INSTITUTE FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS · THEIMR.ORG

Working abroad from Indonesia

Your rights under the law of Indonesia, and where to get free help

What the law of Indonesia says

Agency fees — PARTIAL
The law limits fees, or bans them only for some jobs or countries.

Written contract — STRONG
You must get a written contract, checked by the government, before you leave.

Training before you go — STRONG
Training on your rights is required and free.

Insurance or welfare fund — STRONG
A government fund or insurance covers death, injury and the trip home.

Help line — PARTIAL
There is an official help line, but not 24 hours, or not in every country.

A lawyer abroad — STRONG
By law, the government pays for legal help abroad, also in court.

Safe place to stay — PARTIAL
Some embassies have a safe place to stay.

Complaint at home — PARTIAL
A complaint can punish the agency or get your fees back. For other money owed, you go to court.

This is what the law says. What happens in practice can be different.

MAIN LAWS

- Law No. 18 of 2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers
- Law No. 6 of 2012 ratifying the UN migrant workers convention
- Law No. 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons

Before you go

1. Keep a photo of your passport, visa and contract on your phone. Give copies to your family.
2. Ask for a receipt for every payment to an agency.
3. Save the numbers on this page before you leave.

Free help

YLBHI (Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation), head office Jakarta
+62 21 3929840
ylbhi.or.id/kontak
Free legal aid for people who cannot pay a lawyer.

LBH Jakarta Jakarta
+62 852 8322 6297 · +62 21 3145518
bantuanhukum.or.id
Free legal aid office.

LBH Bandung Bandung (nearest to Cianjur)
+62 822 5884 3986
lbhbandung.or.id
Free legal aid office for West Java.

SBMI (Indonesian Migrant Workers Union) Jakarta
projects.ituc-csi.org/sbmi
A union run by migrant workers and former migrant workers.

Migrant CARE Jakarta
migrantcare.net
Advocacy organization for Indonesian migrant workers.

KP2MI (Ministry for the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers) Jakarta
kp2mi.go.id
The government body that licenses recruitment agencies and receives complaints against them.

Indonesian embassies and consulates (Perlindungan WNI)
kemlu.go.id
Indonesian citizens abroad can ask the nearest embassy or consulate for help.

Justice Without Borders
justicewithoutborders.org
Helps migrant workers bring claims in the country where they worked, even after returning home, with pro bono lawyers.

We list a phone number only when we have checked it.

Court decisions that helped workers

Some groups asked the Constitutional Court to remove ship crew and fishers from Indonesia's law protecting migrant workers. The Court said no. Indonesians who work on foreign fishing and merchant ships stay protected by that law.

Constitutional Court of Indonesia, 2024 · Decision 127/PUU-XXI/2023 (fishing crew under the migrant worker protection law)

Short summaries, not yet checked line by line against the full judgment.

Help in the country where you work
theimr.org/legal-help

More detail and sources
theimr.org/countries-of-origin

New court decisions and laws, once a month, free
theimr.org/updates

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