

SEP 2026



MIGRATION

NEWSLETTER



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MIGRATION NEWSLETTER

MIGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

1- Pakistan Reports 64% Decline in Irregular Migration to Europe

- Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reported a **64%** reduction in irregular migration from Pakistan to Europe over the previous year.
- Pakistan highlighted strengthened airport screening, surveillance and cooperation against human smuggling.
- Authorities are also emphasizing the expansion of legal and regular migration pathways.

2- GCC Deportations of Pakistanis for Begging Fall Sharply

- **802** Pakistani nationals were reportedly deported from Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries for begging in 2026.
- The figure compares with approximately **1,100** in 2025 and **4,800** in 2024.
- Pakistani authorities attributed the decline to enhanced pre-departure screening and action against organized begging networks.



- More than **50** FIRs have reportedly been registered against organized overseas begging networks.

3- Canada Shifts Toward More Targeted Immigration

- Canada's 2026-28 immigration plan maintains **380,000** permanent-resident admissions annually from 2026 to 2028.
- Temporary-resident arrivals are planned at **385,000** in 2026 and **370,000** annually in 2027–28.
- The government is also seeking to transition up to **33,000** temporary workers already in Canada to permanent residence during 2026–27.
- Immigration selection increasingly emphasizes labour-market needs, Canadian experience and targeted categories.

4- Canada Expands Study Options for Some Temporary Workers



- Eligible temporary workers already in Canada can study for up to six months without a separate study permit, subject to applicable conditions.
- The measure applies to certain workers, including tradespeople, nurses and laboratory technicians.
- The temporary measure is scheduled to remain in place until December 31, 2027.
- The policy is intended to help temporary workers upgrade skills while remaining in the Canadian labour market.

4- Türkiye Reports 48% Drop in Irregular Migration Incidents at Sea



- Turkish authorities reported a 48% decrease in irregular migration incidents at sea during the first eight months of 2026.
- Increased coast-guard patrols, surveillance and operations against migrant smuggling have been cited among the measures.
- Türkiye remains a major transit country for migration toward Europe through the Aegean route

5- Türkiye Conducts Nationwide Operation Against Migrant Smuggling

- Turkish authorities conducted coordinated inspections across all **81 provinces** on September 26.
- More than **15,900** personnel and **5,000** teams participated.
- Authorities checked more than **279,000** people.
- **19** alleged migrant-smuggling organisers and **230** irregular migrants were reportedly apprehended.

6- European Sea Arrivals Fall 39%, but Migrant Deaths Continue to Rise

- IOM reported approximately **60,000** sea arrivals to Europe in 2026, compared with **98,040** during the comparable period of 2025.
- This represents a **39%** decline in arrivals.
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- Despite fewer crossings, at least **2,292** people died or went missing on the Central Mediterranean and Atlantic routes



through mid-September.

7- UK Reopens Refugee Resettlement Scheme

- The UK reopened its UK Resettlement Scheme for new referrals on September 28.
- The government said approximately one-quarter of referrals are expected to involve Afghan women and girls and Palestinian refugees.



- Referrals are made in cooperation with UNHCR and the International Refugee Assistance Project.
- The development comes amid continuing debate over refugee resettlement and irregular Channel crossings.

8- US Supreme Court Allows Third-Country Deportations to Resume Temporarily

- On September 29, the US Supreme Court temporarily allowed the administration to resume deportations of some migrants to third countries.

- The underlying legal dispute remains before the courts.
- Reports indicate that more than **25,000** people have been deported under the policy.



9- Report Projects Significant Reduction in Legal Immigration

- A September analysis by Third Way projected that policies implemented during President Trump's second term could reduce legal immigration by **33–50%** by the end of the term
- The figures are a policy projection by Third Way, rather than an official US government forecast.
- The analysis focuses on changes affecting employment-based, family-based and other legal immigration pathways.

IO- Flooding in Nepal Displaces Thousands

- Severe flash floods in late August affected several districts, including Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading.
- An initial IOM assessment identified **2,886** displaced households among **4,288** affected households, **3,888** internally displaced people across **37** sites.



