

CONCEPT NOTE

Launch event of new training materials on Human Rights at International Borders

Monday, 25 October 2021, 10:00 to 11:30 AM EDT/ 16:00 – 17:30 CEST

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are launching the jointly developed [Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer's Guide](#).

This capacity building tool has been developed based on OHCHR's human rights training methodology and draws on and complements the OHCHR [Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders](#).

The Trainer's Guide aims to assist Member States in ensuring border governance is human rights-based and gender-responsive. It recognises that the work of border officials is just as much about ensuring the well-being of migrants and communities as it is about upholding human rights and protecting the rule of law. Indeed, border officials are often first responders in providing assistance and protection to people in vulnerable situations. The capacity building materials thus provide practical guidance for frontline border officials to carry out their critical functions in a human rights-based and gender-responsive manner.

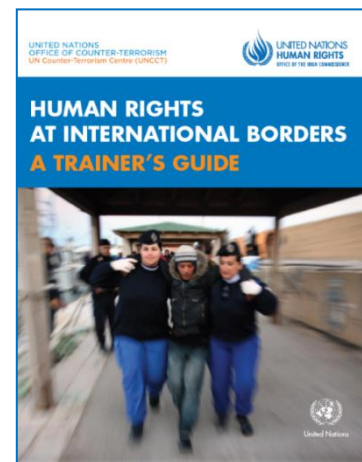
The development of this Trainer's Guide has been informed by pilots with border officials in various regions, as well as inputs by border officials and other practitioners and experts. It employs an interactive training methodology based on a practical approach, which focuses on the relevance of human rights in the work of border officials.

Objective

This launch event is organised by OHCHR and the Office of Counter-Terrorism and is co-sponsored by Switzerland, Morocco, Mexico, and Denmark. It will present the Trainer's Guide and elaborate on the importance, as well as promising practices and opportunities to implement human rights at international borders.

Participants

Participants will include representatives of Member States, international organisations, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders. Participation by practitioners and government representatives working at the technical level on border governance related issues is encouraged.



Agenda

The event will be held on WebEx in English. Unfortunately, interpretation will not be available.

Welcoming remarks

- Ms. Christine Loew, Deputy Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (co-sponsor)

Introductory remarks

- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, UNOCT

Panellists

- Mr. Patrik Engstrom, former head of the Swedish National Border Policing Section and former Swedish representative to the Frontex Management Board
- Ms. Maria Gavouneli, President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights and Chair of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions' Working Group on Asylum and Migrations
- Camila Barretto Maia, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (Centre for Legal and Social Studies)

Interventions from the floor

- All participants

Closing remarks

- H.E. Dr. Omar Zniber, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco (co-sponsor)

Moderated by Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director of Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRD), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights