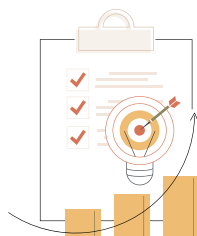


MIGRATION REPORTING GUIDELINES IN IRAQ



1. Be accurate:

Facts and data are at the heart of responsible reporting on migration.

The United Nations, World Bank, ICMPD, IOM and ILO all have resources and tools to provide accurate and relevant data. Local sources include the Ministry of Migration. Be transparent about the source of information. Where information is not available, tell the audience.



3. Use the right terminology and language

It is important to become familiar with the right language when reporting on migration. Consider the differences between emigration versus immigration. There are differences between a refugee and an asylum seeker.

Climate migration and economic migration are both common phenomenon in Iraq which require explaining. Also consider what an **Internally Displaced Person (IDP)** is compared to a stateless person.



2. Know the law

Be fully knowledgeable of both national and international legislation that is relevant to migration. **The Foreigners' Residency Law No 76 of 2017** is a well-established broad legal framework which governs labour migration and emigration in Iraq. **The 1971 Political Refugees Law No. 51 of 1971** is the primary law regulating refugees in Iraq. **Law 21 of 2009** established the Ministry of Migration and Displacement and recognises that services need to be provided to refugees, asylum seekers and returnees to Iraq. A different system regulates the presence and rights of asylum seekers and refugees in the KR-I which includes shared application of the **Foreigners' Residency Law** between national federal governments. International migration law has no one legal instrument but covers the legal definitions and regulations related to migrants in areas such as regional arrangements, human trafficking and people smuggling, human rights, labour laws and maritime law.



4. Avoid sensationalism and stereotypes

It is important to check the negative impact of stereotyping and consider how it might encourage **hate speech and racism**. Migrants are often viewed, at best as undereducated or criminals, at worst terrorists. Not only should these perceptions be avoided but they should be actively challenged.



6. Include all perspectives in the stories

Be sure to include official sources but also the voices of citizens and of course the migrants themselves. It is important to tell a migrant's story with humanity. Remember migrants can be sources. They are also your audiences. Migrants are women, children, of different ethnic and religious origin whose voices should all be heard. Consider all of the different angles from which a migration story can be told.



5. Provide context and background

It is vital to consider and describe the circumstances that are driving people to leave their homes. When reporting on a migration event, consider the whole process and various aspects of migration as well the historical context and how this might have contributed to the situation. Immigrants are often fleeing insecurity and persecution in their home country, hence their movement into Iraq. In Iraq, internal migration is also an important and under covered story.



7. Remember that migration stories intersect with news

Although migration is an important topic in its own right, it is also important to think about where migration might intersect in other news stories. Labour migration and migrants into Iraq has an impact on the Iraqi economy are important stories. Stories on regional dynamics and events will also have a migration dimension. Remember the role of the ethical journalist is to provide information rather than advocate.



8. Tell positive stories that focus on human rights

Focus on the strengths and solutions that are being offered rather than just on the problem. Migrants bring many skills and talents into a country as well as bringing back knowledge and expertise when they return to their home countries. Migration is a stimulus for economic growth. Work closely with NGOs, CSOs and academia to include a rights perspective and also highlight the role of governments in challenging migration processes.

Recognising these red flags can help protect you and others from the dangers of migrant smuggling. Always seek regular and safe pathways for migration and report any suspicious activities to the authorities.

For more information or support, please contact Migrant Resource Centre Iraq



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Stay informed and stay safe!

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