

## The Struggles of a Refugee in a Camp

### Introduction

Ariel Dorfman, Chilean-American novelist, once said, “We live in an age of the refugee, the age of exile”<sup>1</sup>. The latest figures estimate there are around 21.3 million refugees worldwide and about 65.3 million people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes<sup>2</sup>. This number has risen greatly in recent decades due to the growing conflicts in the Middle East such as the Syrian Civil War and the struggles in Palestine. Out of the world’s population of refugees, around 54% come from three main countries: Somalia, Afghanistan, and Syria. With regard to resettlement, it has been a worldwide effort, but unfortunately, the burden has fallen heavily on the Middle East and African countries. The breakdown of the regions hosting displaced peoples is as follows: 12% in the Americas, 6% in Europe, 29% in Africa, 14% in Asia and the Pacific, and 39% in the Middle East and North Africa<sup>3</sup>. With these facts, one can conclude that the largest amounts of refugee camps are located in Africa and the Middle East. Men, women, and children who resettle in refugee camps face physical and mental abuse, insufficient medical and educational resources, among many other poor living conditions in addition to several difficulties in the resettlement process.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dorfman, Ariel. "Refugee Camp Quotes."

<sup>2</sup> "Figures at a Glance." UNHCR News.

<sup>3</sup> "Figures at a Glance." UNHCR News.

## Why Refugee Rights are Important to Human Rights

Before learning about the conditions within refugee camps and how the resettlement program functions, it is important to put the situation of refugees in the context of human rights. Two important human rights that directly relate to refugees are the right to movement and the right to asylum. Both of these rights come into direct conflict with state sovereignty, which creates a tension between states and international organization like the United Nations promoting human rights<sup>4</sup>. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 13 gives the right to movement two different descriptions: (1), “everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state”<sup>5</sup> and (2), “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”<sup>6</sup>. The second right, the right to asylum, is also given two descriptions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 14 defines the right to asylum as (1) “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution” and (2) “this right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations”<sup>7</sup>.

The first parts of the definitions are important to focus on in regards to the tension between human rights and state sovereignty. State sovereignty is defined as “the ability of the state to be independent and have autonomy and control over itself and its decisions”<sup>8</sup>. Within the right to movement, the tension starts when the refugees are forced to move to a different state, but this movement is seen as a violation of state sovereignty. People

---

<sup>4</sup> DeLaet, Debra L.

<sup>5</sup> "Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

<sup>6</sup> "Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

<sup>7</sup> "Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

<sup>8</sup> "What Does State Sovereignty Mean? | ENotes."

have the right to flee from situations of persecution and danger. However, sometimes there are restrictions from the states to which they are fleeing or even restrictions from the state they are trying to leave. With this right being taken away, the United Nations and other international organizations try to promote human rights or call out a state for violating rights, creating tension. As one can see, state sovereignty causes tension because there are other organizations and people trying to tell the state how to manage its affairs. The right to asylum is another area where state sovereignty is tested. In many instances with refugees, organizations like the United Nations or the European Union try to pressure states into providing much needed asylum for refugees. The tension is due to the fact that the refugees have a right to live in safety within an asylum state, but the state also has the right to protect its borders and choose who enters. Now that there is an understanding about how refugee rights directly tie into the tension between human rights and state sovereignty, the discussion can transition to a more in depth look at the issues refugees face.

### **Background Information on Refugee Camps**

Since there are millions of families fleeing their countries and not many options open right away for resettlement, many of these families end up in refugee camps. More often than not, the conditions in these camps are horrible and frequently inhumane. These camps are meant to be temporary solutions, a place to stay until the families can be resettled, but it is becoming more common for the stay to extend longer than ever imagined, reaching up to months or in some cases even years. Camps are usually located

