



Geography: 1.3 Migration

How can migration be managed?

What strategies are used to manage international migration?

Addressing root causes: Countries are now focusing on why people leave their homes in the first place. The UK, for instance, is rolling out a funding package of up to £84 million over the next three years. They're using this money to address the factors that drive people to undertake small boat crossings (like conflict, climate change, and humanitarian crises).

Improvement: By improving education, employment opportunities, and resilience, they hope to reduce the need for dangerous journeys.

International cooperation: Countries are joining hands to tackle this challenge. The UK is working with partners in the Global South (that's countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America) and European allies.

Tackling criminal gangs: The UK has new initiatives with Slovenia and Slovakia. They're teaming up to tackle serious organised crime.

What are the public perceptions of migration?

Public perceptions of migration are mixed. On the positive side, many view migration as beneficial for economic growth, cultural diversity and filling labour shortages. Migrants often bring new skills, ideas, and dynamism to host countries. However, negative perceptions also exist, with some fearing that migrants strain public services, reduce job opportunities for locals and challenge national identity. These concerns can lead to xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment in certain communities.

How is a 'points-based' system being used to manage international migration?

A migrant earns points for the different skills and qualities that they can offer to the country they want to move to. If you want to move to these places, you collect points based on things like education, language skills, work experience and job offers. The more points you have, the better your chances are of being allowed to move to that country.

Canada: Their system favours youth, education and language fluency.

Australia: They pick immigrants based on their human capital (skills and education).

What are the ethical considerations of international migration?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to everyone. Some people fear deportation if they go to the courts in their own country. The European Convention of Human Rights provides protection for anyone in a Council of Europe member state. The Strasbourg Court rules that no one should be deported from a country if they were to be tortured or killed on return to their home country.

How is visa-free travel used to manage international migration?

Visa-free travel allows individuals to enter a country without obtaining a visa beforehand, typically for short stays. It's based on agreements between countries or regions in order to simplify travel for tourism, business, or transit. However, travellers must still meet entry requirements and may need to show proof of onward travel or sufficient funds.

Visa-free travel can manage international migration by facilitating short-term stays while controlling longer-term immigration. It enables easier movement for tourism or business but maintains tighter controls for extended stays, helping countries balance economic benefits with security concerns.

What is the role of the media in influencing public perceptions of migration?

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of migration, often influencing opinions by the way stories are framed. Positive portrayals, such as coverage highlighting migrant contributions to society, can foster empathy and understanding.

On the other hand, media can also exacerbate (worsen) negative perceptions by sensationalizing migration issues. For instance, during the 2015 European migrant crisis, some media outlets emphasised the security risks. This type of coverage can lead to public anxiety, support for restrictive policies and a rise in xenophobia.

Thus, the media's portrayal, whether it leans towards humanitarian or security-focused narratives, influences public attitudes and policy responses towards migration.