

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

IAHRAC SEMINAR REPORT



IAHRAC Seminar Report: On Challenges in Defending Human Rights on Immigration Issues (30th June 2023)

Introduction

The International Advocacy for Human Rights and Anti-Corruption (IAHRAC) organised a thought-provoking seminar on 30/06/2023 that focused on the critical Challenges in Defending Human Rights on Immigration Issues in an ever-changing global landscape. The seminar aimed to bring together stakeholders from various sectors to discuss the complexities of these issues and explore potential solutions. The event took place at Holiday Inn in Peterborough, United Kingdom and saw active participation from experts, policymakers, advocates, and individuals committed to safeguarding human rights.

Key Themes Discussed

Evolving Immigration Policies

Participants engaged in in-depth discussions regarding the dynamic nature of immigration policies across different countries and how they impact the rights of migrants and refugees.

Border Control

The seminar delved into the ethical dilemmas surrounding border control measures and their implications on vulnerable populations, especially in the context of humanitarian crises.

The inaccessibility of visas for certain regions has led large number of people attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. When legal channels for migration are limited or unavailable, people may resort to irregular and dangerous routes in search of better opportunities or safety. This can result in humanitarian crises, as such journeys often involve perilous conditions and risks to human life. Addressing the root causes of migration and providing safer and more accessible migration pathways are crucial steps to address this issue effectively.

Discrimination and Xenophobia

Experts shed light on the prevalence of discrimination and xenophobia faced by immigrants and refugees, emphasising the urgent need to promote inclusion and social cohesion.

Legal Challenges

The legal intricacies of advocating for the rights of immigrants were highlighted, including issues related to asylum claims, detention centres, and the challenges faced by human rights lawyers.

Building a Community that Accommodates Immigrants

The establishment of a community for immigrants in Ireland has yielded remarkable results. A significant number of immigrants have improved their language skills, found stable employment, and obtained access to essential services. Social cohesion has increased, leading to reduced isolation and an enhanced sense of community belonging. Additionally, the wider community has become more welcoming and understanding of immigrant challenges.

Collaboration with Local Organisations

Collaboration with local businesses, NGOs, and government agencies played a crucial role in providing additional support to immigrants. Forming partnerships offers employment opportunities, legal advice, and community-based services.

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3rd from right, His Excellency Amb. Abam, 2nd from right, Dr Akinyemi, IAHRAC Head of Affairs, 2nd from left, the Mayor of Peterborough, Cllr Sandford, 4th from right, representative from the Nigerian Embassy Sweden, 5th from right Minister Abdulsalam, Nigerian Embassy UK.



Award Presentation

During the seminar, IAHRAC recognised and honoured some stakeholders who have made significant contributions to defending immigration and human rights. The following persons were presented an award:

Ambassador Mfawa Omini Abam, Nigerian Embassy Italy, – For his exceptional leadership in providing aid and support to citizens and displaced persons, demonstrating unparalleled dedication to upholding human rights.

Ambassador B. B. Hamman, Nigerian Embassy Sweden, – For his exceptional leadership in providing aid and support to citizens and displaced persons, demonstrating unparalleled dedication to upholding human rights.

Ambassador Baba Madugu, Nigerian Embassy Switzerland, – For his exceptional leadership in providing aid and support to citizens and displaced persons, demonstrating unparalleled dedication to upholding human rights

Peterborough City Council - Community Integration Award: Recognising their exemplary initiatives in promoting social cohesion and fostering inclusivity for immigrants and refugees in local communities.

Minister Bukar Abdulsalam, Nigerian Embassy London – For his exceptional leadership in providing aid and support to citizens and displaced persons, demonstrating unparalleled dedication to upholding human rights.

Conclusion

The IAHRAC seminar On Challenges in Defending Human Rights on Immigration Issues provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, insightful discussions, and recognition of exemplary efforts. As the world continues to grapple with complex migration issues, such events are crucial for fostering awareness, collaboration, and collective action to protect and promote the rights of all individuals, regardless of their origin or background.

By addressing the unique challenges faced by immigrants and fostering a supportive environment, the initiative will enrich the lives of immigrants and also strengthen the fabric of the entire community.

Recommendations

Continued support and investment in the established programmes and initiatives are essential for sustaining the progress achieved thus far. Additionally, promoting cultural awareness and maintaining open channels of communication between immigrants and the broader community will contribute to long-term integration and inclusivity.

IAHRAC remains committed to its mission and looks forward to further engagements aimed at building a more just and inclusive society.

Thank you to all participants and stakeholders for making this seminar a resounding success.