

Migrants' Rights Scotland

We work alongside migrants and their community organisations (MCOs) for a rights-based approach to migration, supporting their engagement in developing the policies and procedures that affect their lives in Scotland and in the UK.



OUR AIMS

1. We promote the rights of all migrants, regardless of where they are from, where they live and why they are here by
 - developing a dynamic and diverse network of migrants and migrant community organisations (MCOs),
 - building bridges across sectors and interests,
 - helping to get migrants' voices heard where it matters.
2. We support MCOs by helping them to represent themselves more effectively at all levels by
 - promoting dialogue,
 - sharing information and expertise,
 - building knowledge and skills.
3. We campaign for justice within immigration and across all social policy areas by
 - using up-to-date policy analysis,
 - informing campaign priorities and coordinating action,
 - working closely with appropriate organisations and civil society groups.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Scotland has been involved in a migrants-led development for a rights-based approach to migration since 2006, through two Scotland-based Directors of the Migrants' Rights Network (MRN). Immigration being a reserved matter, the London base of the Network was crucial to maintain proximity to the Westminster government but also to establish working relationships with migrant community organizations (MCOs) across England and Wales.

Limited funding meant the organization had only short-term support staff in Scotland, relying largely on voluntary efforts to raise the profile of and debate on migrant issues, immigration policy changes and directions, and to establish a connection base with individual migrants and MCOs across the nation.

In early 2010, the Scottish Directors of MRN decided the time was right to set up a separate organization MIGRANTS' RIGHTS SCOTLAND to work more closely with the growing number of migrants and MCOs affected by the evolving climate of immigration and demographics here.

SINCE 2010

We have achieved a small programme of work that has taken us across Scotland from the North to the Central Belt and Borders.

- We have focused on strengthening the voice and presence of migrants in discussions, debates and round tables, locally, regionally and at the Parliament in Holyrood.
- We have created a network of migrants, community organizations, civil society groups, academics, professionals in business and industry, who have been involved with us in some small way in progressing our vision, in debating the impact of migration policy in Scotland and in advocating considered solutions.
- We have used the internet as a virtual workspace for our associates and volunteers; our website and social media pages have become a communication and information hub, spreading the word and connecting migrants in an uncertain world of frequently changing immigration policies.
- We made submissions to the Scottish Parliament's Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking, to the UK Borders Agency on various consultations, even to the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
- We have continued our close relationship with MRN, ensuring we have access to the policy environment of Whitehall and to the Parliament at Westminster.

CURRENTLY

We have begun putting together a portfolio of **Migrants' Lives and Hopes**, case stories of people affected by the recent Family Immigration rule changes. We intend to present these to the Family Migration Inquiry at the Westminster Parliament in early 2013 and working across our networks, to build towards a legal challenge of the Rules. (See relevant pages attached.)

**KEY BRIEFING PAPERS AND SUBMISSIONS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE at
www.migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?page_id=24**

Submission to the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking (April 2010)

Employment and Migration in Scotland (February 2011)

Migrants' Rights – More Than Just Talk (April 2011)

Recent Immigration Policy Changes (March 2012)

Impacts of Immigration Policies on Scotland: Summary Report of 1st Cross-sector Roundtable (March 2012)