II- Severe Flooding in Thailand Affects Millions In Thailand

- Heavy rainfall and flooding affected communities across Thailand during September, More than **580,000** homes were reportedly affected during the initial stages of the flooding.
- Later government estimates indicated that more than **2.6** million people had been affected, thousands of residents were evacuated from affected communities, highlighting the connection between extreme weather, displacement and disaster-induced mobility.



1- Legal Migration Counsellor and Safeguarding Officer - Relief International

Deadline: October 11, 2026

For Details

2- Call for Submission to the Open Track - Migration Politics

Deadline: October 15, 2026

For Details

3- The Demetrios G. Papademetriou Young Scholars Program - Migration Policy Institute Internships

Deadline: October 15, 2026

For Details

4- Centre for European Law and Internationalisation - CELI Book Launch: Dr Arwen Joyce, Low-wage Labour Migration Regimes in Asia

Date: Oct 13, 2026

For Details



Call For Entries

Theme: Not Just Movement, Meaning

As we mark the **4th Observance of International Migrants Day 2026**, Legal ID Foundation invites individuals, students, artists, civil society organisations, and community groups to contribute to an engaging artistic initiative exploring the **human stories, aspirations, identities, experiences, and contributions** behind migration.

[Register Here](#)

Join us in reshaping the narrative on migration, from seeing migration merely as an escape to recognising it as a journey shaped by purpose, aspiration, opportunity, identity, and hope.

Country / Region	Update / Policy Shift	Impact on Pakistanis
Australia	New skilled-visa processing priorities introduced under Ministerial Directions 121 and 122, replacing the previous priority framework. Construction, healthcare, teaching, agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and resources receive priority, alongside Specialist Skills applications and certain onshore applicants.	Pakistani skilled workers in healthcare, teaching, construction, agriculture and related sectors may benefit from higher processing priority.
Australia	2026–27 Permanent Migration Program maintained at 185,000 places, with approximately 132,240 places allocated to skilled migration. The program also prioritises migrants already in Australia, with 129,590 places allocated to onshore applicants.	Pakistani skilled migrants already in Australia may have stronger opportunities for transition to PR, while offshore applicants remain subject to the skilled-selection process.
Australia	New restrictions announced on international students bringing accompanying family members, alongside tighter working-holiday arrangements and changes to visitor-visa conditions.	Pakistani students considering Australia need to reassess family-accompaniment options and the overall cost and structure of studying in Australia.
Singapore	Eight occupations added to the Non-Traditional Source Occupation List (NTS-OL) from September, including roles in social services, food services and air transportation.	Opens additional employer-sponsored opportunities for eligible foreign workers. Pakistani nationals may benefit where employers are permitted to recruit from their source country and the occupation requirements are met.
Singapore	Work Permit administration continues shifting to the myMOM digital platform, with further functions being moved from the previous system during 2026–27.	Digitalisation may simplify employer processing and administration for migrant workers, including foreign workers recruited into Singapore.

The Civil Society Alliance on Migration (C-SAM) was officially launched in Islamabad, bringing together **50+** civil society organisations from across Pakistan's provinces and territories around a shared commitment to safer migration, stronger governance, and the dignity and rights of migrants.



Legal ID Foundation participated as a **Founding Member** in this national initiative, joining representatives from the Government of Pakistan, IOM, diplomatic missions, academia, and civil society at the launch. The event featured a panel discussion, "**The Missing Wheel: Civil Society in the Migration Ecosystem**," which explored how civil society's role can become more systematic, coordinated, and impactful in migration policy and practice.



Society for Empowering Human Resource (SEHER) continued its legal aid, protection and migration-support programmes across Balochistan in Sept 2026, with support from **UNHCR** and **IOM**.



- **227** individuals provided direct legal Assistance and legal aid, including release facilitation from detention and holding camps.
- **1,371** protection and legal assistance inquiries resolved via the ALAC helpline.
- 802 skilled refugees enrolled in the Talent Catalog through eight TBB orientation sessions (Jan-Sep **2026**).
- **956** deportees recorded through Chaghi and Chaman border crossing points (**1-20** September **2026**).
- **479** Community based volunteers & Community based Paralegals were trained.

Get Involved?

DO YOU HAVE YOUR STORY?

**Are you making some meaning contribution
in the field of Migration?**

Share it now!

**For Queries and sharing your contributions; feel free to
reach out to us:**

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