



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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COUNCIL

105th Session

**APPLICATION BY MIGRANT HELP
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter dated 31 October 2014, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Chief Executive Officer of Migrant Help made a formal application for his Organization to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 7 November 2014, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the 105th Session of the Council.

2. This matter falls under rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council which provides that the Council may invite, upon their application, international organizations, governmental or non-governmental, to be represented at its meetings.

3. The aims and purposes of Migrant Help, a non-governmental organization based in the United Kingdom, are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the IOM Constitution and its activities are relevant to migration, migrants, diasporas, refugees, displacement and human resources. The scope of its work extends in a great part beyond its national boundaries. Migrant Help does not have consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, but the Director General is of the view that its observership at the Council will strengthen cooperation and be in the interests of IOM.

4. An appropriate draft resolution is submitted separately to the Council for its consideration.

Annex I

**LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 2014 FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF MIGRANT HELP TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Dear Ambassador Swing,

Re: Migrant Help – IOM Observer Status

I am writing in respect of the above request and the strong, well established working relationship Migrant Help has with the International Organization for Migration. The IOM's activities regarding migration are of particular significance to Migrant Help in terms of our corporate aims and objectives.

Migrant Help is an independent, non-campaigning national charity which has been delivering support and advice services to migrants for more than 50 years. We provide vulnerable individuals with the resources and support they need to find safety, access appropriate services and develop greater independence.

The relationship we have with the IOM UK is a vital collaboration of work we do together to reduce modern day slavery and migrant suffering. Our clients ultimately benefit from our ongoing commitment to working partnerships but it would be particularly advantageous to become an IOM observer, not least to strengthen our operational ties but also in relation to some of the projects Migrant Help is undertaking. These include but are not limited to, the UK Institute for Migration Research (a research based project set up between Migrant Help and Canterbury Christ Church University, with the support of the Home Office), joint awareness raising events with the IOM UK, collaborative presentations for the World Migration Report, Stronger Together anti-trafficking training and AVR. Migrant Help is responsible for all advice, guidance and applications for asylum nationally and each of our regional teams has an AVR specialist.

We would therefore be extremely grateful for your consideration of Migrant Help as an observer at the IOM Council meetings. It would be our honour to attain such a status and we would like to assure you of our unequivocal respect.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 7 NOVEMBER 2014 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MIGRANT HELP**

Dear Mr. McCrea,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 31 October 2014 seeking observer status for Migrant Help in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Indeed, I can only note with appreciation the relationship between Migrant Help and IOM in the field of migration and research, specifically on human trafficking issues. I highly appreciate Migrant Help's support in capacity building and assistance of migrants, through assisted voluntary return and reintegration activities, as well as the organization's contribution in raising awareness in the United Kingdom among policy-makers, civil society organizations, the academia and the general public on labour exploitation and trafficking, particularly in the design industry. It is therefore my belief that both our organizations will benefit from a further strengthening of this already close and cordial relationship.

It will be possible to take the necessary action to place your request before the IOM Council during its next regular session, to be held in Geneva from 25 to 28 November 2014. An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member and Observer States prior to the November 2014 Council session. You will receive a copy of this document, together with further details and procedural information concerning the Council session.

A formal invitation to attend the session, during which Migrant Help's application for observer status is presented to the Member States, will also be sent to you.

It gives me great pleasure to receive your request for observer status. Allow me therefore to express my satisfaction at the prospect of furthering the relationship between our two organizations.

[Complimentary ending]