on the edge of cities or towns and, hopefully, away from the borders of the war zones<sup>9</sup>. Often times, the size of the camp varies on the region and the geographical placement. For example, the refugee camps in Greece are reporting numbers close to 200,000 refugees due to it being a geographical hotspot. Housing within these camps is usually tents, which are made from local materials like wood, metal, or plastic. The amount of food and water depends on the location of the camp and the number of people within the camp. In regards to food, rationing in camps often leads to malnourishment, especially in children. Some of the camps are well provided with healthcare and sanitary latrines, but, unfortunately, a majority of the camps lack the resources needed to function due to their sheer size. Finally, one of the biggest aspects where the camps may be lacking, for children in particular, is in the area of education. Scholars believe that it is important for the children to have a sense of normalcy within the camps, especially if it is more of a permanent solution than one would like<sup>10</sup>. There are many positives in offering curriculum within refugee camps, but one sticks out more than the rest and that is providing the children with a sense of purpose or meaning. By going to school, the child gets into a structured program that will help them combat the depression and shock that accompanies fleeing their home<sup>11</sup>.

### **Women and Children: Vulnerability**

Within refugee camps, almost half of the refugee population is women, and over half of the population is under the age of 18<sup>12</sup>. These demographics are the most

---

<sup>9</sup> Global Issues. *Life in a Refugee Camp*

<sup>10</sup> Global Issues. *Life in a Refugee Camp*

<sup>11</sup> Global Issues. *Life in a Refugee Camp*

<sup>12</sup> De Bruijn, Bart. "Human Development Research Paper 2009/25 The Living ..." (pg. 10)

vulnerable in a majority of Middle Eastern cultures, and that vulnerability transfers over to their lives in the camps. In these camps, women without a male present like a husband or father, “have an increased risks of sexual harassment.”<sup>13</sup> There is a large amount of gender-based violence that occurs within refugee camps due to the inability to effectively monitor all of the situations that occur. Another aspect that renders women vulnerable within camps is the lack of necessary healthcare and reproductive clinics. For children, their vulnerability stems from fleeing or growing up in areas of conflict. Many of these children are robbed of a normal childhood and the ability to live a carefree life. Several are victims of malnutrition, disease, or physical or emotional trauma due to spending their developmental years in a refugee camp.

### **Women’s Rights Within Camps**

“Refugee women have the right to live free from the constant threat of violence and exploitation” and providing reproductive services give them a chance to “rebuild their lives”<sup>14</sup>. Unfortunately, this is a right that is often violated. Women are more often than not in constant fear of sexual violence, rape, physical violence, as well as domestic violence within refugee camps. As previously mentioned a majority of these offenses occur against women due to the lack of protection or security in the camps. Nahla, a refugee from Aleppo living at an EKO Gas Station site, stated, “in Syria we were afraid of men if we left our house. Here we are afraid of men if we leave our tent”<sup>15</sup>. There are also high numbers of reported incidents of young women who are being exploited for

---

<sup>13</sup> De Bruijn, Bart. (pg.17)

<sup>14</sup> Partivit, Tanitra. "Gender-Based Violence."

<sup>15</sup> Women's Refugee Commission. *EU-Turkey Agreement Failing Refugee Women and Girls*. (pg. 16)

prostitution<sup>16</sup>. These women have the fundamental right to feel safe and not under constant oppression from the men in their society or in the camps.

Another human right all women have, including women in refugee camps, is a right to adequate reproductive care. To take a look at one specific example of the lack of reproductive healthcare for women, we can look at women in camps in Greece. It is estimated that around 10% of the women in Greece are pregnant but lack the neonatal and postpartum services they need<sup>17</sup>. These women often do not know where they are going to give birth or where they are going to get the resources to care for their newborns<sup>18</sup>. Sexual and reproductive care for younger women and adolescents is yet another area where resources are lacking. Many women understand that they may be in camps for months and do not want to become pregnant in such an unstable environment. A problem with this is the lack of family planning that is provided for these women<sup>19</sup>. “Refugee women and girls are in urgent need of protection as they seek safety in Turkey, Greece, and in destination countries in Western Europe”<sup>20</sup>. As stated above, large amounts of the protection these women deserve is not being provided and has contributed to the status of vulnerability for women in these camps.

