



## Research Digest

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The RRN Research Digest provides a synopsis of recent research on refugee and forced migration issues from entities associated with the RRN and others.

### NEW RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

**Brinham, N. (2025).** [Citizenship and genocide cards: Ids, statelessness, and Rohingya resistance in Myanmar.](#) *Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group*. This open access book draws on Rohingya oral histories and narratives about Myanmar's genocide and ID schemes to critique prevailing international approaches to legal identities and statelessness. By centring the narratives of survivors of state crimes, collected in the aftermath of the 2017 genocidal violence, this book examines the multiple uses of state-issued ID cards and registration documents in producing statelessness and facilitating genocide. In doing so, it challenges some of the international solutions put forward to resolve statelessness. Rohingya narratives disrupt a simple linear understanding of documenting legal identity that marginalises experiences of these processes. The richly layered accounts of the effects of citizenship laws and registration processes on the lives of Rohingya problematise the ways in which international actors have endorsed state ID schemes and by-passed state-led persecution of the group. This book will be valuable for scholars studying global criminology, state crime, development studies, refugee and migration studies, statelessness and nationality, citizenship studies, and genocide studies.

**Carrera, S., Karageorgiou, E., Ovacik, G., & Tan, N. F. (2025).** [Global asylum governance and the European Union's role: Rights and responsibility in the implementation of the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees.](#) *Springer*. This open access book provides a state-of-the-field of the interactions between emerging national asylum governance systems and the 2018 United Nations Global Compact for Refugees (UN GCR). It provides a detailed examination of the relationship and compatibility between asylum governance and refugee protection and human rights, and the responsibilities for states and other implementing actors in cases of human rights violations. This book analyses the characteristics and impacts of existing and emerging asylum governance instruments and their practical implementation in selected countries hosting large communities of refugees

around the world. Particular focus is given to the cases of Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Jordan, Niger, Serbia, South Africa and Turkey.

**Mendenhall, M., Marchais, G., Sayed, Y., & Boothby, N. (2024).** [Education and resilience in crisis: Challenges and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa.](#) **Bristol University Press.** This book provides an important lens for understanding how interlocking humanitarian crises caused by armed conflict, natural disasters, forced displacement and, more recently, a global health pandemic have adversely impacted teaching and learning. It brings together evidence from multiple, diverse research-practice partnerships in seven countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The authors provide a clear account of the key academic, policy and practice questions on education in crisis contexts and consider our capacity to develop just and resilient education systems.

**Cequea, M. M., Schmitt, V. G., Olter-Castillo, A. E., & Melo-Vega-Angeles, O. (2024).** [Migration, human capital, and decent work: Venezuelans in Peru.](#) *Heliyon, 10(21)*. This study explores the human capital, vulnerability and integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Peru, emphasizing their difficulties in obtaining decent work and assimilating as productive members of Peruvian society. The study's findings address a critical gap in the existing literature, revealing that despite high levels of education, many migrants struggle to utilize their skills and knowledge effectively, leading to significant brain waste due to precarious employment conditions and suffering through their exposure to various vulnerabilities. These findings underscore the need for public policies and practices that address the improvement of migrants' and refugees' living conditions and the promotion of Decent Work.

**Khai, T. S. (2024).** [India's refugee policy dilemma and its impact on Myanmar refugees at the India–Myanmar frontier.](#) *Discover Public Health, 21(1)*. Over 3.2 million civilians have been internally displaced in Myanmar due to human rights violations against civilians and indiscriminate attacks perpetrated by the Myanmar military since the coup on 1 February 2021. This situation compelled the Myanmar people to flee both within the country and to neighbouring countries such as India, Thailand, and Malaysia in search of safety and protection. India, as one of Myanmar's neighbouring countries, has received more than 78,731 refugees from Myanmar as of 2023. The investigation draws upon media and governmental reports published from February 2021 onwards. The findings show that the Indian government directed Mizoram and Manipur's state governments to prevent Myanmar's refugees from entering their territories. Nevertheless, the Mizoram State government adopted a welcoming stance towards Myanmar refugees by providing essential support, including food, blankets, education, and healthcare, through collaboration with local NGOs and communities. In contrast, the Manipur State government adopted a more restrictive approach by identifying, arresting, and repatriating Myanmar refugees, aligning with the central government's initial stance. This situation has led Myanmar refugees in Manipur State to live with constant fear of eviction and face the potential for forced repatriation to Myanmar. These contrasting responses reflect the complex interplay of local,

national, and international factors shaping India's refugee policy and practice. This analysis underscores the need for a more comprehensive and consistent national approach to refugee issues, while also considering the unique local contexts of border states.

