

Human Rights at International Borders

OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines

Launch of the Guidelines, 22 October 2014, 10:30-12:30

UN House 4th Floor, Rue Montoyer 14, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for Europe

International borders are not zones of exclusion or exception of human rights obligations. States have the duty to comply with their human rights obligations and all of the safeguards and checks and balances that are embedded in national legislation. States are bound by these duties wherever they exercise their jurisdiction; including where their migration governance operations take place.

Policies curtailing migration often result in the diversion of migrants into irregular channels where vulnerabilities are exacerbated. Conversely, rights-based approaches to border and migration governance that adhere to internationally recognized standards bolster the capacity of the international community to mount effective and sustainable challenges to abusive migration and transnational organized crime. Developing a set of principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders would offer tools to translate the international human rights framework into practical measures for border governance, ensuring that measures taken to address migration (including irregular migration), migrant smuggling, and other cross-border phenomena do not violate human rights.

OHCHR has been working on these principles and guidelines since 2012, together with multiple stakeholders. They will accompany the report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Migrants (A/69/277) and will be provided to the 69th session of the General Assembly (GA).

Objective

Together with an event organised in the margins of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, this event aims to launch a set of Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders. These Guidelines are offered by OHCHR to states and other relevant stakeholders to develop human-rights respecting border governance measures; and thus improve the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of migrants at international borders.

Participants

Participants of the event will include representatives of the EU Member States, EU institutions, International and Regional Organizations and Civil Society.

Programme

Opening remarks Jan Jařab, OHCHR Regional Representative for Europe

Presentation of the Guidelines Gotzon Onandia Zarrabe, Migration Advisor, OHCHR

Discussion

Registration

Please send your registration (name, title, e-mail and phone number) to the Regional Office for Europe by 20 October 2014 by e-mail to uwojciechowska@ohchr.org and kfokin@ohchr.org.

Further information: Please contact Ms. Katja Fokin, Associate Human Rights Officer by tel.: + 32 (0) 2 274 01 76 or by e-mail: kfokin@ohchr.org.