Now, just hearing all the negatives about how these women live is not the only story. It is important to highlight the improvements and steps that have been made to help better the care that these refugee women receive. To look into the improvements or the steps taken to improve the system, we can look at one specific case: Syrian women in Lebanon and Jordan. In Lebanon, the healthcare system is strained due to the influx of

---

<sup>16</sup> Women's Refugee Commission. (pg. 16)

<sup>17</sup> Women's Refugee Commission. (pg. 18)

<sup>18</sup> Women's Refugee Commission. (pg. 19)

<sup>19</sup> Women's Refugee Commission. (pg. 19)

<sup>20</sup> Women's Refugee Commission. (pg. 29)

refugees in general, not just women. It has been recorded that “close to 100 babies are delivered each month”, but this number is said to be lower than the actual number<sup>21</sup>.

There are high numbers of Syrian women in Lebanon that will only visit a gynecologist if they are pregnant and do not seek extra care due to the high out-of-pocket costs<sup>22</sup>.

Lebanon has stepped up and now has 24 mobile clinics for refugees who no longer live in camps<sup>23</sup>. For the refugees in camps, basic health care is provided by the UNHCR and Ministry of Health<sup>24</sup>.

Another example of strides being made to provide reproductive care for women is Jordan. “Similar to Lebanon... Syrians in Jordan are straining the Jordanian health care system. In Jordan, refugees access health care services within the camp<sup>25</sup>. However, if their needs are greater than the camp clinic can handle they are referred to the health systems in Jordan. Jordan and the UNHCR created a system where 100% of the cost is provided for refugees that are referred from the camp. However, if a refugee is not living within a camp, they are required to pay for the health care just like other Jordanian citizens<sup>26</sup>. One giant step the Za’atari camp in Jordan has made is the establishment of a reproductive health clinic with a female gynecologist<sup>27</sup>. Syrian women are generally more likely to visit a gynecologist if the doctor is female. This clinic “sees 200 women a week, and there is a great need to expand the services to reach more women”<sup>28</sup>. Improvements

---

<sup>21</sup> Samari, Goleen. "The Response to Syrian Refugee Women's Health Needs in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan and Recommendations for Improved Practice."

<sup>22</sup> Samari, Goleen.

<sup>23</sup> Samari, Goleen.

<sup>24</sup> Samari, Goleen.

<sup>25</sup> Samari, Goleen.

<sup>26</sup> Samari, Goleen.

<sup>27</sup> Samari, Goleen.

<sup>28</sup> Samari, Goleen.

in women's health have increased due to the fact that refugee camp health care systems have become a safer environment for these frightened women.

### **Educational Deficit for Children in Camps**

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"<sup>29</sup>. A decent education is a right to which every child is entitled, but children are often robbed of this right due to conflict or the situation of their upbringing. Around one third of the Syrian refugee children, about 80,000, "did not receive a formal education last year"<sup>30</sup>. As was mentioned earlier, having the opportunity to go to school within the camp provides a sense of normalcy that allows the child endeavor to look forward to some sort of future after their life in the camp passes. In the area of education, once again the focus will be on the educational system in the refugee camps in Jordan.

One camp in specific that has been studied, Za'atari refugee camp has been studied in for their educational system. There are several difficulties that accompany trying to establish an educational system in refugee camps. For example, finding teachers who are trained and willing to teach in a refugee camp, as well understanding how to teach children who show obvious signs of trauma<sup>31</sup>. Jordan has opened accredited public schools for Syrians living in refugee camps, the one in Za'atari was opened in 2012<sup>32</sup>. The Zaatari region has created 9 formal schools in 2016; these schools have room for a total of 25,000 students. The problem here is the fact that there are around 30,000 school-

---

<sup>29</sup> Mandela, Nelson. "Education Quotes." BrainyQuote

<sup>30</sup> Human Rights Watch. "'We're Afraid for Their Future'"

<sup>31</sup> Human Rights Watch.

<sup>32</sup> Human Rights Watch.



aged children in Zaatari. The UNHCR reported in 2016 that there were about 20,771 children enrolled at UNHCR schools in Zaatari<sup>33</sup>.

There are several barriers to a decent education within the refugee camps. First off, the curriculum taught in the refugee camps is modified Jordanian curriculum and is usually taught by untrained teachers. Another giant barrier to the children getting a decent education is overcrowded classrooms. Teachers at the camps report that sometimes there will be close to 50 students of varied ages making it “impossible to reach each child at the appropriate level of instruction”<sup>34</sup>. The final hindrance to children’s access to education is their mental state coming into camp education. Due to the situations and experiences these children have been through, they are bound to have mental or psychological trauma. This may inhibit their ability to effectively learn in the classes they attend. The unfortunate effect of growing up in an area of conflict is it causes psychological or mental trauma that affects these children in all aspects of their lives, not just education.