**Krause, U. (2024).** [Invisibilization of the unwanted others? Feminist, queer, and postcolonial perspectives on the 1951 refugee convention's drafting.](#) *Women's Studies International Forum*, 107, 102979. The 1951 Refugee Convention represents the legal cornerstone of today's global refugee protection, which is supposed to apply to all refugees regardless of their origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation. But did the Convention's drafters have such a complex approach in mind? This paper analyzes the Convention's drafting at the United Nations and the final conference in the late 1940s and early 1950s from feminist, queer, and postcolonial perspectives. The analysis reveals pervasive asymmetries, with western androcentrism inherently shaping the drafting. The western, white, heterosexual man was the standard filter for the powerful decision-maker and the protection subject, whereas women, LGBTQ+ and colonized people were neglected in politics and policy. Their exclusion was not merely a side effect of the political landscape at the time but reflects the reproduction of western androcentric power, which ultimately invisibilized the subaltern Others in the creation of international refugee law.

**Nessa, B. (2024).** [Linking labour market aspirations to perceived discrimination: The case of refugees in Norway.](#) *Revue Européenne Des Migrations Internationales*, 40-n<sup>o</sup>2 et 3, 221–241. This article provides a close look at the possible connection between labour market aspirations and perceptions of discrimination. While research on policy implementation and public measures are plentiful regarding immigrants' labour market integration, less attention has been given to what shapes immigrants' motivation and desires to become part of the labour market. Following the idea that migrants' capacity to exert agency is shaped by given — or perceived — opportunity structures the author examines how discrimination, as a specific structural constraint, influence their capacity to aspire in the labour market. This article draws on ethnographic fieldwork among refugees settling in Norway. The findings indicate discrimination as a salient part of their migration experiences. Based on how they negotiate and resist discrimination, the author coins the terms “aspirational deprivation” and “aspirational deskilling” to capture how the refugees' responses to perceived discrimination shape labour market aspirations.

## **REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS**

**[Access to Birth Registration for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Ethiopia.](#) (2024).** **UNHCR.** This September 2024 protection brief analyzes the challenge of birth registration among refugees and other forcibly displaced populations in Ethiopia. It lays out why birth registration is important in displacement situations, including in Ethiopia. The commendable actions by the Government of Ethiopia to promote birth and other vital events registration for refugees since 2016 are reviewed. The causes of the current birth registration challenges in

different parts of the country are then analyzed. Finally, the brief sets out a series of recommendations for the way forward.

**[After the Darien: Aid and pathways for migrants in Panama and Costa Rica](#)** by **Rachel Schmidtke & Caitlyn Yates. (2024). Refugees International.** The Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama remains one of the most dangerous migration paths in the world and more people are risking their lives to cross it. Migration through the Darien Gap has increased tremendously over the past four years and crossings are likely to continue at a high level. Despite a brief reduction this summer, likely due to the anti-migrant posture of the new Panamanian government and the elections in Venezuela, numbers in the Darien are now increasing again. Repression in the wake of the July 28, 2024 election in Venezuela has already led to an increase in out-migration, which is notable as Venezuelans currently make up the majority of those transiting the Darien. Enforcement measures and rhetoric from the government of Panama may have temporarily deterred migration into Panama, but not for the long-term. Upon exiting the Darien Gap, migrants now face a shrinking humanitarian landscape in Panama and, for non-Venezuelans, the threat of deportation. A relatively new collaboration between Panama and Costa Rica to bus migrants from the former to the latter has increased the speed at which people can move northward and avoids the risks of moving on foot. But it also leaves many without access to humanitarian services until reaching Costa Rica, where the humanitarian response has, in turn, not grown enough to meet the needs.

