



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

August 10, 2016

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH 1211 Geneva 10

To Whom It May Concern:

States have the responsibility to respect the human rights of all people in their territories, including migrants. The United States takes this responsibility very seriously, and urges other states to do so, including in the context of large population movements. We promote policies that protect the human rights of migrants, prosecute crimes committed against migrants, provide protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking, and encourage international cooperation on efforts to ensure safe, orderly, and legal migration. We co-chaired with the Philippines an inclusive consultation process to develop voluntary Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster, which we launched at the United Nations on June 15, 2016, and which will help countries better protect the human rights of migrants. We appreciate OHCHR's constructive participation in that process.

We urge OHCHR, as it is preparing its report on the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants in the context of large movements, to ensure that the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and other relevant stakeholders are included in the process. We also note that we have recommended that these three organizations – as well as your own – are included in the process to elaborate a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, in addition to the efforts being undertaken in connection with the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on September 19, 2016. IOM's role in particular is critical, as it is the sole global organization with an exclusive mandate on migration.

The information provided in this letter can be made available on the OHCHR website. Thank you for reaching out to us on this important issue. We assure you that we continue to strive for the advancement of the human rights of migrants.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Hamamoto" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pamela K. Hamamoto  
Ambassador