### **Mental Health Effects on Refugee Children**

In “Review of Child and Adolescent Refugee Mental Health” there are three stages of refugee experiences: preflight, flight, and resettlement<sup>35</sup>. The stage where there is temporary time spent in refugee camps is the flight stage. “Children born in this phase endure important stages of psychological development amid turbulence” usually

---

<sup>33</sup> Human Rights Watch.

<sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch.

<sup>35</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. "Review of Child and Adolescent Refugee Mental Health."

contributing to mental health issues later in life<sup>36</sup>. There are definite stressors that affect refugee children under the umbrella of flight stress: separation from caregivers, refugee camps, and the resettlement process<sup>37</sup>. It is not uncommon for children to be separated from their caregivers or guardians during the flight stage. Many times the separation occurs by accident, but nonetheless leaves the child/children to continue on without adult supervision. This experience often causes “behavior problems and emotional distress” in younger children<sup>38</sup>.

“Refugee camps are ‘total institutions,’ places where... the inhabitants are depersonalized and people become numbers without names”<sup>39</sup>. If one were to take this definition as completely serious and applicable to every refugee camp, then no wonder thousands of children are diagnosed with mental disorders after they leave refugee camps. In refugee camps, there are bound to be traumatic experiences; there is no escaping it. Some specific traumatic events children may witness are: acts of violence, attempted suicides, or separation from family members<sup>40</sup>. Any one of these things alone would cause emotional trauma, but there are many instances where these children experience one or more of these traumatic experiences. The grim feeling that there is no hope or light at the end of the tunnel is a terrifying reality than many refugees face after months in a refugee camp.

The last major mental stressor on refugee children is the resettlement process. The resettlement process can be extremely stressful for adults, so it is easy to imagine just how traumatic it could be for a young child or an adolescent. The hope of a new country

---

<sup>36</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 25)

<sup>37</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 26-27)

<sup>38</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 26)

<sup>39</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 26-27)

<sup>40</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 27)

and a fresh start is much-needed in refugee situations, but the split identity forced on refugees can lead to great confusion. For example, a child may be put under great stress when they arrive to a new country to conform to the culture of their host country<sup>41</sup>. It is extremely easy for refugee children to feel isolated in their host country because they are the odd one out<sup>42</sup>. Assimilation into a new culture is difficult for anyone, but already being in a vulnerable state, resettlement is an added stressor to a child who really was forced out of his or her childhood.

### **The Conditions of Men in Camps**

When thinking about the conditions of refugees in different camps around the world, one does not normally think about the conditions of the refugee men. Men in refugee camps are usually seen as “the demographic cohort best able to self-protect, self-sustain and negotiate the complexities of displacement unaided”<sup>43</sup>. It is easy to simply assume the men in these camps are fine and worry instead about the more vulnerable populations: women and children. However, recent studies show the young men in these camps are “falling through the cracks of the humanitarian aid system”<sup>44</sup>. A recent report by the International Rescue Committee highlighted the fact that 53% of unmarried and separated men are not even registered with the UNHCR. Since this is the case, they are unable to get many of benefits that come with UNHCR registration<sup>45</sup>. There are many benefits that these men should be receiving, but most importantly, they lack food aid. It is

---

<sup>41</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 27)

<sup>42</sup> Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. (pg. 27)

<sup>43</sup> Keating, Joshua. "Why So Many of Europe's Refugees Are Single Men."

<sup>44</sup> Keating, Joshua.

<sup>45</sup> Keating, Joshua.

problematic for these men; it has led to the younger men feeling as if they do not deserve these benefits.