**[Implementing the new statelessness provisions in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)**. (2024). **European Network on Statelessness.** When the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum was first introduced in September 2020, statelessness was invisible. Following the organization's extensive engagement with the European Parliament, Council, and Commission over the past four years, several provisions aimed at improving the identification and protection of displaced stateless people incorporated in the final Pact instruments. Now the focus is on implementation, and we stand ready to help support and inform this process over the coming months and years. Their latest briefing outlines recommendations to the European Commission, Member States, EU agencies, the European Parliament and Eurostat to ensure that stateless people's rights are respected in EU asylum systems.

**[Out of sight - Human rights violations in Thailand's immigration detention centers](#)**. (2024). **ReliefWeb.** A new report by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Union for Civil Liberty (UCL) provides a glimpse into conditions in Thailand's immigration detention centers (IDCs), which are among the country's most secretive places of detention. The FIDH-UCL report also analyzes Thailand's failure to establish a legal framework and policies on immigration detention that comply with international human rights law and standards. This report makes numerous recommendations to the Thai government, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT), and United Nations (UN) member states aimed at improving conditions in the IDCs and establishing a robust legal framework that conforms to international human rights law and standards, including for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants in vulnerable situations.

## NEWS AND BLOG POSTS

[Egypt: New asylum law could badly impact refugee rights](#) by Jennifer Holleis, **November 22, 2024. Deutsche Welle.** Egypt is only one step away from ratifying a new law on asylum seekers that will shift responsibility from the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) to Egypt. Once in place, Egypt will have its own legal framework to address the growing number of refugees in the country and to decide if an asylum request is approved or rejected. As the government plans to implement the law as soon as possible, it is most likely that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi will give his final approval for the draft law on "regulating foreigners' asylum in Egypt" within the next days. The Egyptian government stated in November that the number of refugees from Sudan, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea and Gaza had reached around 9 million. However, up until October, only around 800,000 were registered with the UNHCR and thus entitled to aid, healthcare and education. The vast majority live in Egypt without official refugee status and rely on their own savings, communal help, relatives, volunteers or donations.

[Is Australia's migration system ready for rising numbers of climate refugees?](#) by Gareth Hutchens, **November 16, 2024. ABC News.** It didn't get much notice, but it's a sign of something serious. Three months ago, one of Australia's newest treaties came into force, called the Australia-Tuvalu "Falepili Union" treaty. Tuvalu is a tiny Pacific nation, with a population of roughly 11,200, that sits north of Fiji and south-east of Nauru. Under the terms of the agreement, Australia is now obligated to help Tuvalu when it calls for help to respond to "the devastating impacts of climate change." Both countries are working on creating a special mobility pathway that will see Australia offering up to 280 Tuvaluans each year (2.5 per cent of its population) the choice to live, work or study in Australia, temporarily or permanently. It will help Tuvaluans escape the impacts of rising sea levels by migrating here. A king tide in Tuvalu in February this year, followed by another one in March, raised questions for Tuvaluans about how long they can keep living in their country. They should have raised questions for Australians, too. Australia's future lies in the Indo-Pacific. Many of our neighbours in the region will bear the brunt of climate change. How will our immigration system adjust to this reality in coming decades?

[The US refugee admissions program: What's at stake in the election](#), **October 30, 2024. Centre for Migration Studies.** The US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) reached a significant milestone on September 30, when the US State Department, led by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), announced the resettlement of 100,034 refugees for fiscal year 2024, more in one year than the Trump administration resettled during its four-year term. While the number fell short of the 125,000 ceiling set by the Biden administration for FY 2024, it is the largest number of refugees resettled since FY 1995, nearly three decades. Since its inception, more than 3 million refugees have been welcomed to the country and successfully resettled, literally saving their lives from their persecutors. The program is one of the most secure in the country, as refugees are required to go through

numerous multi-agency background checks before being approved for entry. Despite these achievements—and based on his first-term record—a second Donald Trump term represents an existential threat to the program, with the progress made during the Biden administration, not to mention the program itself, at risk.

