

Ethical Reporting on Labour Migration in the Arab States

3 ACTIONS TO TAKE TODAY

Migrant workers are at the forefront of the COVID19- pandemic, providing essential services including health, cleaning, domestic work, agriculture and food production. Yet they have been subject to increased stigma, xenophobia and discrimination, and sometimes unfairly accused of contributing to the spread of the disease or the economic hardship faced by nationals.

HERE ARE THREE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE AS A JOURNALIST OR AN EDITOR TO ENSURE YOU ARE REPORTING IN AN ETHICAL WAY ON MIGRANT WORKERS:

1

DON'T USE DISCRIMINATORY TERMS TO DESCRIBE MIGRANTS

Stop use of terms like 'maid', 'servant', 'girl' or 'helper' to describe domestic workers; and 'illegal' migrant, when referring to workers without documentation.

UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS DURING THIS PANDEMIC

2

Listen to the voices of migrant workers when reporting. Many have lost jobs, livelihoods, live in cramped accommodation where social distancing is challenging. Their access to justice is often constrained and they may face exploitation.

3

AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO THE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION THAT MIGRANTS FACE

Avoid oversimplification, stereotyping and inflammatory language that could contribute to xenophobia. Instead, consider how your reporting can tackle these issues.