Another big problem refugee men face is that they are more prone to be seen as violent or threatening. Since these men are seen as potential threats, they are often targeted in raids or more frequently stopped at border checkpoints<sup>46</sup>. There are many men who fear attempting to cross borders, because of potential violence. It is also common for refugee men to not have many options during resettlement. For example, single Syrian men are not eligible for resettlement in Canada under Trudeau's program<sup>47</sup>. Since this is the case, men will often look to Europe for resettlement or they will try to return to their home countries. None of these options are ideal and often lead to hopelessness throughout men within refugee camps.

### **Positive Works of Men Within Camps**

As previously discussed in the beginning of the paper, violence against women is currently one of the largest problems in refugee camps. Plan International has started a campaign that is working with the men in refugee camps in order to protect their fellow refugee women from any kind of violence<sup>48</sup>. The goal is to help men in refugee camps to protect women and dissolve domestic disputes peacefully. Plan International has been a partner for protection with the UNHCR since 2014<sup>49</sup>. This program informs women about the dangers of violence within the camp and also provides sanitary supplies.

---

<sup>46</sup> Keating, Joshua.

<sup>47</sup> Keating, Joshua.

<sup>48</sup> "Men Prevent Violence Against Women in Refugee Camps."

<sup>49</sup> "Men Prevent Violence Against Women in Refugee Camps."

Plan International has also created programs and raised awareness for the protection of children. Plan International strives to protect children because “children are the most vulnerable and affected during disasters”<sup>50</sup>. The goal is to be equipped for both violence prevention and response. In regards to what is done for children, juice and biscuits are given to children who are waiting for their parents who are in lines. These plans are executed with help from the organization through the men of the camps. A major aspect of this project is the creation of safe places for children. These safe places allow children to receive the care they need, while still having places to learn and play<sup>51</sup>.

### **Resettlement in the United States**

Sometimes it is easy to assume the system of resettlement is equal for everyone that goes through it. However, this is not the case by any means, there is inequality in both the people who are being resettled as well as inequality in the countries of resettlement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees decides if a person is considered a refugee and then moves forward to find a safe place for them to be resettled<sup>52</sup>. In the United States, the resettlement program is a lot more detailed than in other countries. The UNHCR refers refugees for resettlement in the United States and then the United States is in charge of accepting the recommended refugees. Resettlement applicants in the United States are processed by the Resettlement Support Committee (RSC), which is funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration<sup>53</sup>.

---

<sup>50</sup> "Plan International Supporting Burundian Refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania."

<sup>51</sup> "Plan International Supporting Burundian Refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania."

<sup>52</sup> "Refugee Admissions." U.S. Department of State

<sup>53</sup> "U.S. Refugee Admissions Program." U.S. Department of State

The RSC's goal is to collect as much information about the applicants as possible. This information is then handed over to officers from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) who then conduct in person interviews with the applicants. The interview is the last step before the USCIS decides whether or not to approve the refugee for resettlement in the United States<sup>54</sup>. Refugees that gain approval to come to the U.S. are given health screening to provide them with the any care they require. If refugees have any kind of contagious disease they are not permitted to come to the U.S. and are then rejected for resettlement. Refugees that are accepted to resettle in the U.S. are given money from sponsor organizations and are given the United States cultural orientation before or upon arrival. The time that usually passes between the UNHCR recommendation and the actual arrival to the United States can be as much as two years in some cases<sup>55</sup>. This is problematic because that is two more years these people are suffering in refugee camps. With the time for the United States to process added to the time the UNHCR took in screening before their recommendation, it is easy for refugees to be waiting for up to five years before being resettled into a safe country<sup>56</sup>.

### **Resettlement of Refugees in the U.S. Before 9/11**

In light of the 9/11 attacks, the resettlement program in the United States was put under investigation in order to protect American citizens. These attacks created a large amount of fear around the subject of letting refugees, especially from the Middle East, into the United States. The main concern of the United States government was the

---

<sup>54</sup> "U.S. Refugee Admissions Program."

<sup>55</sup> "U.S. Refugee Admissions Program."

<sup>56</sup> "U.S. Refugee Admissions Program."

protection of its people from terrorist attacks happening through unconventional methods<sup>57</sup>. In response to the attacks, the United States froze the admission of refugees into the United States for two months and began an extensive review of the resettlement system. There was a large increase in security requirements added to the resettlement system: including fingerprinting before and after arriving in the United States as well as the requirement of running information through several databases<sup>58</sup>.

