



- 1 Have you ever considered living or working abroad? What do you think are some of the difficulties you may face? Do you think people should be allowed to live and work wherever they want? Why / Why not? Discuss with a partner.

W International Migrants Day

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The 18th of December is International Migrants Day. This is a day identified by the United Nations to recognize and respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of all migrants around the world. It is also the day when, in 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Although migration is characteristic of our history as people, many factors, social, political, economic and environmental, have changed the rate and type of migration we have seen over the last three decades. Globalization has contributed to the displacement of millions of workers, forcing them to leave their homes for better opportunities for them and their families. International Migrants Day serves as a reminder that the fight for international migrants' rights is far from over. Each year, hundreds of thousands around the world gather to express their support for all immigrants. Groups hold press conferences, have rallies in front of their local and national governments, organize workshops, educational forums and celebrations and raise funds for international human rights for migrant people.

The day is an opportunity to recognize the contributions made

by immigrants to the development of so many countries in the world, to promote respect for the rights of immigrant workers and their families and to highlight the issues that are of key interest to migrants and their communities.

Last year, groups from across the world came together to celebrate through meetings, debates and film screenings. This year, this success is being built on to make the day even bigger and better.

So what can you do?

- Hold a debate, demonstration, film night or community workshop around a current campaign.
- Speak with local public officials about the human rights of migrants.
- Screen films and documentaries about human rights.
- Organize an event or other celebration at your school, church, university or community centre to educate people about IMD and migrants' rights.
- Present a signed petition in support of migrants to a local politician.
- Hold a joint event with a local student union.

Spread the word about the 18th of December, International Migrants Day!

- 2 Read the text and, in pairs, answer the questions in your own words.
- 1 Why was International Migrants Day set up?
 - 2 Why has the rate of people migrating increased over recent years?
 - 3 How is the day celebrated?
 - 4 What are the main aims of the day?
- 3 In pairs, imagine that you work for the UN and you are part of a team organizing next year's International Migrants Day. Follow the instructions.
- Decide on a theme for the day and what global issue you want to raise awareness about.
 - Decide what the aims of your campaign will be and what events you could organize to get people involved.
 - Share your ideas with the class.