

International Migrants Day: 18th December

Today, **December 18, 2025**, the global community observes **International Migrants Day**. Established by the United Nations, this day serves as a critical moment to recognize the contributions of over 300 million migrants worldwide while advocating for the protection of their fundamental human rights.

Theme 2025: "My Great Story: Cultures and Development"

The official focus for 2025 highlights the personal narratives of migrants. It moves away from seeing migration purely as a "problem to be solved" and instead celebrates it as a **driver of progress**.

- **Narratives of Hope:** Replacing dehumanizing rhetoric with stories of resilience and success.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Recognizing how migrants diversify arts, cuisine, and social perspectives.
- **Economic Vitality:** Acknowledging the role of migrants in filling labor shortages, driving innovation (over 60% of German "unicorns" have migrant founders), and sending a projected **\$685 billion** in remittances to low-income countries this year.

History & Significance

The date **December 18** was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the 1990 adoption of the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*.

- **Established:** Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in **2000** (Resolution 55/93).
- **The Mission:** To ensure that migration is a choice, not a necessity, and to protect those on the move from exploitation, xenophobia, and violence.
- **Global Context:** Migration is a defining force of the 21st century. Whether driven by climate change, conflict, or economic opportunity, the movement of people is essential for global demographic stability.

Challenges in 2025

Despite the positive contributions, the environment for migration has become increasingly complex:

- **Safety in Transit:** Since 2014, nearly **70,000 migrants** have died or gone missing on land and sea routes.
- **Restrictive Policies:** Many regions are seeing a hardening of borders and a rise in "externalization" policies that put vulnerable people at risk.

- **Climate Displacement:** Increasing environmental disasters are forcing millions from their homes, often without legal frameworks to protect "climate refugees."

A Call to Action

The United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) urge governments to:

- **Create Safe Pathways:** Design regular and humane routes for migration to discourage dangerous journeys.
- **Protect Rights:** Ensure migrants have access to essential services like healthcare and legal aid, regardless of their status.
- **Celebrate Inclusion:** Foster societies where migrants are seen as "brothers and sisters" and essential members of the community.