



Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20001
migrantsrights@law.georgetown.edu

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Statement of the International Migrants Bill of Rights Initiative To the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

The International Migrants Bill of Rights (IMBR) Initiative would like to emphasize the importance of a rights-based framework as part of the discussion of the High-Level Dialogue. States must not forget that their commitments under existing treaties protect the rights of all people, including migrants. NGO representatives at the Civil Society Preparatory Meetings noted that there are existing frameworks in place and that the key issue moving forward will be encouraging implementation and effective international oversight.

The IMBR Initiative agrees with this premise but also would like to draw attention to the breadth of rights relevant to migrants as the international community moves forward. The basic rights belonging to all types of migrants come from a multitude of international human rights treaties and are not limited to those agreements that specifically address the issue of migration.

The IMBR Initiative would like to highlight the following guiding principles, which are derived from existing international agreements and which should be kept in mind as part of all conversations on migration and development.

IMBR 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.