During the year 2002, the United States let in 27,000 of the possible 70,000 refugees; this was accomplished through a lot of difficulty. Since 2001, a conflict has arisen in the United States between the responsibility to protect their citizens and their desire to provide a safe home for oppressed people. As stated by Arthur E. Dewey, Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration after 9/11 the United States was confident that “[the U.S.] can build an even stronger and, at the same time, more diverse program” for resettlement<sup>59</sup>. The United States has left a majority of these extra security measures in place since 9/11, and they have been successful in their goal of keeping the United States safe.

## **European Country Resettlement**

The resettlement system in Europe is implemented through the European Union, which currently has 14 member states that are annually implementing resettlement programs<sup>60</sup>. There are several European countries that have also implemented Protected Entry Procedures, which allow non-nationals to be granted asylum admission into a

---

<sup>57</sup> Dewey, Arthur E. "Immigration After 9/11: The View From the United States."

<sup>58</sup> Dewey, Arthur E.

<sup>59</sup> Dewey, Arthur E.

<sup>60</sup> "EU Resettlement Network." Introduction to Resettlement in Europe | European Resettlement Network

country that is outside their territory<sup>61</sup>. In 2014, the European countries resettled approximately 7,525 refugees, and the United States resettled 47, 875 refugees with help from the UNHCR. The European countries have been under stress to resettle more refugees as the Syrian war continues to displace millions of people. The European Union has implemented resettlement quotas, and these quotas are in place to try and keep countries responsible for the resettlement of refugees.

There are several types of refugees who are need of resettlement within Europe, but right now the highest priority are the Syrian refugees. This has lead to a Syrian focused resettlement discussion that has helped give homes to thousands of refugees. The European Union states have received 1,177,914 asylum applications between 2011 and 2016<sup>62</sup>. Germany alone has received close to half a million, which has caused a strain on resources and created tension between the refugees and the citizens of Germany. As the Syrian crisis continues to amplify, the demand for states to take in more and more refugees has created tension within the EU itself<sup>63</sup>.

### **European Resettlement with Increased Border Security**

In the recent years there has been an increase in terrorism around the world, causing heightened security at the borders of European states. Post 9/11 there was a heightening in security all around the world, not just the United States. In the case of the United States, it is a lot easier to monitor the borders because it is surrounded by water on two sides. However, this is not the case in Europe due to the close proximity of the European states. Since there is a lot of travel on a daily basis between European states,

---

<sup>61</sup> "EU Resettlement Network."

<sup>62</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

<sup>63</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



border security is extremely difficult, but it is also extremely necessary. Due to the increase in Syrian refugees entering through Greece the EU has called for a new “European and Coast Guard”<sup>64</sup>. This new EU guard threatened the state’s sovereignty by giving the EU guards the power to step in and take over for the states border guards<sup>65</sup>. The demand for EU burden sharing has increased as refugees continue to come into the European states: France, Italy, Greece, and Germany are the top supports of EU burden sharing policies<sup>66</sup>.

The reason behind the increased border security is the fight against terrorism. Tighter surveillance of the 26 European Union states’ borders is part of the EU’s “uncompromising fight against terrorism”<sup>67</sup>. In 2015, close to one million refugees entered the EU requiring a more efficient and reliable border control<sup>68</sup>. The main question now is: which of the European states’ borders should be secured, if not all of them? Greece and Italy have created hotspots in order to process applications and find countries for asylum. The EU has also created the European Asylum Office and other resettlement committees in order to try to increase the efficiency and safety of refugees coming into Europe<sup>69</sup>. The problem the European Union is discovering with implementing a full-time policy for border security is a debate of whether or not it is acceptable to “put the collective security of the EU above the sovereignty of individual member states”<sup>70</sup>. The tension between the protection of refugees and the citizens of EU states and state sovereignty continues to hinder the implementation of policies protecting human rights.

---

<sup>64</sup> Peter, Laurence. "Migrant Crisis: EU Border Security Becomes New Mantra."

<sup>65</sup> Peter, Laurence

<sup>66</sup> Peter, Laurence

<sup>67</sup> Peter, Laurence

<sup>68</sup> Peter, Laurence

<sup>69</sup> Garavoglia, Matteo. "Securing Europe's Borders."

