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# Updating the Resource Centre Digital Platform

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is at a critical point in its development. Our digital platform is home to a wealth of information on business and human rights, but hasn't had a visual refresh for a number of years.

We will soon be updating the site to improve its usability and better serve the thousands of people that use our site to support their work.

[Please take an advance peek at our new look, and let us know what you think!](#)

*Thank you,  
Alex Guy, Digital Officer*

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## NGOs call for justice mechanism & protections for repatriated Asian workers during Covid-19 crisis

On 1 June 2020, a coalition of NGOs and unions launched an urgent appeal letter calling for an urgent justice mechanism for workers who have been impacted and repatriated as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The economic fallout from the pandemic will include an estimated 195 million lost jobs, including an estimated 5 million in the Middle East, many of these held by migrant workers. There are serious concerns that without proper controls or procedures, repatriated workers may not receive with due wages, compensation and benefits, and that millions may be burdened with debt bondage as they struggle to pay of growing recruitment fees. By continuing to use the site, you agree to the use of cookies. more information

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In light of these risks, the letter highlights the challenges posed by mass repatriation, including that employers may take advantage of the situation to terminate and return workers who have not been paid due compensation, wages and benefits. They call for states to ensure that companies and employers are fulfilling their human rights obligations, warning that without proper oversight states may become "complicit" in a situation where workers do not earn their wages, have workplace grievances heard, nor receive justice.

The letter was launched by Migrant Forum in Asia, Lawyers Beyond Borders Network, Cross Regional Centre for Migrants and Refugees, South Asia Trade union Council, and Solidarity Center, and endorsed by a group of international and national unions and labour rights groups.

On 10th July the coalition reiterated their call, outlining three proposed areas for reform including: establishing an International Claims Commission, establishing a Compensation Fund for compensation in wage theft cases; and, requesting states "rebuild migrant-centered justice systems at the national level" to ensure workers can access justice and hold employers to account.

On 12th August the campaign released an appeal to businesses outlining the responsibilities of businesses during the pandemic, and 14 steps for employers to take to ensure they are protect migrant workers from wage theft.

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Article

12 August 2020

### COVID-19: A time for businesses to act responsibly in ensuring justice for migrant workers

**Author: Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)**

[Recommendations to employers in summary:]

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just ensure that all salaries are paid in full and without delays...

2. Employers must not deduct wages for time away from work... COVID-19, which must be treated as an occupational illness...
3. Employers must not impose or coerce workers into new contracts
4. Companies should ensure that there are no cash flow issues that will affect payment of wages to workers in the supply chain...
5. Companies should observe and comply with all applicable laws, regulations in accordance to international standards and with collective agreements...
6. Companies should take measures to ensure workers' labour rights are respected regardless of their migratory status...
7. Any contractual change must be temporary, and mutually agreed with workers...
8. Companies should encourage governments to include migrant workers in any and all social safety net schemes...
9. When contracts are terminated, companies should observe their obligations...
10. Companies must continue to provide food and accommodation for laid off migrant workers...
11. Companies should take into account the consequences of lay-offs and other employment measures on the visa status of their migrant workers...
12. During the recovery period, companies should prioritize reinstating repatriated workers who lost their jobs due to the pandemic...
13. Companies should cooperate with the national claims commission...
14. As an expression of solidarity and social responsibility, companies could make monetary contributions to a compensation fund.

[Read the full post here](#)

- **Related stories:** [NGOs call for justice mechanism & protections for repatriated Asian workers during Covid-19 crisis](#)

Item

10 July 2020

## [Appeal No. 2: Urgent Justice Mechanism for Repatriated Migrant Workers Now](#)

**Author: Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)**

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We renew our call and we urge governments and UN agencies to take  
imme  three main areas:

[An International Claims Commission] specialized body should be set up to specifically ensure the expedited and just resolution of wage-theft and other outstanding claims of repatriated migrant workers.

A Compensation Fund set up at the global and national level should accompany the work of the Claims Commission and act as its executive branch, dispensing appropriate compensation in cases determined as wage theft.

States must rebuild migrant-centered justice systems at the national level, that recognize the vulnerabilities and barriers in accessing justice for migrant workers, and ensuring employer accountability in order to respond to the influx of cases exacerbated by the pandemic.

[Read the full post here](#)

- **Related stories:** [NGOs call for justice mechanism & protections for repatriated Asian workers during Covid-19 crisis](#)

Article

1 June 2020

## [A Large Civil Society and Global Trade Unions Coalition Launch a Call for an Urgent Justice Mechanism for Repatriated Migrant Workers](#)

**Author: Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)**

On June the 1st, 2020, a large coalition of civil society organizations and global trade unions launched a call for an urgent justice mechanism for repatriated migrant workers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic...

Many migrant workers have reconciled to the situation of wage theft in the form of unfair or unpaid wages... They have accepted it as their fate and refrained from complaining lest they lose their jobs, or, worst still, live under the fear of their status being made undocumented...

[Regional Coordinator for MFA, William] Gois said. If we are to ‘Build Back Better’, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of wage theft that has been persistent across migration corridors for years.

[Read the full post here](#)

- **Related stories:** [NGOs call for justice mechanism & protections for repatriated Asian workers during Covid-19 crisis](#)

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Item

1 June 2020

# Call for an Urgent Justice Mechanism for Repatriated Migrant Workers

**Author: Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Lawyers Beyond Borders (LBB) Network, Cross Regional Centre for Migrants and Refugees (CCRM), South Asia Trade Union Council (SARTUC), and Solidarity Center (SC)**

[MFA, LBB, CCRM, SARTUC & SC] call upon countries of origin and destination to urgently put in place a transitional justice mechanism with the following objectives:

1. ...[to] address grievances, claims and labour disputes of repatriated workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic... be expedited, accessible, affordable, and efficient.
2. ... be a priority to guarantee that all repatriated workers with legitimate claims are able to access justice and some kind of compensation.
3. ... safeguards must be put in place to ensure that migrants are able to pursue their cases post return. Access to legal advice and support, facilitating power of attorney procedures, and easing requirements for in-person testimony and court appearance or appearance in front of a tribunal/grievance mechanism are paramount.
4. States should require employers and businesses to keep all employment records, including payroll, employee lists, and hours worked and allow workers to take copies of their records with them.

[Read the full post here](#)

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