



Statement issued by the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants

There are numerous factors that push towards migration towards the Arab region, such as unemployment, low income in countries of origin, wars and political instability, climate change, as well as many other factors. And regardless of the motive of migration, and their legal status, migrants join the labor market in the countries of destination under the cover of the sponsorship system prevailing in the Middle East and the Gulf Countries and through taking undocumented migration routes in North Africa that lack the minimum standards of human and labor rights enshrined in international covenants and conventions.

The failure of these systems are reflected in the its restriction of the freedom of movement, workers' exposure to economic coercion, the confiscation of migrants' right to self-determination, the prevention of immigration as a family, discrimination and inequality, especially those based on gender, restrictions on freedoms of association and the involvement of migrants in social dialogue, failure to include migrants with equal labor protection, Poor access to justice and access to services. Therefore, migrants are considered among the most vulnerable groups and subject to exploitation, discrimination and violence; migration intersects with other factors that increase this.

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed these systems, and their historical flaws, and exacerbated their impact on the working and living conditions of migrants, as well as exposing migrants to more waves of xenophobia, discrimination and violence directed against them.

And despite the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration, we still have not witnessed a development in the reality of housing and housing in the region, but rather a significant regression in many contexts. Migrants are still drowning in the Mediterranean Sea in undocumented migration boats, and are still subject to violations of their labor and human rights under the shameful sponsorship system. While they as the most important stakeholders have not had a fair opportunity to engage in the global dialogue on migration within the whole society approach to review the Global Compact for Migration.

Therefore, the signatories of this statement demand the abolishment of the current migration systems in the region which has proven its complete failure to protect the rights and dignity of migrants, and the adoption of completely new systems based entirely on international standards that safeguard and ensure freedom of movement , mobility , the right of migrants to self-determination, assembly, organization and engagement in social dialogue , protects them from violence, harassment, discrimination and inequality, includes them equally in national legislations, allows family immigration, provides channels of access to justice and services, and protects them from economic coercion and from the domination and exploitation of smugglers and human trafficking groups.

In other words, we demand:

- Inclusion of female migrant workers working in the field of domestic service in the labor law.
- Putting an end to the sponsorship (kafala) system.
- Inclusion of migrant workers in the social security system.



CROSS-REGIONAL CENTER
FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
the arab euro med network

- Providing basic services to all migrant workers, regardless of their legal status.
- Helping in stopping hate speech.
- Ending racial discrimination.
- Contributing to programs that integrate migrants into society.

Stakeholders in MENA Region