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PHILIPPINE
MIGRANTS
RIGHTS
WATCH



4, 13th Street - New Manila
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Protecting Migrants' Rights

International economic imbalances, poverty and environmental degradation, combined with the absence of peace and security, human rights violations, unequal development and unfavorable judicial and democratic institutions are all factors affecting international migration. As of 2000, it is estimated that the number of international migrants in the world is about 175 million - and some 44% of them are in developing countries. The Philippines, for its part, has some 7.58 million migrants as of the year 2002.

Protecting migrants' rights is a responsibility of the international community. Governments of countries of origin and destination should seek to make the option of remaining in one's own country viable for all people.

Governments of receiving countries are urged to consider extending to documented migrants and members of their families equal treatment vis-à-vis their nationals with regard to the enjoyment of basic human rights, including the right to religious expression. Equality with respect to opportunity, working conditions, participation in trade unions, access to social security, health, education, cultural and other services and the justice system must be guaranteed.

Governments of receiving countries are further urged to take appropriate steps to avoid all forms of discrimination against migrants. Women and children who migrate as family members should be protected from abuse or denial of their human rights.

States that have not already done so are invited to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.



Filipino migrants' rights, both in the Philippines and abroad, during the entire migration process.

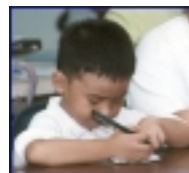
The Organization

The Philippine Migrants Rights Watch is a registered civil society network that was established in 1995 to encourage the recognition, protection and fulfillment of

Objectives

- To carry out education, lobbying, and monitoring activities toward the recognition, protection, and fulfillment of the rights of all Filipino migrants and members of their families before departure, during migration, and upon return
- To campaign for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families* and other relevant international instruments by the Philippine government
- To monitor respect for and expose abuses of Filipino migrants' rights toward the pursuit of justice

* The Philippines ratified the Convention in 1995



Programs

Education

Disseminating information regarding the provisions of the Migrant Workers Convention (MWC) among migrant workers and their associations and fostering dialogue with them

Lobbying

Carrying out lobbying initiatives to raise the issue of migrants' rights as a priority concern for policy and legislation

Monitoring

Encouraging the development and utilization of databases documenting violations of migrants' rights and provide grounds for intervention

Activities since 1995

- PMRW actively participated to lobby for the passage of Republic Act 8042 (the Magna Carta for Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos).
- PMRW, together with other civil society groups, was actively involved in lobby work that led to the passage of the Absentee Voting Law in 2003.
- PMRW campaigned for the Philippine government's ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
- PMRW, together with the Asian Partnership in International Migration (APIM), launched the First International Day of Solidarity with Migrants campaign in Manila in 1997, and has been staging annual celebrations of International Migrants Day since then.
- PMRW produced two primers for migrant workers titled, *Rights of Migrant Workers* (1997) and *Mga Karapatan ng Migranteng Pilipino* (1999 and 2003).