<sup>70</sup> Garavoglia, Matteo.

## **Conclusion**

U.S. Representative for Connecticut Elizabeth Esty said, “We can and must do our part to increase the number of Syrian refugees being resettled into the U.S.”<sup>71</sup>. Even though this statement is geared toward Syrian refugees, it stands true to all refugees from all situations. There is a dire need for the rest of the world to step up and fight for the millions of refugees that are either on the run or have settled in refugee camps. As previously stated, the right to movement and the right to asylum are both fundamental human rights and ones that need to be defended. It is also extremely important to educate oneself about the conditions within refugee camps for men, women, and children. In order to create a safer environment for these refugees we need to be aware of just how bad life in refugee camps is. The women are suffering from inadequate reproductive healthcare and domestic and sexual violence. Children in camps have limited to no education and often suffer from several mental effects from the traumatic things they experience during their time as refugees. For men, they are constantly seen as possible terrorists and are often subject to increased violence due to their gender. However they do have a sense of authority within camps and are using that authority to try to create a safe environment for the women in their camps.

Another aspect that is important to understand when looking at refugee issues is the resettlement system and the ways it is changing and evolving as situations change. There are many refugees in need of resettlement and there are several countries in Europe that have taken a large number of refugees in and are starting to feel a strain. A large problem with the resettlement system and the right to movement is the tension it creates between states and human rights. The states are not against helping those who need help,

---

<sup>71</sup> Esty, Elizabeth. "Refugees Quotes."

but their main priority is the safety of their own citizens. When there is an international organization like the United Nations or the European Union imposing requirements for resettlement the states often feel as though their sovereignty is being threatened. There have been increased security measures and hesitancy in the individual resettlement programs in the United States as well as many European states after the several terrorist attacks that have occurred in the past 15 years. These attacks have created a fear of letting refugees and immigrants into our states, which is not an unreasonable fear. However, these people are suffering and have been forced to leave their homes. There are many things that are being done in order to screen the refugees before resettlement, ensuring not just our safety but also theirs.

In conclusion, there are many things that we, as American citizens can do in order to help the situations of the refugees in several camps around the world. Several ways to help make a difference have been discovered, but the four most practical applications are: donating money, encourage universities to provide scholarships to refugees, advocating or working with grassroots organizations, and finally, donating and collecting supplies<sup>727374</sup>. These are all little things that can be done to help improve the life of a refugee. There are many people who are suffering, and it is our duty try and make that suffering at least a little more bearable. It is easy to think of human rights problems as far-off and something we are not able to help fix. However, as this paper clearly states, that is not the case. The more we educate ourselves and the people around us, the more hope there is for people who are unwillingly given the label of “refugee”. If our right to

---

<sup>72</sup> Richards, Victoria. "5 Practical Ways You Can Help Refugees Trying to Find Safety in Europe."

<sup>73</sup> Fleming, Melissa. "8 Practical Ways to Help Refugees."

<sup>74</sup> Miller, Paul David. "5 Ways Americans Could Really Help Syria's Refugees."

movement or right to asylum were taken away, we would hope there would be people fighting for us. Why are we the people not fighting for those suffering men, women, and children?

### Bibliography

De Bruijn, Bart. "Human Development Research Paper 2009/25 The Living ..." UNDP PDF. July 2009. Accessed November 2, 2016.

[http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdrp\\_2009\\_25.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdrp_2009_25.pdf).

DeLaet, Debra L. *The Global Struggle for Human Rights: Universal Principles in World Politics*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth, 2006.

Dewey, Arthur E. "Immigration After 9/11: The View From the United States." U.S.

Department of State. April 3, 2003. Accessed December 05, 2016. <https://2001-2009.state.gov/g/prm/rls/2003/37906.htm>.

Dorfman, Ariel. "Refugee Camp Quotes." AZ Quotes. Accessed November 2, 2016.

<http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/refugee-camps.html>.

Esty, Elizabeth. "Refugees Quotes." BrainyQuote. Accessed December 12, 2016.

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/refugees\\_2.html](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/refugees_2.html).

