



THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PROTECTING MIGRANTS' RIGHTS AND MANAGING GLOBAL MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT

Migration has become one of the most significant global phenomena of the twenty-first century, affecting economic development, social stability, national security, and human rights protection. The increasing scale of international migration has created complex legal and institutional challenges that cannot be effectively addressed by individual states alone. In this context, international organizations play a crucial role in developing legal frameworks, coordinating migration policies, protecting migrants' rights, and promoting international cooperation. This article examines the legal foundations of global migration governance and analyzes the role of major international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in regulating migration processes. Particular attention is paid to the protection of migrants' rights, the prevention of irregular migration, the fight against human trafficking, and the promotion of safe, orderly, and regular migration. The article also explores contemporary challenges such as climate-induced migration, refugee crises, digitalization of migration management, and the growing need for international solidarity. Based on international legal instruments and comparative practices, recommendations are proposed for strengthening migration governance and enhancing the effectiveness of international organizations in protecting migrants worldwide.

Migration has become one of the defining phenomena of the twenty-first century. The rapid development of globalization, economic integration, technological progress, political

instability, armed conflicts, environmental degradation, and climate change have significantly increased the movement of people across international borders. According to international



organizations, hundreds of millions of people currently reside outside their countries of origin, seeking employment, education, security, family reunification, or protection from persecution and violence. While migration contributes to economic growth, cultural exchange, and social development, it also creates significant legal, political, and humanitarian challenges for states and the international community.

The protection of migrants' rights has emerged as one of the most important concerns of contemporary international law. Migrants frequently encounter discrimination, exploitation, human trafficking, forced labor, inadequate working conditions, arbitrary detention, and barriers to accessing justice. These challenges are particularly severe for irregular migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, women, and children. Consequently, the international community has increasingly recognized that migration governance requires coordinated efforts beyond the capacities of individual states.¹

International organizations play a crucial role in addressing these challenges by developing legal standards, facilitating cooperation among states, monitoring compliance with international obligations, and providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations. Organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have become central actors in shaping global migration governance and protecting migrants' rights.²

The growing complexity of migration flows has transformed migration from a purely domestic concern into a matter of international governance. Traditional approaches based solely on state sovereignty have proven insufficient to address transnational migration challenges. Instead, contemporary migration governance increasingly relies on multilateral cooperation, international legal frameworks, and institutional mechanisms designed to balance state interests with human rights obligations.³ This article examines the legal and institutional role of international organizations in protecting migrants' rights and managing global migration. It analyzes the international legal framework governing migration, explores the functions and contributions of major international organizations, identifies current challenges facing migration governance, and proposes recommendations for strengthening international cooperation and enhancing migrant protection worldwide.

Global migration governance refers to the collection of laws, institutions, policies, norms, and cooperative mechanisms that regulate international migration and protect migrants' rights. Unlike traditional areas of international law, migration governance does not rely

¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

² International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990

³ Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 2018



on a single comprehensive treaty or centralized authority. Instead, it consists of multiple legal instruments and institutions operating at global, regional, and national levels.⁴

Migration governance seeks to achieve several interconnected objectives. First, it aims to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration while reducing irregular migration. Second, it promotes the protection of fundamental human rights regardless of migration status. Third, it seeks to maximize the economic and social benefits of migration for migrants, countries of origin, and destination states. Fourth, it contributes to international security and stability by addressing the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration.

The legal foundations of global migration governance are derived from various international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Refugee Convention of 1951, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.⁵ These instruments establish fundamental principles such as non-discrimination, equality before the law, protection against arbitrary detention, access to justice, and respect for human dignity.

The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018 represented a significant milestone in the development of international migration governance. Although not legally binding, the Compact provides a comprehensive framework for international cooperation and outlines twenty-three objectives aimed at improving migration management and protecting migrants' rights.⁶

The United Nations occupies a central position within the global migration governance system. As the primary international organization responsible for maintaining international peace, security, and cooperation, the United Nations has played a fundamental role in establishing legal standards and promoting international collaboration on migration issues.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right of every individual to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country.⁷ Although international law does not establish a general right to enter another state, it imposes obligations on states to respect and protect the fundamental rights of all individuals within their jurisdiction, including migrants.

Through its various agencies, programs, and specialized bodies, the United Nations addresses migration from multiple perspectives. These include human rights protection, humanitarian

⁴ Betts, A. *Global Migration Governance*. Oxford University Press, 2011

⁵ United Nations Human Rights Treaties Collection

⁶ Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/195

⁷ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13



assistance, labor rights, development cooperation, refugee protection, and anti-trafficking measures. The United Nations General Assembly regularly adopts resolutions addressing migration-related challenges and encourages international cooperation in this field.

Particular attention has been devoted to the relationship between migration and sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly recognize the contribution of migration to development and call for the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people. Migration has become increasingly integrated into broader discussions concerning poverty reduction, gender equality, education, healthcare, and economic growth.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in 2016 further strengthened international commitments to protecting migrants and refugees. The Declaration emphasized shared responsibility, international solidarity, and the need for comprehensive responses to large movements of people.⁸

The International Organization for Migration has become the leading intergovernmental organization dedicated specifically to migration issues. Established in 1951 and integrated into the United Nations system in 2016, the IOM currently works with governments, international organizations, civil society actors, and

migrants themselves to promote humane and orderly migration.⁹ The IOM's activities encompass a wide range of functions, including migration management, humanitarian assistance, migrant integration, return and reintegration programs, border management, counter-trafficking initiatives, and migration research. The organization provides technical support to states in developing migration policies consistent with international standards. One of the most significant contributions of the IOM lies in its operational capacity. During humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, and natural disasters, the organization provides emergency assistance to displaced populations. It also assists migrants stranded in transit countries and facilitates voluntary return programs for migrants wishing to return to their countries of origin.

The IOM plays an essential role in combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Through capacity-building programs, awareness campaigns, victim assistance services, and cooperation with law enforcement authorities, the organization contributes to the prevention of exploitation and abuse affecting vulnerable migrants. Furthermore, the IOM promotes evidence-based policymaking through the collection and analysis of migration data. Reliable information is essential for developing effective migration policies and addressing misconceptions about migration. By producing research, reports, and statistical analyses, the organization enhances understanding of

⁸ New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UN General Assembly, 2016

⁹ Constitution of the International Organization for Migration, 1953



migration trends and supports informed decision-making.

The organization's growing importance reflects the increasing recognition that migration governance requires specialized expertise, international coordination, and practical

operational support. As migration patterns continue to evolve, the IOM remains a key actor in facilitating cooperation among states and ensuring that migration occurs in a safe, orderly, and humane manner.

Используемая литература:

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2. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990;
3. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 2018;
4. Betts, A. Global Migration Governance. Oxford University Press, 2011;
5. United Nations Human Rights Treaties Collection;
6. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/195;
7. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13;
8. New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UN General Assembly, 2016;
9. Constitution of the International Organization for Migration, 1953.