

UNIT 4 MIGRATION

RIGHTS ON THE LINE: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Many governments' immigration policies and protection gaps expose migrants to abuse, Human Rights Watch said in a report today in advance of International Migrants Day, December 18, 2010. The abuses include labor exploitation, violence, trafficking, mistreatment in detention, and killings, yet the nations involved offer limited recourse to seek justice, Human Rights Watch said.

The 48-page roundup of Human Rights Watch reporting on violations of migrants' rights in 2010, "Rights on the Line: Human Rights Watch Work on Abuses against Migrants in 2010," includes coverage of Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

"Migrants are consistently among those at highest risk of abuse, but also among those least likely to have access to services or justice," said Nisha Varia, senior women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. "Many governments make things worse with policies that aggravate discrimination or make it hard for migrants even to approach authorities for help."

More than 215 million people live outside their country of birth, according to the United Nations. International migration helps fuel economies across the globe. The World Bank estimates that migrants sent home more than US\$440 billion in 2010, \$325 billion of which went to developing countries.

Many countries rely on migrant workers to fill labor shortages in low-paying, dangerous, and poorly regulated jobs. Human Rights Watch documented labor exploitation and barriers to redress for migrants in agriculture, domestic work, and construction in Indonesia, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Immigration sponsorship systems in many countries give employers immense control over workers and lead to migrants being trapped in abusive situations or unable to pursue redress through the justice system.

"Governments have begun to address abuse of migrant workers, including with strengthened employment contracts and labor law provisions," Varia said. "But these reforms have been slow and incremental, and governments have fallen especially short when it comes to making sure migrants know about and benefit from such changes."

Human Rights Watch also found that men, women, and children can risk their lives to cross borders, and may face abuse while in no-man's lands between border checkpoints, on the high seas, or at the international zones of airports. For example, Egyptian border guards shot dead at least 28 migrants attempting to cross the Sinai border into Israel in 2010. Human Rights Watch research on Italy, Libya, Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, Greece, Spain, and the European Union documented border control policies that flout international standards, fail to screen and provide appropriate services for vulnerable populations such as unaccompanied children, asylum-seekers, and trafficking victims, or subject migrants to poor conditions in detention. [...]

"The list of abuses against migrants in 2010 is long and grim," Varia said. "Governments need to jump-start the pace of reforms to avoid another year filled with abuses and injustices."

Human Rights Watch called on governments to focus during 2011 on improving protections for migrants, including ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. Human Rights Watch also urged governments to:

- Ensure that immigration and labor policies are designed to facilitate documented migration and do not disproportionately punish those without proper documents;
- Reform labor laws to extend comprehensive labor protections in poorly regulated types of employment often dominated by migrants, including domestic work and agriculture.
- Establish effective monitoring and complaint mechanisms, including translation services as needed, rigorously investigate complaints of abuse, irrespective of an individual's migration status, and take steps to resolve labor disputes and criminal proceedings in a timely manner;
- Establish legally enforceable standards to govern conditions of detention including access to medical care, and strengthen oversight to prevent and respond to abuses;
- Conduct independent reviews of expulsion policies and ensure that those subjected to forced removals have a right to appeal, based on individual review that does not discriminate on grounds of ethnicity or nationality;

- Develop comprehensive national strategies and strengthen international co-operation to combat trafficking, including access to services and rehabilitation for survivors.

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<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/12/12/global-flawed-policies-expose-migrants-abuse>

GLOSSARY

gap = lacuna

abuse = maltrattamento

in advance of = prima di

roundup = riassunto

coverage = copertura

according to = secondo

to fuel = favorire

redress = risarcimento

sponsorship = sponsorizzazione

to pursue = inseguire

redress = riparazione

labor law = diritto del lavoro

to fall short = essere in difetto

border = frontiera

no-man's land = terra di nessuno

checkpoint = posto di controllo

to shoot (shot, shot) dead = colpire a morte

to flout = sfidare, farsi beffa di

to screen = sottoporre a dei controlli

grim = duro, spaventoso

to jump-start = dare una spinta

complaint = reclamo

enforceable = attuabile

oversight = negligenza

removal = espulsione

right to appeal = diritto di appello

on grounds of = sulla base di

survivor = superstite

LANGUAGE NOTES

The word *abuse* can be translated in different ways: *physical abuse* (maltrattamento), *sexual abuse* (violenza carnale), *drug abuse* (uso di stupefacenti), *alcohol abuse* (abuso di alcolici), *verbal abuse* (ingiurie, insulti).

