

## **Moral issues about immigration**

### introduction

Immigration seems to be making more headlines in recent years. As the world globalizes in terms of nations' economies, trade and investment, borders are opened up more easily for freer flow of goods and products. People are supposedly freer to move around the world, too.

### **Why do people emigrate?**

People emigrate from one country to another for a variety of complex reasons. Some are forced to move, due to conflict or to escape persecution and prejudices, while others may voluntarily emigrate. Although such a move may be necessary, it can be quite traumatic on top of the challenges experienced so far. From another perspective, immigration can also represent an act of courage. For example, moving to a different country with different culture and norms can be quite daunting;

### **Effects of Immigration**

Immigration can have positive and negative impacts on both the host (recipient) country, and the original country. The recipient country is usually an industrialized country in Western Europe, or the United States. For these countries, immigrants offer various benefits such as the following:

Immigrants will often do jobs that people in the host country will not, or cannot do;

Migrant workers often work longer hours and for lower salaries, and while that is controversial, sometimes exploitive, it benefits the host country;

Immigrants, when made to feel welcome in the host society, can contribute to the diversity of that society, which can help with tolerance and understanding;

For the host country's economy, immigrants offer an increased talent pool, if they have been well educated in their original country.

But there are also numerous drawbacks:

Immigrants can be exploited for their cheap labor;

Developing countries may suffer **brain drain** as the limited resources they spend in educating their students amount to very little if that talent is enticed to another country. Immigration can also attract criminal elements, from trafficking in drugs and people to other forms of crime and corruption;

Immigration can become a social/political issue, where racism can be used to exploit feelings or as an excuse for current woes of local population;

Where there is a perception that immigrants and refugees appear to get more benefits than local poor people, tensions and hostilities can also rise;

Concerns about illegal immigration can spill over to ill-feelings towards the majority of immigrants who are law-abiding and contributing to the economy;