

ONLINE  
COURSE



8 FEBRUARY - 15 MARCH 2022

# IMLI COURSE ON SEAFARERS' RIGHTS



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IMO International Maritime Law  
Institute

OVER 30 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

# SYNOPSIS

*Labour at sea is deemed unique owing to its specific features and the environment in which it takes place. Seafarers, by the nature of their employment, are an isolated international occupational group of workers who face prolonged absence from their homes, resulting in important social and legal consequences. Unfortunately, since the development of the maritime industry, seafarers' fundamental rights have not always been considered a priority, thereby often not respected by shipowners.*

*Therefore, it was deemed necessary to adopt international rules to make special provisions for seafarers' rights protection and to ensure effective implementation of their provisions through the cooperation of the international community. The latest of these efforts is the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC), as amended. The Convention aims to ensure comprehensive worldwide protection of the rights of seafarers and establish a level playing field for countries and shipowners committed to providing decent working and living conditions for seafarers, protecting them from unfair competition on the part of substandard ships.*

*In addition to the already precarious situation of seafarers, the COVID-19 pandemic has put this group of persons in a more perilous condition. Travel restrictions mean that some seafarers cannot leave their ships, be repatriated home, or even get urgent medical assistance. Other seafarers have seen their contracts unilaterally terminated or have been quarantined on board ships for more than 14 days, without getting paid.*

*As of December 2020, an estimate of 400,000 seafarers are currently stranded on ships beyond the end of their original contracts and unable to be repatriated, due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. A similar number of seafarers are stuck at home, unable to join ships and provide for their families.*

*In this regard, the IMO established the Seafarer Crisis Action Team (SCAT) to help resolve individual cases, often working alongside other organizations like the ILO, the ITF and the ICS. This crew change crisis and the importance of the work of seafarers has heightened to the extent that IMO's World Maritime Theme 2021 will be "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future".*

*IMLI has been in the vanguard in raising awareness on the importance of maritime labour law standards. Indeed, the IMLI Course on Seafarers' Rights reiterates the Institute's commitment to the protection of seafarers in line with the international efforts spearheaded by the IMO and ILO.*

*The Course will address many aspects of maritime labour law, including the characteristics of international maritime labour law, the functions of ILO, IMO, ITF and other organizations committed to the protection of seafarers' rights, the different international instruments dealing with seafarers, their rights and duties, with particular emphasis on the MLC. The Course will guide participants to the practical application of the MLC, including its amendments, and the efforts being made to limit the effect of the pandemic on seafarers worldwide.*

# LECTURES AND SPEAKERS

## **Introductory Address**

Professor David Attard (*Director, IMLI*)

## **Inaugural Address**

Ms. Martha E. Newton (*ILO's Deputy Director-General for Policy*)

## **International Maritime Labour Law**

Ms. Ramat Jalloh (*Lecturer, IMLI*)

## **Seafarers' Rights under the MLC**

Mr. Douglas Stevenson (*Former Director, Center for Seafarers' Rights at Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey*)

## **COVID-19 Crisis: The Role of the ITF Seafarers' Trust in Providing Relief for Seafarers**

Ms. Katie Higginbottom (*Head of the ITF Seafarers' Trust*)

## **The Contribution of ITF to the Work of IMO for the Protection of Seafarers**

Mr. Branko Berlan (*ITF Accredited Representative to the IMO*)

## **The Role of the ITF Contact Person in Assisting Stranded Seafarers**

Mr. Paul Falzon (*ITF Contact General Workers Union - Malta*)

## **The Role of Port States in Upholding Maritime Labour Standards**

Professor Laura Carballo Piñeiro (*Professor, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations, University of Vigo*)

## **Maritime Labour Standards: COVID-19 Challenges for Port States**

Professor Laura Carballo Piñeiro (*Professor, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations, University of Vigo*)

# WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

*The Course is addressed to persons directly involved with maritime labour law issues. It will be particularly beneficial to policy makers and legal drafters, as well as maritime administrations' and port authorities' officers. The Course will also be of benefit to private practitioners who handle seafarers' rights infringements and any other person who advocates for the upholding of seafarers' rights.*

*The Course will be delivered online. Candidates who attend at least 80 per cent of the lectures will be eligible for a Certificate of Attendance.*



# TUITION FEE

€ 1,000

*To apply, please contact by not later than 4 February 2022  
ramat.jalloh@imli.org.*

*Bearing in mind that eminent personalities from all over the world deliver lectures in the Institute's courses, candidates applying to a course shall be flexible as the dates of delivery may be subject to change. The Institute reserves the right to make changes to the programme.*

**For more information on the Institute and its programmes and courses visit [www.imli.org](http://www.imli.org).**