"EU Resettlement Network." Introduction to Resettlement in Europe | European Resettlement Network. Accessed December 05, 2016.

<http://www.resettlement.eu/page/introduction-resettlement-europe>.

"Figures at a Glance." UNHCR News. 2015. Accessed November 02, 2016.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>.

Fleming, Melissa. "8 Practical Ways to Help Refugees." Ideas.ted.com. September 14, 2016. Accessed December 12, 2016. <http://ideas.ted.com/8-practical-ways-to-help-refugees/>.

Garavoglia, Matteo. "Securing Europe's Borders." Foreign Affairs. April 29, 2016. Accessed December 12, 2016. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/2016-04-29/securing-europes-borders>.

Global Issues. *Life in a Refugee Camp*. PDF Factsheet  
[http://www.goethe.de/ins/uy/prj/jug/pro/1\\_int\\_refugee.pdf](http://www.goethe.de/ins/uy/prj/jug/pro/1_int_refugee.pdf)

Human Rights Watch. "'We're Afraid for Their Future'" Human Rights Watch. August 27, 2016. Accessed November 02, 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/08/16/were-afraid-their-future/barriers-education-syrian-refugee-children-jordan>.

Keating, Joshua. "Why So Many of Europe's Refugees Are Single Men." Slate Magazine. January 21, 2016. Accessed December 04, 2016. [http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_slatest/2016/01/21/young\\_single\\_refugee\\_men\\_are\\_falling\\_through\\_the\\_cracks.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/01/21/young_single_refugee_men_are_falling_through_the_cracks.html).

Lustig, Stuart L., and Maryam Kia-Keating, et al. "Review of Child and Adolescent Refugee Mental Health." Science Direct. January 2004. Accessed November 2, 2016. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0890856709611254>.

Mandela, Nelson. "Education Quotes." BrainyQuote. Accessed November 02, 2016. [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic\\_education.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_education.html).

"Men Prevent Violence Against Women in Refugee Camps." Plan International.

September 29, 2016. Accessed December 4, 2016. <https://plan-international.org/video/men-prevent-violence-against-women-refugee-camps#>.

Miller, Paul David. "5 Ways Americans Could Really Help Syria's Refugees." The Federalist. November 24, 2015. Accessed December 12, 2016. <http://thefederalist.com/2015/11/24/5-ways-americans-could-really-help-syrias-refugees/>.

Partivit, Tanitra. "Gender-Based Violence." Women's Refugee Commission -. Accessed November 02, 2016. <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/gbv>.

Peter, Laurence. "Migrant Crisis: EU Border Security Becomes New Mantra." BBC News. December 19, 2015. Accessed December 12, 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35140794>.

"Plan International Supporting Burundian Refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania." Plan International. June 4, 2015. Accessed December 4, 2016. <https://plan-international.org/press-releases/plan-international-supporting-burundian-refugees-rwanda-and-tanzania>.

"Refugee Admissions." U.S. Department of State. Accessed December 04, 2016. <https://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/>.

Richards, Victoria. "5 Practical Ways You Can Help Refugees Trying to Find Safety in Europe." The Independent. September 2, 2015. Accessed December 12, 2016. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/5-practical-ways-you-can-help-refugees-trying-to-find-safety-in-europe-10482902.html>.

Samari, Goleen. "The Response to Syrian Refugee Women's Health Needs in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan and Recommendations for Improved Practice." *Humanity In Action*. Accessed November 02, 2016.

<http://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledgebase/583-the-response-to-syrian-refugee-women-s-health-needs-in-lebanon-turkey-and-jordan-and-recommendations-for-improved-practice>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response." *UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response*. Accessed December 11, 2016. <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/asylum.php>.

"Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations. Accessed December 11, 2016. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>.

"U.S. Refugee Admissions Program." U.S. Department of State. Accessed December 04, 2016. <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/admissions/index.htm>.

"What Does State Sovereignty Mean? | ENotes." *Enotes.com*. Accessed December 11, 2016. <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/what-does-mean-by-state-sovereignty-311064>.

Women's Refugee Commission. *EU-Turkey Agreement Failing Refugee Women and Girls*. August 2016. PDF Article