

THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION



Publication Launch

11 March 2015, 12.00 – 14.00

Palais des Nations, Room XXVII

Agenda

THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION

Organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Argentina

11 March 2015

12.00 – 14.00, Room XXVII (Palais des Nations), Geneva

12.00 – 12.15 **Welcome**

H.E. Alberto P. D'Alotto, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Argentina

Opening Remarks

Ms Jane Connors, Director, Research and Right to Develop-
ment Division, OHCHR

12.15 – 13.15 **Panel Discussion**

Mr Giuseppe Palmisano, President of the European Com-
mittee of Social Rights

Dr. Petra Tiarks-Jungk, City of Frankfurt Department of
Health

Dr. Yves-Laurent Jackson, University Hospital Geneva

Ms Nadia Nguyen Quang, Member of Réseau Education
Sans Frontières

Mr Bruce Porter, Executive Director, Social Rights Advocacy
Centre Canada

Mr Ryszard Cholewinski, International Labour Organisation

13.15 – 13.55 **Q&A**

13.55 – 14.00 **Closing remarks**

H.E. Alberto P. D'Alotto, Ambassador, Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Argentina

Background

More than 232 million persons in the world are considered to be international migrants. Migrants in an irregular situation are thereby estimated to make up 15 to 20 per cent of all international migrants, accounting for 30 to 40 million people worldwide.

Migrants in an irregular situation are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and marginalisation. They are more likely to become victims of abuse and are often afraid or unable to seek protection and redress from authorities. The majority of migrants in irregular situations enter their countries of destination via regular channels and only subsequently acquire irregular status. They are not criminals and unlike common assumptions that they migrate to take advantage of social benefits, they are typically prevented from accessing basic services when they need them.

International human rights laws guarantee to all individuals human rights, regardless of their administrative status or nationality. This includes the rights to health, to education, to an adequate standard of living, to social security, and to just and favourable conditions of work.

Against this background, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will launch a new publication entitled 'The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Migrants in an Irregular Situation'. This study details the legal, policy and practical barriers irregular migrants face in the enjoyment of their rights, as well as trends and national policies. By examining the minimum human rights standards and promising practices, the publication provides key messages to support States and other stakeholders in ensuring irregular migrants can exercise their rights.

Objectives

To launch the publication, OHCHR, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Argentina, is hosting a side event at the 28th session of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the main issues and to identify strategies for assisting States to guarantee all individuals within their jurisdiction access to basic services.

The principal objectives of the side event are to:

- Highlight the legal and practical barriers migrants in an irregular situation face in exercising their economic, social and cultural rights;
- Share current efforts undertaken at international, national and local level to overcome such barriers;
- Identify how States can ensure and improve the access to these key human rights by irregular migrants.

Participants

The side event seeks to bring together critical stakeholders from States, UN human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and national, regional and international civil society organizations.