

What can you do to acknowledge and celebrate International Migrants Day?

- Hold a press conference, public forum, or community workshop around a current campaign or issue on migrant and human rights.
- Organize an event at your school, place of worship or community center to educate people about International Migrants Day and immigrant rights.
- Speak with local public officials about the human rights of immigrants and policies that affect the lives of migrant people.
- Ask your local and state government representatives and bodies to recognize International Migrants Day with resolutions and declarations of support.
- Issue an organizational statement on International Migrants Day or seek endorsements from other organizations; collect contributions to place an ad in your local newspaper about immigrant rights.
- Screen films and documentaries about migrant and refugee rights.
- Host a fundraiser, house party, “posada”, or other celebration for your organization or another immigrant and refugee justice organization. Include music and food from different countries.
 - Hold a potluck with dishes prepared from NNIRR’s international migrant recipe book, [Recipes on the Move: Sustaining the Movement for Immigrant Rights](#).
- Join us in calling for the US to ratify the Migrant Workers Convention by signing our Pledge of Support.

- Hold a community workshop using [BRIDGE: Building a Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy. A Popular Education Resource for Immigrant and Refugee Community Organizers](#). BRIDGE includes community-oriented workshops and exercises about human rights, workers and women’s rights, globalization and migration, and many more tools to raise awareness.

We encourage local communities to use IMD to build bridges of unity and support among diverse populations and sectors, and to strengthen our common cause of human rights FOR ALL.

Resources at www.nnirr.org

- **International Migrants Day Page**
 - Tip Sheet on City Resolution to support Migrant Workers Convention ratification
 - Summary of Migrant Workers Convention
 - Migrant Workers Convention Text
 - Migrant Rights International (MRI)
- **Recipes on the Move: Sustaining the Movement for Immigrant Rights**
- **BRIDGE: Building a Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy. A Popular Education Resource for Immigrant and Refugee Community Organizers**

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International Migrants Day

December 18



Celebrating the lives, rights and contributions of migrants around the world!



National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights



Although migration is characteristic of our history as people on this planet, many factors- social, political, economic, environmental- have changed the rate and type of migration

we have seen over the past three decades. Globalization has contributed to the displacement of millions of workers (often from the Global South), forcing them to leave their places of birth for better opportunities for them and their families (often in the Global North). Corporations benefit from this displacement by gaining a cheap labor force, and migrants end up being treated as disposable “commodities” and suffer unfair working conditions.

Global migration has increased due to corrupt and repressive governments, war and national conflict, as well as environmental disasters such as the 2004 South Asian tsunami and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Under these conditions, people often suffer the loss of personal and political rights including religious freedom, the right to education, control over their bodies and the lives of their children, and rights to their land, just to name a few.

Migrant workers and their families remain a vulnerable population due to their immigration or citizenship status and often have little to no say in the policies passed that directly affect their lives in the countries that receive them. In addition, discrimination based on racism, xenophobia, sexism and homophobia all contribute to the ill treatment of migrant workers and their families and particularly affect those that are already marginalized such as women, children and people of color. These

Migrant Rights Are Human Rights!

On December 18, 1990, the UN approved the [International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#) (also known as the Migrant Workers Convention), one of the most comprehensive policies outlining the rights of migrants in the world to date. The Convention responds to growing international interest and concerns in addressing the issue of global migration, and asserts the human rights of all migrant people, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

The Migrant Workers Convention provides the first comprehensive definition of an “international migrant,” and identifies the protections essential to migrants and their families, such as the same rights to education and healthcare as national citizens. To date 46 countries have ratified the Migrant Workers Convention, including Mexico and the Philippines, but the US and all major migrant-receiving countries continue to withhold their support. Organizations such as [Migrants Rights International \(MRI\)](#) have been integral in promoting universal ratification of the Convention, and NNIRR has played a key role in raising awareness and garnering support in the US. To find out more about the Migrant Workers Convention and the US campaign for ratification, please visit our website!

types of injustices are enabled and perpetuated through anti-immigrant legislation, fueled by the anti-immigrant sentiment that scapegoats migrants as the cause of economic hard times.

International Migrants Day (IMD) was officially recognized by the United Nations in 2000, and it serves as a reminder that the fight for international migrant rights is far from over. Each year, hundreds of thousands around the world gather to express their support for all immigrants. Groups hold press conferences, rally in front of their local and national governments, organize workshops, educational forums and celebrations, and raise funds to work towards their vision of international human rights for migrant people.

We at NNIRR call for respect, dignity and justice for all migrants. A global standard for the rights of migrant workers and their families has never been more necessary, and we celebrate International Migrants Day by promoting the universal ratification and adoption of the Migrant Workers Convention.

