

Migration and Development - Reflection Dinner

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Migration, development and the current
political situation in the Dominican
Republic and Haiti



Migration, development and the current political situation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti
- a case study -

Immigration: an opportunity for development, but...

The immigration of Haitian people could be an opportunity for social, economical and cultural development of both countries, provided that a radical change of the current policy in the Dominican Republic would take place.

Political reality obstructing opportunities

The history of the political reality, practiced by the authorities since the North-American intervention in 1916 as well as the dictatorship of Trujillo from 1930-1961 have deepened the enmity of both nations on numerous occasions.

Violation of human rights by the Dominican Republic

Even though the Dominican Republic has signed the Convention of 1951, constant forced repatriation violating the human rights, as well as violating the right of citizenship of the children of Haitian immigrants, born in the Dominican Republic and inadequate treatment of asylum seekers from Haiti are reported.

A change is necessary to make use of the potential opportunities

With respect to the Haitian migration the Dominican state has violated the internationally ratified agreements and conventions. These implicit policies adopted by the Dominican State must change in order for the relationship between these two nations to lead to an enduring development and a peaceful cohabitation on the island.

The role of the international community: promoting democracy in Haiti and intercultural cohabitation in the Dominican Republic

The international community plays a big part in this process: by promoting the democratic structures and economic development of Haiti and helping the Dominican government to promote an intercultural cohabitation within the country as well as a more amicable relationship between both countries.