IMR

Institute for Migrant Rights
Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia

theimr.org

"Every man his own lawyer!" *Jeremy Bentham*

Law that cannot be found cannot be used.

IMR collects, codes and explains the law that governs labour migration, and turns it into free tools: open databases for researchers, and plain-language legal help for workers and their families.

1,912 court decisions from 97 countries

111 global, regional and national norms, 187 countries

115 domestic worker instruments, 44 jurisdictions

12 countries of origin compared

37 countries in the free legal help finder

OPEN DATA · FREE AT THEIMR.ORG/DATABASES

Migration Jurisprudence from the South

Most migrant workers now move between countries of the Global South. Our databases ask the questions closest to them: recruitment-fee debt, permits tied to one employer, and the exclusion of domestic workers and farmworkers from labour law.

Migration Law Atlas
111 global, regional and national norms, with ratifications in **187** countries.

Farmworker law
International, regional and national farm-work law, across **187** countries.

Court Decisions
1,912 decisions, each with an English and Indonesian summary; **225** fully coded, the rest being checked.

Migrant Domestic Workers
115 instruments in **44** jurisdictions, coded against ILO C189.

Countries of Origin
12 sending countries in South and Southeast Asia on **9** questions, with their own courts' decisions.

Destination states
Neutral comparisons of the law in the Gulf States, East Asia and Southeast Asia.

Government Hate Speech
34 democracies, including speech by officials around elections.

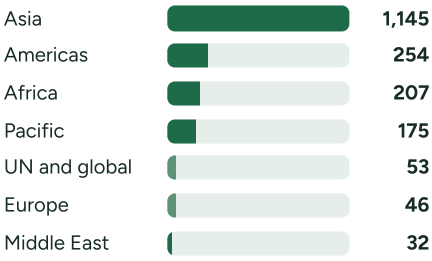
What works where
Which legal arguments courts accepted or rejected, compared across courts and countries.

Codebook · A source for every entry · Verification status · CSV downloads · Plain-language notes · English · Bahasa Indonesia

COURT DECISIONS

Where the decisions come from

1,912 decisions by region. More than 8 in 10 come from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.



1,750	99	63
national courts	regional courts	international bodies

Built from the South, for the questions migrant workers actually face.

Designed and run from Indonesia. Most entries were gathered by volunteers, many of them law students from several countries.

Open and reusable
CC BY 4.0 data, public on GitHub

Transparent
Published method, AI use disclosed, corrections logged

Bilingual
Every database in English and Bahasa Indonesia

From research to practice

The same data powers free, plain-language help for workers and their families.

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE JOURNEY?

The law, the decisions and the help, at every step

1. **Recruitment at home**
   Fees, agencies, false promises
2. **Leaving the country**
   Exit rules, visas, documents
3. **Working abroad**
   Wages, hours, passports, abuse
4. **Changing or losing the job**
   Changing employer, dismissal
5. **Return and after**
   Claims from home

International Legal Clinic

Find which UN or regional body can hear a case, then draft a rights communication step by step. An IMR lawyer reviews it; nothing is filed without the worker's agreement. Free, about 15 minutes, with an easy mode that reads questions aloud.

English · Bahasa Indonesia · العربية · دری / فارسی · বাংলা · नेपाली · Tagalog · Tiếng Việt

theimr.org/legal-clinic

Find free legal help

A map and directory of organisations that give free legal advice to migrant workers, in Indonesia, in the countries where many Indonesians work, and in other major countries of origin and destination: **91** organisations in **37** countries, each checked against its source and dated. One-page country sheets for **8** countries of origin, to print or share on WhatsApp.

theimr.org/legal-help · theimr.org/country-sheets

Could this be trafficking?

A short self-check that helps a worker or family member recognise warning signs, with links to what their government promises and where to get help.

theimr.org/legal-clinic/trafficking-check

What works where

Arguments courts accepted or rejected, at each step of the journey.

theimr.org/legal-clinic/what-works

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarship behind the data

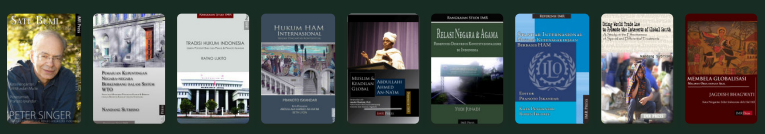
Indonesian Journal of International & Comparative Law
Peer-reviewed, published since 2014, cited by U.S. federal courts (including the Ninth Circuit in *Hawaii v. Trump*, 2017). ijicl.org

Ideas from the field
Lyon & Iskandar (2024) in *Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis*; Iskandar (2018) in *Social & Legal Studies*.

IMR PRESS

Books in international and comparative law

Peer-reviewed books in three series, including Indonesian editions of Peter Singer, Jagdish Bhagwati and Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, and works by Indonesian legal scholars.



press.theimr.org

WHY IMR

Small institute, wide reach

Southern-led
Coverage starts with Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Measurable
Visits and downloads recorded since November 2026.

Rigorous
Codebooks, versioned data and a verification status on every entry.

Low cost
Years of volunteer work done; support pays for checking and extending.

Useful in practice
For lawyers, paralegals, shadow reports and court filings.

Useful for research
Coded variables for comparative and empirical legal studies.

Leadership. IMR is led by Pranoto Iskandar, research fellow at the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. Its advisory board is chaired by Beth Lyon (Cornell Law School).

Use it, cite it, help it grow.

Researchers can download, reuse and cite the data. Lawyers and paralegals can point workers to the Clinic and the help finder. Partners, funders and volunteers can help us verify every entry against official texts, add countries, and translate the databases into the languages of sending countries.

theimr.org/databases
theimr.org/volunteer
press.theimr.org
secretariat@theimr.org

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

Institute for Migrant Rights · Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia · Figures as of 19 November 2026; some entries are still being verified.

Illustration: Gede–Pangrango over the Puncak tea hills