

THE MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: MAJOR INITIATIVES

Migration Policy Institute

International migration is shaping the world in unprecedented ways. Myriad factors feed this process, from the simple search for a better life abroad to mass refugee movements. The magnitude, speed, and impact of these phenomena have never been greater. Indeed, few countries and communities today are unaffected by migration and by the challenges it presents. Addressing economic growth, humanitarian response, national security, and social cohesion along with sweeping demographic change has become a day-to-day demand for most states around the globe.

In response to a growing need for sound analysis of these trends, Migration Policy Institute emerged in 2000 as an independent think tank dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. Formerly a program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, MPI aims to meet the rising demand for pragmatic responses to the challenges and the opportunities that migration, whether voluntary or forced, presents to states, communities, and institutions in this ever more integrated world.

A. MAJOR INITIATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

MPI's purview is global. We promote better and more humane policy and interventions that capture the benefits of migration for individuals, sending countries, receiving countries, and employers. At the same time, we work to reduce the challenges that migration poses. Four substantive themes shape our priorities in this endeavour:

1. Migration management
2. Refugee protection
3. North American borders and migration
4. Immigrant settlement and integration

Since our inception, we have worked on numerous issues within these pillars and others that span all four. The following projects highlight some of the key initiatives that address international migration from various angles.

B. THE MIGRATION INFORMATION SOURCE (WWW.MIGRATIONINFORMATION.ORG)

The Migration Information Source is an innovation in the field of migration policy that melds the best features of serious scholarship, cutting-edge technology, policy analysis, and data expertise in a way that is accessible every day, worldwide, to policy-makers whose acts affect the lives of millions of people. It strives to provide authoritative current, wide-ranging, and regularly updated international data and analysis about migration on the internet in order to foster the wise management of migration-induced change.

The Source has had several early successes. In the 18 months since MPI first launched the site, the subscriber base has grown to over 2,600. *Choice Magazine*, a publication of the American Library Association that provides reviews for academic libraries, ran a positive review of the site in their April 2003 issue. Also, in July 2002, the *Scout Report* listed The Source as one of its best new sites, and Yahoo included The Source as one of its site listings in the social science migration and ethnic relations directory. Both *Die Zeit* and *The New York Times* included The Source URL in articles on international migration. In October 2002, *American Demographics* featured The Source in its "For the Bookmark" feature that highlights new and useful internet sites. The Source's two key characteristics—timeliness and accuracy—make its contribution to the field of migration policy-making unique.

The Global Data Center (GDC) is the anchor of the Migration Information Source. The GDC provides up-to-date, reliable, and well-documented international migration data in an easily accessible format. The GDC allows users to generate tables and graphs of stock, flow, asylum, and citizenship data for a growing list of countries. Currently, this includes Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Each month, new data is added or updated.

C. ATHENS MIGRATION POLICY INITIATIVE (WWW.MIGRATIONPOLICY.ORG/AMPI/)

The Athens Migration Policy Initiative (AMPI) was launched in summer 2002 as a collaborative project of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MPI to introduce thoughtful, innovative ideas on migration management into the European policy debate. The overarching long-term goal of AMPI is to spur the development of a harmonized European approach to managing migration flows, integrating legal migrants, and establishing more effective control over the European Union's borders. AMPI is motivated by the conviction that a balanced, comprehensive EU migration-policy regime is needed to maximize the benefits and minimize the costs of migration.

The initiative was timed so that Greece could make EU immigration and asylum policy a primary focal point of its 2003 EU Presidency, and so that during this period it could have access to the expertise needed to advance EU policy.

