

Foreword

This work comprises the relevant legal instruments and main policy documents in the area of European and international asylum and migration, including the latest versions of pending legislative proposals. It aims to provide practitioners, authorities, policy makers, scholars and students throughout Europe with an accurate, up-to-date and forward-looking compilation of essential texts on asylum and migration matters.

The texts have been ordered according to the multilateral co-operation level within which they were drawn up: either the United Nations, the Council of Europe or the European Union (including Schengen-level instruments). In each of these three parts, the texts have been grouped thematically. Within each theme, the documents are presented chronologically.

The range of issues covered is comprehensive: human rights; nationality and statelessness; equal treatment, non-discrimination, racism and xenophobia; citizenship, residence and free movement; borders, border management and entry; visa and passenger data; labour migration; family reunification; asylum, subsidiary and temporary protection; irregular migration; and trafficking in human beings.

Within general human rights instruments, the provisions most relevant in an asylum and migration context were selected. They include all articles recognizing specific rights of foreigners (e.g. the right to asylum, the prohibition of collective expulsion), all provisions on nationality and statelessness, and those general human rights that acquire particular meaning for foreigners (e.g. the principle of equality and non-discrimination, the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to liberty, the right to respect for private and family life, and the right to a fair trial and an effective remedy).

As soft law and policy documents are concerned, the selection of texts pertains to their overall relevance for the entire field of asylum and/or migration, excluding documents on particular subtopics.

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