

# SWEDEN



## STATEMENT

by

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Sweden  
High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development

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Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Migration is strong positive force. When people travel, meet and exchange ideas – societies can make leaps forward in development. This force contributes to eliminate poverty in the world – to reach the millennium development goals.

Migrants are not victims. They are made victims by human smugglers and traffickers. To reach the whole development potential of migration we must fight those who treat people – men, women and children - as if they were goods on a market and can be sold to the highest bid. We must fight discrimination and exploitation.

Let me high light five important issues for the Swedish government:

Fristly, people living and working in a country, regardless if they are migrant workers or citizens, should have the same rights and the same obligations. To achieve this we need regular migration.

Irreular migration leaves people in our societies with limited rights and no safety. Irregular migration also reveals the existence of a dual labour market: one for citizens and those with a work permit – and one for those without.

Therefore we must increase the options for legal migration. Only when a person legally resides in a country can he or she be guaranteed the same rights as citizens of that country. This should include the right to family reunification, full access to the labour market and to the social security system.

If employers or we, the rich countries, need labour we should be ready to pay for it. This is not only about managing migration. It is about values. It is about human rights.

Secondly, the root causes of forced migration cannot be solved by migration policy. Neither by border control.

We need progressive development policies. We all know that a freer and more fair trade would have a far-reaching effect on development and poverty reduction in the world.

It is every government's obligation to create a society where women and