

*“Respect for the rights, dignity and well-being of migrants remains paramount.”*  
- IOM’s Strategic Vision (2019 - 2023)

In the Strategic Vision, IOM commits to the UN Charter and to uphold human rights for all. As the UN’s migration organization, IOM objectives aim to enhance the respect for the human rights of migrants in line with international law.

## International Migration Law Community of Practice



Ever wondered where you could easily access key IML information and resources? Good news! Your “IML one-stop-shop” - the **International Migration Law Community of Practice (IML-CoP)** - is finally online! Access and follow [the IML-CoP here!](#)

Developed in collaboration with the **Policy Hub**, it is an initiative by the IML Unit in its effort to provide easy access to IML knowledge and learning resources for IOM colleagues in a user friendly and interactive format. Currently, the IML-CoP includes active CoPs on [Human Rights of Migrants](#), [Alternatives to Detention](#) and [Rights Based Programming](#). You can also follow and join these groups!

In the IML-CoP, thematic pages contain IML information and guidance notes, recordings and presentations of the webinars and trainings conducted, as well as other resources. In addition, the IML database containing international and regional legal instruments relevant to migration is linked to the CoP for easy access to these instruments.

## Global Webinars and Trainings

### Rights-based approach to programming

*A joint  
initiative  
between  
the IML  
Unit, the  
Policy Hub  
and ACBC.*

The IML Unit rolled out a series of webinars on the Rights-based Approach (RBA) to Programming for IOM, in collaboration with the Policy Hub, the African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) and the nine Regional Offices, reaching over 250 IOM colleagues worldwide in English, French and Spanish. By providing concrete tools and examples, the RBA webinars aimed to review some basics and enhance the application of RBA in project development and implementation, in order to contribute to the realization of the rights of migrants and their communities. Sessions recordings are available in the [RBA CoP](#). **Stay tuned for upcoming webinars! Next webinar end of May 2021 on “The Impact of COVID-19 on the Social Rights of Migrants”.**

### The IOM-IIHL International Migration Law Course

Every year, the IML Unit partners with the Institute of International Humanitarian Law (IIHL) of San Remo to conduct the International Migration Law course in English and French. In 2020 and 2021, the courses were conducted virtually with very positive feedback from participants. In 2020 and 2021, about 200 participants in total from more than 30 countries benefitted from these Courses. This on-line Course covers the international legal framework governing migration and its latest developments. It is open to government officials and other migration professionals, including IOM Staff.

**Upcoming IML courses: Spanish and French sessions  
(18 October - 12 November 2021)**



IOM is committed to promoting alternatives to detention (ATDs) under a rights-based approach (RBA), as per international law. Detention must always be a last resort and ATDs constitute a more humane way of managing irregular migration, in full respect of international standards, with preference for the use of community based non-custodial measures.

Join and follow the [ATD Community of Practice](#) to keep abreast of IOM's work on ATDs, tools, resources, trainings, peer exchanges, and more!

The IML Unit represents IOM in the [UN Migration Network Working Group on Alternatives to Detention](#). The group is tasked with promoting the development and implementation of non-custodial, human-rights based ATDs in the migration context. Activities conducted in 2020 have resulted in the:

- [Global Online Peer Learning Exchange on Alternatives to Detention](#) (Nov 2020), for representatives from relevant governmental departments at national, regional and global level. [The Report is available here.](#)
- ["COVID-19 & Immigration Detention: What Can Governments and Other Stakeholders Do? Annex to the Policy Brief.](#)

**Upcoming:** The Working Group on ATDs will be organizing another exchange for States in mid-2021.

## Legal Advice, Legal Review and Capacity Building

**Minimum Sentencing for smuggling:** The IML Unit recently issued a **Note on Mandatory Minimum Sentencing concerning smuggling**, which is [available here](#). The note looks into whether or not States have an obligation to introduce a minimum sentencing for the offence of smuggling and concludes that there is no such obligation and that it is also not desirable under the IML.

**Leaving No One Behind:** The IML Unit is the IOM Technical Focal Point of the **UNSDG Task Team on Human Rights, LNOB and the Normative Agenda**. This Team is chaired by OHCHR, WHO, and UNESCO. IML has been actively participating and will further ensure that issues pertinent to migrants and their rights are duly taken into account in this workstream, which contributes to the achievement of the SDGs by supporting UNCTs and RCs. The Task Team organized a Frontier Dialogue event in January 2021, in which IOM's DDG participated, to discuss and develop a list of potential action areas for **COVID-19 Recovery Plans to address structural discrimination based on race and ethnicity and related inequalities under a human rights approach**. Tools and resources developed by this Task Team will be published in mid-2021 and disseminated to UNCTs. On xenophobic discrimination, also check the IOM Internet page: <https://www.iom.int/xenophobia>

**Legal reviews and IML trainings:** The IML Unit recently contributed to the **review processes** of, inter alia, the Migration Law and Labour Migration Law of Honduras, the Anti-Trafficking Law of the Dominican Republic, the Migration Law of Albania, the *Huduma Bill* for Kenya and the assessment of the effectiveness of measures for the identification of (potential) victims of trafficking and prosecution of trafficking-related crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Unit also provided IML trainings for officials of Nigeria, including a training of trainers, as well as for officials of Comoros and Kenya, among others.



### For you:

**The IML Unit is the IOM focal point on all IML matters. The work of the unit aims to strengthen and promote knowledge on IML and *promote the understanding of and compliance with international legal standards, including the rights of migrants, human rights instruments, the UN Charter, among others.***

*The IML unit builds capacity for external partners as well as for IOM staff. The IML Unit also supports IOM country offices with the **review** of documents for compliance with international law and standards, including international human rights norms; and provides legal **advice** and legal opinions to country offices and States, upon request, on a wide range of migrant rights issues.*



## Do You Need Support from IML?

- Would you like to develop a **joint project with an IML component** or **organize trainings** for officials?
- Do you need **support from IML to implement your IML project, to conduct policy or legislation reviews?**
- Do you want to **learn more about the international legal standards and norms surrounding migration?**

Contact us!

For more information on the above activities, please visit the [IML Intranet](#)

Or contact the IML Unit at [iml@iom.int](mailto:iml@iom.int)

