

Statement of interpretation on Article 19§12

In respect of Article 19§12 the Committee considers that the teaching of a migrant worker's mother tongue to his or her children contributes to the preservation of the cultural identity of all the migrants concerned while promoting a psychological and mental balance. The Committee considers that the more that is done to preserve cultural identity as a reference point in the daily lives of migrants and in particular their children, without prejudice to the customs, lifestyle and traditions of the host societies, the more migrants assert themselves firstly as persons having and owing rights and obligations and secondly as active members of society rather than bystanders at odds with their cultural identities. For this reason the Committee is of the view that the States should undertake to promote and facilitate the teaching of the languages most represented among the migrants present on their territories within their school systems or in other contexts such as voluntary associations or non-governmental organisations.