IMR

Institute for Migrant Rights
Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia · theimr.org

Volunteers wanted · remote

FOR YOUNG, MULTILINGUAL ACTIVISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Your languages can open the law to migrant workers.

Most migrant workers can't read the law that governs their journey: it is scattered, technical and almost always in a language they don't speak. You can change that from your phone or laptop, in an hour a week or a whole semester.

WHO WE ARE

A small institute with big open databases

The Institute for Migrant Rights (IMR) is a Southern-led research and legal-help institute based in Cianjur, West Java. We collect, code and explain the law on labor migration and turn it into free tools: open databases for researchers, and plain-language legal help for workers and their families.

Almost everything was built by volunteers, mostly law students from many countries. We work online and per task, so you can join from anywhere in the US and choose how much time you give.

1,912
court decisions on migrant workers from 97 countries

187
countries covered by our Migration Law Atlas

8
languages in our free Legal Clinic, most still waiting for native-speaker review

37
countries in our directory of free legal help (91 organizations)

12
countries of origin compared on 9 legal questions

100%
open data, CC BY 4.0, public on GitHub

FIND YOUR LEVEL

Everyone can help, from 15 minutes to a full project

Start wherever you are. Many volunteers begin with a quick task and move up a level.

LEVEL 1 · ANY SKILLS

Spread and spot

Share our free tools with communities you know, and tell us about broken links, typos or anything confusing.

15 minutes, from your phone

LEVEL 2 · YOUR LANGUAGES

Translate and review

Check our existing translations, translate key pages, or read questions aloud for workers who can't read well.

Any bilingual speaker

LEVEL 3 · RESEARCH

Find and check sources

Find court decisions and laws on official websites, and check our entries against the official text.

Students of law, politics, social science

LEVEL 4 · DATA AND CODE

Build and analyze

Write scrapers and pipelines, apply NLP and statistics, and make the site faster, more accessible and work offline.

Computer science, data science, statistics

Join us: theimr.org/volunteer · or secretariat@theimr.org, subject "Volunteer: your language or skill"

LEVELS 1 AND 2

No special skills? Start here. Speak another language? We need you most.

Workers turn to our Legal Clinic and help finder in the languages they grew up with. Machine translation is a start, but legal words go wrong easily. A native speaker's eye makes the difference between a page a worker trusts and one they close.

Share the tools

Pass the Legal Clinic and the free legal help finder to community groups, faith groups, student associations and family chats where migrant workers or their relatives are.

15 min · any skills

Report what's broken

Click through a page on your phone and tell us about dead links, typos, confusing words or anything that doesn't load on a slow connection.

20 min · any skills

Review a translation

The Clinic already runs in 8 languages, but most translations have not been reviewed. Read them side by side with the English and fix what sounds wrong or unclear.

1 to 3 hours · native or fluent speakers

Translate the website

Translate the menus, the help finder, the trafficking self-check and short plain-language notes into a language migrant workers speak. We send you a simple spreadsheet, not code.

A few hours a week · bilingual

Lend your voice

The Clinic's easy mode reads questions aloud with the phone's computer voice, which sounds poor or is missing in many languages. Help us record them in a real voice.

1 hour · clear speaking voice

Check a help listing

Confirm that a legal aid group in our directory still exists, using only its own official website, and tell us what changed. We never publish an unverified phone number.

30 min per listing · any skills

LANGUAGES

Languages we need, starting with those of the most vulnerable workers

Review now

Already on the Clinic, waiting for a native speaker to check them.

Arabic · Dari / Farsi · Bengali · Nepali · Tagalog · Vietnamese

Translate next

Planned for the whole website, each checked by a native speaker before it goes live.

Spanish · Hindi · Urdu · Chinese · Tagalog · Bengali · Nepali · Vietnamese

Tell us yours

Speak a language many migrant workers use? Tell us, even if it is not on these lists.

Burmese · Sinhala · Amharic · Swahili · Haitian Creole · K'iche' · + yours

HOW TRANSLATION WORKS

1

Pick a language and a page

Tell us what you speak and how much time you have.

2

Work in a spreadsheet

English on the left, your language on the right. No code, no login.

3

A second speaker checks

Every translation is read by another speaker before it goes live.

4

Your name goes in the credits

Translators are credited on the site and in the change log.

Start today: sign up at theimr.org/volunteer with your languages and the hours you can give

LEVELS 3 AND 4

Research, data science and code with real-world impact

Our data are public on GitHub under CC BY 4.0, so your work is open, citable and yours to show. These are open projects, from first-year research tasks to work fit for a capstone, a thesis or a paper.

Find and confirm court decisions

Most of our 1,912 decisions still need someone to read the judgment and confirm the outcome. We also keep a list of nearly 200 lookups on official court and government sites that only a person can do.

legal research · reading judgments · pre-law, poli-sci

Second coding

A blind second coder re-codes a sample of our tables so we can report inter-coder reliability (Cohen's κ) for each page. Careful, structured work that strengthens the research.

coding protocols · Cohen's κ · methods

Scrapers for official repositories

Build polite, documented crawlers for national court and legislation portals that turn new judgments and laws into rows for our incoming CSV files.

Python · web scraping · GitHub

NLP on judgments

Classify decisions by issue and outcome, flag likely duplicates, and draft summaries that a person then checks. Many judgments are in languages other than English.

NLP · LLMs · multilingual text · evaluation

Statistics and empirical legal studies

Which arguments win, where and why? Help design and run analyses of court outcomes, ratification and the spread of laws across countries: regression, event-history models and reproducible notebooks.

R / Python · event history · causal inference

Accessible, low-bandwidth web

Make our static site faster on cheap phones and slow networks, improve screen-reader and right-to-left support, and help the Clinic work offline.

HTML/CSS/JS · accessibility · i18n, RTL

Translation pipelines

Build a workflow that keeps every language in step when the English changes: machine draft, human review, change tracking and checks that nothing is missing.

localization · MT quality · automation

Data quality and maps

Write automatic checks for incoming data, link court decisions to the laws they apply, and improve our maps and downloads for researchers.

data validation · CI · maps

WHAT YOU GET

Real work, real credit

- **Public credit.** Contributors are named on the site and in the change log; code and data contributions stay on GitHub under your name.
- **Global experience.** Work on law from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America with legal scholars and students from many countries.
- **Flexible and remote.** Per task, at your pace, from anywhere in the US. No minimum hours.

GROUND RULES

How we keep workers safe

- **No legal advice.** Volunteers help with information and tools; IMR lawyers handle every case.
- **Privacy first.** Volunteers never see Clinic submissions or workers' personal data.
- **Official sources only,** a neutral, factual tone, and honest notes on any use of AI.

Law that cannot be found cannot be used. Help us make it findable.

Tell us your languages, your skills and the time you have. We'll reply with a first task that fits, usually something you can finish in a week.

theimr.org/volunteer

or secretariat@theimr.org
Subject: "Volunteer: [language or skill]"
Explore first: theimr.org/databases
Code and data on GitHub:
pranotoiskandar-collab/compmigrationlaw

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