

DETENTION AND RETURN

Tuesday, 11 May 2021, 3 PM CEST

CONCEPT NOTE

Detention and deportation have been normalized as standard policy solutions to address immigration. Regardless of whether irregular immigration status is criminalized or not, men, women and children are deprived of their liberty to restrict their movement and to punish them for their presence. Detention is the prelude to an administrative determination that the person must be deported to their country of origin.

Detention is used as a deterrent of irregular immigration. But it has also become part of the standard immigration procedure for asylum seekers and migrants in irregular status with almost nonexistent or watered-down due process standards. In most countries, persons in immigration detention do not have the right to a public defender, and the decision to detain them is not issued or reviewed by a Judge.

Deportation has also become the standard solution despite the impact of this measure on the persons subjected to it, their families, and the conditions. Deportation is an administrative sanction that has profound implications for a person's life. Most recently the preferred term used is return, blending in voluntary return with forced return: deportation.

We decided to convene this webinar on detention and deportation as an invitation to discuss these two measures with profound implications for the lives of migrants. We believe that it is necessary to discuss the strategies used to fight against immigration detention and deportation. The standards set forth in the Global Compact on Migration normalize detention and deportation as acceptable tools to manage migration disregarding the human rights of migrants.

We are convening the webinar to discuss:

1. How are organizations working against detention and deportation in different contexts?
2. What elements and perspectives are being effective in the struggle against detention and deportation?
3. What questions are we not asking ourselves, that should be part of the discussion?
4. How are we integrating discussions on labor migration, race and ethnicity, regular pathways and climate change to our work against immigration detention and deportation?

We are inviting panelists with different perspectives, hoping to have a rich and lively discussion.

This webinar is part of an effort led by civil society organizations that aims to bring to the forefront of public discussion the most pressing issues of the migrants' rights agenda, with the expectation to organize and mobilize for change.

PEOPLE'S MIGRATION CHALLENGE

CIVIL SOCIETY PRIORITIES WEBINAR SERIES from 13 April to 18 May 2021