If something is “on the line” it is exposed to a chance of loss or damage: *He put his job on the line when he told the boss that he was wrong.*

The verb *to watch* means “to observe carefully or continuously”. As a noun, it is used also to refer to surveillance or guarding: *In the Neighbourhood Watch programme community members keep a look-out for neighbours and report suspicious activities to the police.*

A billion equals a thousand million (1,000,000,000): *un miliardo*. A trillion equals a million million (1,000,000,000,000): *un bilione*. See Appendix II for other numbers.

High seas is a term used to refer to oceans and seas outside of national jurisdiction. In international law, the Latin term *mare liberum* is often used to refer to oceans and seas open to vessels of all nations; *mare clausum* refers to a oceans and seas under the jurisdiction of one nation and closed to all others.

The verb *to fail* means “to be unsuccessful”: *He failed his exam. To fail to do something* means “to omit” (mancare di fare): *The health care system can sometimes fail to meet patients’ needs.*

Convention in this context refers to an international treaty or agreement on a specific subject. It can also mean a formal meeting or conference: *UNESCO’s Annual Convention on “Innovative Practices in ICT in Education” was held in Bangkok last year.*

The adjective *poor* means “with little wealth”. It can also mean “lacking in quality or inferior”: *a poor result = a bad result*. Therefore *poorly regulated jobs* are badly regulated.

The adjective *timely* means “at exactly the right time”: *The fight ended only with the timely arrival of the police*. The phrase *in a timely manner* means “as quickly as is reasonable in a particular situation”.

COMPREHENSION

1. What is the subject of the Human Rights Watch report?
2. What does it say about government migration policies?
3. Does international migration help or impede developing country economies?
4. What kind of work do migrants generally carry out?
5. What does the report advise governments to do as regards migrants who may be expelled?

VOCABULARY

Exercise 1 Morphology. The prefix *mis-* conveys the idea of “wrong” or “badly”. *To mistreat (mistreatment)* means “to treat badly”.

Complete the sentences with the appropriate word.

advised	understanding	conduct
	management	taken

- 1. You can be sacked for gross mis_____ like drinking at work or subjecting people to racial abuse.
- 2. Constant monitoring and control at every stage prevents project mis_____ and can save time and money.
- 3. We were mis_____ by the experts and made several bad decisions.
- 4. Dyslexia is a learning disability that is often mis_____ for laziness.
- 5. Mis_____ is likely to happen when there are significant cultural differences between people.

Exercise 2 Nationalities

The reading passage contains the names of many non-European countries. Use a dictionary to find the correct name of the people who come from these countries.

Country	Person
Bangladesh	<u>a Bangladeshi</u>
Burkina	_____
Burundi	_____
Gabon	_____
Israel	_____
Kazakhstan	_____
Kuwait	_____
Thailand	_____
Togo	_____
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	_____

Exercise 3 Choose the correct preposition.

1. The whole country will benefit **for / from** the new recycling plant.
2. Immigrants often rely **from / on** temporary jobs.
3. According **to / at** a poll, most Americans believe the government should block illegal immigrants at the border.
4. The Migration Advisory Committee will report **in / on** Family Migration to the government.
5. Undocumented immigrants should have access **at / to** health care, says a medical organisation in San Diego.

SOCIAL WORK WITH UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING YOUNG PEOPLE

In the UK there are currently some 5,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people who are being looked after or supported by local authorities. Many of them are cared for by social workers who are legally obliged to ensure that they receive the same quality of care and protection that indigenous young people with similar needs would receive. In some respects these young people present a fresh version of familiar challenges and dilemmas for social workers. Separation and loss are fundamental parts of any unaccompanied child's story, as for many young people that social workers care for. Providing care and protection to unaccompanied asylum seekers from overseas, however, presents a number of additional, different challenges.

Many of them have faced, and still face, great uncertainties: in relation to their past, often as suddenly uprooted migrants; in the present, as young people who may not always receive high quality substitute care; and in the future, as asylum applicants waiting to hear about their bid for citizenship. They have to survive in an unfamiliar context, with strange habits, rules, language and customs. Their families may have sent them far away to escape danger, leaving the young people with a complex and sometimes burdensome message about what their families think about them. The young people may or may not know what they have to do for themselves. The stages of arrival, settlement and achieving citizenship may test their resilience in profound ways as they integrate into new environments and move away from the old.

