

Summary of the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families

Migrant Workers

More than 150 million immigrants live and work in countries other than that of their birth. These include permanent residents, refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and others.

The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families entered into force on 1 July 2003. It has been ratified by 34 countries and the USA is **not** among them.

The Convention imposes a series of obligations on governments to promote "sound, equitable, humane and lawful conditions" for the international migration of workers and members of their families. Fundamental human rights are extended to all migrant workers, both documented and undocumented, with additional rights being recognized for documented migrant workers and members of their families, notably equality of treatment with nationals in employment and in a number of legal, political, economic, social and cultural areas. It attempts to establish minimum standards of protection for migrant workers and members of their families.

Article 7 advises governments/states to respect and to ensure to all migrant workers and members of their families within their territory the rights provided for in the present Convention without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, color, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, Ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status.

Articles 9, 10 and 11 enunciate very important directives to states/governments for the protection of migrant workers.

Article 9 directs the states to protect the right of life of the workers and their families by law. **Article 10** protects the migrant workers and their families from torture and

cruel and degrading treatment or punishment. **Article 11** proscribes against slavery and servitude of migrant workers and families. Also importantly it protects migrant workers and families from compulsory or forced labor.

Article 25 emphasizes that migrant workers should be treated on par with the nationals of the state/country for remuneration in employment. It also advocates that other conditions of work that include overtime, hours of work, weekly rest, holidays with pay, safety, health, termination of the employment relationship to be on par with the domestic workers. **Article 26** has very important directives for the protection of the rights of migrant workers. It gives migrant workers the right to join trade unions and participate in meetings of trade unions.

The UN international Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families is one step towards ensuring the rights of hardworking migrant workers. Migrant workers rights are human rights.

Things You Can Do

- *Distribute literature supportive of the rights of immigrants and migrant workers*
- *Circulate and collect petition signatures*
- *Join local RRNs (Rapid Response Network)*
- *Raise immigrant and migrant workers issues in your labor unions and organizations*
- *Help do outreach for meetings and events concerning Migrant workers and immigrants actions*
- *Join email lists to receive current information and alerts.*

For more information and updates please contact us at: info@bostonmayday.org
Website: <http://bostonmayday.org>