AMPI set the following five broad goals for its work:

1. Catalyze serious EU-wide and national conversations about progressive labour-market, economic growth, and competitiveness policies as an essential complement to the Union's border management and security agenda.
2. Assist policymakers and policy influencers throughout the EU to better understand the complex interactions among immigration, employment, and social policies in the context of Europe's increasing demographic deficits.
3. Create space for European states to meet their electors' sense of compassion toward those in need of care, as well as their obligations under refugee and humanitarian law, by generating public confidence that migration flows can be effectively managed.
4. Advance Europe's policy agenda toward far-reaching social and political integration policies for both citizens and immigrants.
5. Provide analytical support to regional initiatives that promise to manage migration through effective cooperative efforts among states that send and receive immigrants, as well as those through which migrants transit.

D. NO REFUGE : THE CHALLENGE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) commissioned MPI to write a book for the United Nations on the subject of conflict- and persecution-induced internal displacement. OCHA's Internal Displacement Unit has been tasked with consolidating normative and operational developments in the field of internal displacement and with developing a policy framework for the many institutional and political actors in this area. *No Refuge* is an important articulation of this framework and aims to make the Unit's work accessible to a broad policy community and public audience.

No Refuge offers a guide to effective policy about issues of internal displacement. It also presents a vivid picture of the traumas routinely encountered by internally displaced people. It aims to raise awareness of the gaps in legal instruments, institutional arrangements, and the resources devoted to IDPs. The volume combines analytical and descriptive methods to build a case for new approaches to internal displacement, drawing on the operational lessons from IDP crises in recent decades, and situating the issue of internal displacement firmly within broader developments in humanitarian thinking and practice.

The seven-chapter book presents a sophisticated analysis of the challenges faced by the international community in responding to the needs of the internally displaced. It presents a history of the emergence of internal displacement as a major issue for the international community and addresses in detail the major concerns and challenges of internal displacement: sovereignty, access, protection, and finding durable solutions. It concludes with a forward-looking chapter discussing the road ahead for the UN and broader international community in dealing with the concerns of internally displaced people.

E. IMMIGRATION, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The terrorist attacks of September 11 have put a new and sharp spotlight on immigration enforcement and the rights of non-citizens in the United States. The post September 11 anti-terrorism measures have focused on non-citizens—both long-term residents and visitors—of Muslim or Arab origin. The special situation of these non-citizens has raised serious concerns about violations of important civil rights and some well-established constitutional protections.

The Migration Policy Institute's report *America's Challenge: Domestic Security, Civil Liberties, and National Unity after September 11*, published in June 2003, is a comprehensive review of the US Government's immigration measures after the terrorist attacks. The report makes the case that these enforcement measures not only violated individual rights and undermined the country's sense of unity, but they failed to improve our security. The report can be consulted at the MPI website under the following address: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Americas_Challenge.html.

The findings of the report are based on information obtained about 406 people detained after September 11. Many were detained for weeks or months without charge; 52 per cent continued to be detained after a judge had ordered them released or deported. Many were subjected to solitary confinement, 24-hour lighting of cells, and physical abuse.

MPI's work continues in this area, building on the recommendations of the report. In particular, the report advances a policy framework that integrates immigration policy and counter-terrorism. The framework's pillars are improved intelligence, information, and information sharing; smarter border protection; vigorous, intelligence-based law enforcement; and engagement with Arab-American and Muslim-American communities.

F. NEW AND CONTINUING AREAS OF INTEREST

Over the next year, the Migration Policy Institute will continue the work in each of its four pillars. This includes developing the Migration Information Source by building an archive of articles authored by international migration experts, and adding to the Global Data Center. We are also moving ahead with the next phase of the Athens Migration Policy Initiative, focusing on the challenges of integration in the European context. Beyond this, MPI is involved in a series of activities broadly related to migration and development, including efforts to measure the development impact of rich country policy on poor country development, capture the benefits of remittances, and understand more clearly "brain drain" and "brain circulation" issues and those related to migration and trade.

The impact of immigration measures on immigrant communities and civil liberties continues to be a key dimension of our work, including the spin-off effects of US measures on immigration policy internationally as well as implications for US-Mexico-Canada border management. Lastly, MPI continues to participate in discussions and assess challenges to the international migration regime, including refugee protection.