**[Tamils stranded on Diego Garcia for three years allowed to enter UK](#) by Diane Taylor, November 4, 2024. The Guardian.** Dozens of Tamils stranded on the remote Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia for more than three years are to be airlifted to the UK after the government dropped its opposition to their case, the high court has heard. The 64 people, including 16 children, have been stranded on the island since October 2021, when a fishing boat they were using to flee persecution in Sri Lanka got into difficulties. The commissioner on the British Indian Ocean Territory argued that they could be lawfully returned to Sri Lanka, but the refugees fought the decision in the courts. The majority of the group are still on the island but eight have been sent to Rwanda for medical treatment unavailable on Diego Garcia. Those in Rwanda are to be brought to the UK as well. The only exceptions the UK government has made relate to three Tamils who have criminal convictions. Their fate is unclear.

**[Women's rights groups fear FGM is rife among Sudanese refugees in Chad](#) by Zeinab Mohammed Salih, November 18, 2024. The Guardian.** Women's rights campaigners have spoken of their concern over the spread of female genital mutilation among Sudanese refugees in camps across the border in Chad. Both countries have outlawed the practice but it continues in secret. The UN children's agency, Unicef, says that about 87% of Sudanese women aged 14-49 have been cut – one of the highest rates in the world. In Chad, the figure is 34.1%, though rates are higher in the south and east, which is where the camps for Sudanese people have been set up.

## **EVENTS, RESOURCES, DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

**[70 years on - the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless people.](#) Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, University of Melbourne.** The year 2024 marks the 70th anniversary (on 28 September) of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954 Convention). To commemorate this occasion, and with a view to encouraging more States to accede to and implement the provisions of the 1954 Convention (and its counterpart, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness), UNHCR together with the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness (PMCS) are proud to present this webinar featuring panelists drawn from Governments, International Organisations, academia, civil society, and those affected by statelessness. The webinar will focus on the history, evolution and continuing relevance of the 1954 Convention to support the identification and protection of stateless persons. The online event will be on December 12, 2024, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM AEDT.

**Conflict, statelessness and state succession: reflections from South Asia and Africa | International Refugee Law Seminar Series, University of London.** The 1947 Partition of India engendered the biggest migration in recorded history, as more than 14 million people were displaced amidst large-scale violence. While this rightly receives considerable scholarly attention, there is little understanding of the 1971 War which ‘completed’ the Partition by severing West and East Pakistan (thereafter Bangladesh). By illuminating this history, this event will not only address the gap in refugee history but also provide important context to contemporary conversations about citizenship, borders, denationalisation, and national identity which continue to dominate much of the political discourse in South Asia today. The impact of state secession on citizenship and statelessness will be further explored through an examination of the independence and secession movements of a range of countries in Africa, and the profound consequences of these processes for the nationality rights of those affected. This in-person event will take place at IALS Council Chamber, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR, on December 5th, 2024, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.

**The 20th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference. (IASFM20).** IASFM20: Forced Displacement in an Urbanizing World cordially invites you to join our conference, which will be held in person on 21-23 January 2025 for the main program, with two pre-conference events on 20 January 2025. The main event of IASFM20 will be held in Yogyakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. The conference is organized by the Resilience Development Initiative Urban Refugee Research Group (RDI UREF) and Universitas Gadjah Mada. This conference invites researchers, individuals with lived experiences related to (forced) migration, policy makers, and practitioners working with (forced) migrants to establish a space for reflection, knowledge exchange, and discussion around forced displacement and urban management in the spirit of GCM, GCR, and NUA to enhance city planning and responses towards forced displacement and to strengthen the network of academics, practitioners, and decision-makers under IASFM to exchange knowledge and experience on international forced displacement in urban context and to filter issues of concern for future collaborative research works, especially in the context of Asia Pacific Region.