hygiene kits containing soap, sanitizer, masks, and sanitary pads to migrant families.

### **Clothing and Footwear:**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan distributed dresses, slippers, and sandals to migrants, addressing their immediate clothing needs and helping them maintain dignity and comfort.

### **Long-Term Support and Empowerment Vocational Training:**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan offers vocational training programs to migrants, helping them acquire new skills and improve their employ-ability. This includes training in tailoring, handicrafts, and other trades.

### **Educational Support:**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan supports the education of migrant children by providing school supplies, scholarships, and access to learning centers, ensuring that migration does not disrupt their education.

### **Health Camps:**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan organizes Regular health camps are to provide medical check-ups and treatment to migrants. These camps also include awareness sessions on health and hygiene practices.

### **Community Engagement and Advocacy:**

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan engages with local communities to promote the acceptance and integration of migrants. This involves awareness campaigns, community dialogues, and collaboration with local authorities to address the challenges faced by migrants and promote inclusive policies.

Migration is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires coordinated efforts from governments, civil society, and the international community. The work of Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, demonstrates that meaningful change is possible through sustained commitment and innovative approaches. We urge the international community and the UNHRC to continue supporting initiatives that address the challenges faced by migrants, ensuring their protection, integration, and empowerment. By investing in the well-being of migrants, we invest in the future of our societies, ensuring a more equitable, just, and prosperous world for all.

- (1) <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/migration#:~:text=Who%20is%20an%20international%20migrant,or%20motive%20of%20the%20ir%20movement>.
- (2) <https://www.un.org/en/fight-racism/vulnerable-groups/migrants>
- (3) <https://clc.gov.in/clc/acts-rules/inter-state-migrant-workmen>
- (4) <https://www.msde.gov.in/en/reports-documents/policies/national-policy-skill-development-and-entrepreneurship-2015>
- (5) <https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/pm-gkay>
- (6) <https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/onorc>
- (7) <https://dfpd.gov.in/Home/ContentManagement?Url=pmgka.html&ManuId=3&language=2>