

Migration Information Source – Submissions Policy

Thank you for your interest in submitting material to the Migration Information Source, the respected online journal of the Migration Policy Institute.

The Source provides fresh thought, authoritative data, and global analysis of international migration and refugee trends. A unique online resource, the Source offers useful tools, vital data, and essential facts on the movement of people around the globe to tens of thousands of readers of the free Source e-newsletter as well as countless visitors to the Source's web presence.

The scholars who contribute to the Source include some of the most respected voices in the migration and refugee fields. We welcome for publication consideration the submission of article concepts, book chapters, research reports, dissertations, theses, or other works.

We anticipate that you may have some questions about submitting an article, and we attempt to answer them in the sections below:

1. What should I know before beginning work on an article?

2. Who is the target audience of the Source?

3. What kinds of articles does the Source publish?

4. What are the specific guidelines for draft articles?

If you have any further questions, please contact the Source Editor at source@migrationpolicy.org.

Thank you for your interest.

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1. What should I know before beginning work on an article?

The Source will consider publishing unsolicited manuscripts, and we accept proposals for articles. Before getting into the details of how these drafts should look, however, we would like you to be aware of the following considerations:

— The best way to proceed is by sending us a letter or an outline describing the piece you'd like to write, as opposed to writing it first. This will allow us to offer feedback, and thereby increase the odds of the material appearing in the Source.

— If possible, please send a resume or CV that outlines other publications and articles you have written.

— The majority of Source articles are commissioned in advance, meaning that we accept relatively few unsolicited manuscripts. This is not to discourage you, but simply to be clear about the process by which we work.

— We accept submissions on a rolling basis. However, the Source's editorial calendar is typically set up to two months in advance, a fact worth keeping in mind given the especially time-sensitive nature of some articles.

— Due to time constraints, we cannot respond to all inquiries. We will be sure to contact you if we would like to pursue an idea with you.

— We do not have fact checkers, and rely on authors to ensure the veracity of their statements.

— Our editing is "extensive" in the sense that various changes may be necessary to make submissions compatible with the Source's style and content requirements.

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2. Who is the target audience of the Source?

The Source serves a well-informed, international audience. Our resources are primarily designed to meet the needs of policymakers, journalists, researchers, educators, and NGO staff members, but members of the general public should also find them valuable.

Not all of our readers are experts on the topic about which you are writing, or are familiar with policy or geographic contexts. Therefore, it is important to present both data and analysis in an accessible fashion. Please avoid extended arguments, academic language, jargon, advocacy, and excessively technical writing. We are looking for writing that flows well, expresses ideas and policy analysis clearly, and provokes thought among both specialists and non-specialists.

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3. What kinds of articles does the Source publish?

Some of the articles and analyses published on the Source are written in-house, but a large amount of our content is solicited from outside authors. In particular, we welcome proposals and submissions for Country Profiles and Features. Please visit the Source archives for more information and examples of each of these articles.

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4. What are the specific guidelines for draft articles?

The ideal size for submissions varies according to topic, but we are generally looking for between 1,500 and 1,700 words. Please remember that the Source publishes "web-size" articles, not lengthy analyses or academic reports.

At the end of the submission, include a short (50 or fewer words) biography that covers your current position and publishing, career, or educational highlights. Please note that this information is subject to editing.

Submit the material via email, as an attached document in Microsoft Word, to:
source@migrationpolicy.org.

If you are providing tables or graphs, please attach them as a separate document with the underlying data and data source for each figure. Please label the information as "Tables" or "Graphs." Indicate approximately where each table or graph should be placed in the text by the sentence "[Table/Graph x about here]" in brackets and between paragraphs.

Please do not use parenthetical citations, endnotes, or footnotes. Instead, include a bibliography-style list of sources at the end of the article. If at all possible, please use The Chicago Manual of Style for this source list.

The Source Editor will provide additional guidelines as necessary.

Once again, thank you for your interest in writing for the Source. We look forward to hearing from you.