Achieving citizenship is not enough. They may, like other migrants, have been urged by their families to succeed academically and financially. Unlike economic migrants, however, their asylum claims may be jeopardized by revealing any economic sub-text to their flight. They may have learned to present the simplest, most acceptable version of their reasons for flight and thus may become silent about the complex circumstances of their departure.

Social workers need to ask themselves:

- How can we learn about an unaccompanied asylum seeker's life before separation?
- How should we deal with silence?
- How can we meet the needs of unaccompanied minors for a family, a social network, health care, education and a durable sense of self worth?
- Do we know enough concerning the legal, political and research issues related to refugees?
- How can we plan for resettlement, reunification with families of origin, or, where necessary, repatriation?

Current evidence suggests that the chronic uncertainty about getting refugee status so dominates the lives of unaccompanied young people that it undermines their confidence about the future. Social workers familiar with the need to think about threats of social exclusion for young people leaving care are faced with the additional challenge of denial of citizenship for at least some of their unaccompanied young people.

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Forced Migration Review

<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR12/fmr12.11.pdf>

GLOSSARY

asylum-seeking = chi richiede asilo politico

need = esigenza

loss = perdita

from overseas = dall'estero

uprooted = sradicato

applicant = richiedente

bid = tentativo, richiesta

to send (sent, sent) = inviare

to escape = sfuggire

danger = pericolo

burdensome = oneroso, gravoso

settlement = inserimento

to achieve = ottenere

to test = mettere alla prova

resilience = resistenza

to urge = incoraggiare

to succeed = riuscire, avere successo

claim = richiesta

to jeopardize = minacciare

sub-text = dimensione

flight = fuga

reason = motivo

departure = partenza

minor = minorenne
durable = duraturo
self-worth = autostima
evidence = prove

undermine = minare, indebolire
confidence = sicurezza
denial = rifiuto, diniego

LANGUAGE NOTES

The phrase *some 5,000 people* is one way of expressing an approximate quality. Other such words are *about, roughly, approximately, around*: *Last year, in the US, about 9.6 million immigrants came from Mexico, approximately 1.9 million from China and around a million from Canada*. The word *circa*, usually abbreviated to *c.* or *ca.*, usually refers to a date: *My grandfather immigrated to New Zealand in circa 1900*.

The word *like* is used for comparisons: *He acts like a professional* (Agisce come (da) professionista). Note also the opposite *unlike*: *They are quite unlike each other* (Non si assomigliano affatto).

The modal auxiliary verb *may* is used to express possibility: *Their families may have sent them far away*.

The term *minor* is used to refer to a person under the age of majority.

The word *evidence* is generally used as an uncountable noun: *There is a lot of evidence against him*. The word *proof* is also mainly used as an uncountable noun: *Do you have any proof of identity?*

COMPREHENSION

Choose ONE of the alternatives.

1. The article deals with the problem of young migrants who wish to ...
 - a. repatriate.
 - b. become British citizens.
 - c. find a job.
2. The problems of young migrants are ...
 - a. the same as the problems of young people in general.
 - b. more complex than those of young people.
 - c. difficult to ascertain.

3. One of the greatest problems for young migrants is ...
 - a. the continuous feeling of insecurity.
 - b. to integrate into society.
 - c. to do well academically.
4. The phrase “economic sub-text” refers to the young migrant’s ...
 - a. reasons for leaving their country of origin.
 - b. past history.
 - c. real economic position.
5. The writer believes in general that social workers should try to ...
 - a. reunite the young migrants with their families of origin.
 - b. find a balance between the general and specific needs of the young migrants.
 - c. understand the young migrant’s material needs.

VOCABULARY

Exercise 4 Morphology. The suffix *-ship* is used to create an abstract noun from a concrete noun: *friend* (amico) > *friendship* (amicizia). Complete the sentences with the appropriate noun.

citizenship	membership	ownership
	partnership	relationship

1. The European Union’s _____ grew to 27 in 2007.
2. In a business _____ one or more businesses work together to share profits and losses.
3. Property _____ laws may vary widely among countries.
4. He has applied for British _____.
5. Ask our experts for _____ advice.

Exercise 5 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

about (x2)	after	for	with
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1. Young immigrants need to learn how to look _____ themselves.