



## 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

**Ambrosini, M., D'Amico, M., & Perassi, E. (2025).** [\*Borders, Migrations and Human Rights\*](#). **Ledizioni. Open access.** In an era marked by rising securitarian policies and contested human mobility, *Borders, Migrations, and Human Rights* offers a rigorous and interdisciplinary examination of the complex relationship between state sovereignty, migration, and fundamental rights. Edited by Maurizio Ambrosini, Marilisa D'Amico, and Emilia Perassi, this volume brings together leading scholars to analyze the resurgence of border enforcement as a central political priority, often at the expense of international legal obligations and human dignity. Drawing from sociology, law, history, psychology, and literary studies, the book interrogates the evolving functions of borders—not only as physical demarcations but as sites of legal, political, and social contestation. Contributors explore topics such as the securitization of migration, the constitutional rights of migrants, EU border policies, the criminalization of solidarity, and the narratives of border-crossing in literature and cultural discourse. Through this multi-faceted lens, the volume reveals how contemporary border practices reshape democratic societies, challenge human rights principles, and expose the persistent tensions between national security and universal justice. A product of the CRC “Migrations and Human Rights” initiative at the University of Milan, this book is essential reading for scholars, policymakers, and advocates engaged in the urgent debates on migration governance and human rights in the 21st century.

**Bencheqroun, R. (2025).** [\*Precarious Motherhood: Navigating relationships and support post-migration in the UK\*](#). **UCL Press. Open access.** *Precarious Motherhood* explores the experiences of racially minoritised mothers living with insecure immigration status and financial hardship in London, UK. It exposes the impact of hostile immigration policies and precarity on mothers' interpersonal relationships and access to support. The author draws attention to how mothers manage the constraints they face and enact belonging. She then explores the impact on mothers' couple relationships, friendships, adult kin relationships and

faith-based networks. The book underlines the vital role of personal relationships in providing access to resources and support, but also demonstrates how precariously positioned mothers must carefully navigate relational tensions in their everyday lives. It highlights how social infrastructure facilitates relational practices, helping mothers to sustain their children's wellbeing and their own.

**Abioye, F., & D'Orsi, C. (2025).** [Deportation of aliens from South Africa: State Practise and State power.](#) *Griffith Law Review*, 1–18. Migration has become a global phenomenon that has taken centre stage over the years. With increasing international migration, the powers of states to control access to, and to control those who stay within their territories are also further enhanced. Once South Africa emerged from its apartheid past, it became a destination of choice for people all over Africa. Migrants flocked into the country in huge numbers, almost overwhelming the system. The South African government has responded with a securitised approach to control immigration into its territory, including the increased powers to deport illegal migrants. The power to deport, while an exercise of state sovereignty, must however be exercised in line with international and constitutional safeguards. As South Africa continues to grapple with its immigration challenge, this research gives a broad overview of the legal framework governing detention and deportation in South Africa, and its implementation.

**Aldamen, Y. (2025).** [Social media, digital resilience, and knowledge sustainability: Syrian refugee's perspectives.](#) *Journal of Intercultural Communication*, 25(1). **Open access.** This study examines the role of social media in enhancing digital resilience and knowledge sustainability among Syrian refugees. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research combines qualitative and quantitative methods, surveying Syrian refugees in Jordan and Türkiye to explore how social media assists them in accessing information and knowledge resources. The findings reveal that social media plays a crucial role in developing social networks, increasing awareness of events in Syria, and connecting refugees with support systems, helping to combat social isolation and foster a sense of belonging. Additionally, digital tools enable refugees to navigate host country services, learn about their rights, and seek assistance from local and international organizations. The study concludes that social media is an essential tool for enhancing refugee resilience, providing a platform for advocacy, self-reliance, and digital empowerment. Strengthening refugees' access to digital tools can further support their long-term integration, skill-building, and livelihood opportunities.

**Al-Hamad, A., Yasin, Y. M., Rahman, R., Hayrabetian, V., & Metersky, K. (2025).** [Resourceful aging among migrants and refugees: A concept analysis and model development for Holistic Nursing Care.](#) *Journal of Holistic Nursing*. **Open access.** This concept analysis aims to conceptually define resourceful aging among migrants and refugees and develop a model integrating holistic nursing and healthcare practices to enhance their well-being. The study found that resourceful aging among migrants and refugees involves adapting to aging in a new country by embracing changing circumstances and utilizing available resources, enabling well-being, personal agency, and resilience. This process

preserves cultural heritage while adapting to new environments, balancing adaptation with identity. The integration of holistic nursing principles into resourceful aging among migrants and refugees can foster more inclusive and healthy communities.

**Rabuffetti, F., & Wills, E. R. (2025).** [The problem with the Comoros Solution: Affect, citizenship, statelessness and the Kuwaiti Bidoon.](#) *Citizenship Studies*, 1–17. The Kuwaiti bidoon are a subset of the nomadic population of Kuwait who have been made stateless, classified as illegal residents and increasingly deprived of social rights through changing classifications by the Kuwaiti government. In 2014, the Kuwaiti government attempted to obtain citizenship in the African island nation of the Comoros for the bidoon, which would have provided them with a route to legal residency. But would this have provided a just resolution to the bidoon's situation? We argue that justice for the bidoon must not simply serve to resolve their de jure statelessness; it must, instead, attend to the injuries produced by this status, most importantly the harm caused by continuous rejection of their affective attachment to Kuwait. In dialogue with theories of access to citizenship and political identification with a state, we argue that under certain circumstances, providing citizenship can increase the harm experienced by stateless people, and that only providing recognition of their affective tie to a political community can resolve it.

**Rodriguez, D. G. (2025).** [LGBTIQ+ asylum and religion: Individual Faith, community belonging, and divine advocacy.](#) *Journal of Gender Studies*, 1–18. **Open access.** This article explores the lived experiences of religious LGBTIQ+ refugees and people seeking asylum in the United Kingdom. The study highlights three key themes resulting from religious and spiritual practices: individual resilience, community support, and divine asylum advocacy. Individual resilience is supported by spiritual practices that provide comfort amidst the uncertainty of the asylum process. Community support, through inclusive religious groups, cultivates a sense of belonging, responding to the challenges faced in the UK and one's country of origin. Divine asylum advocacy illustrates how faith-based practices are assumed to influence legal outcomes, offering a sense of control over the asylum process. This study confronts the homosecular frameworks that depict religious adherence and queer identities as incompatible, advocating for inclusive approaches within asylum policies that recognize the multi-layered identities of LGBTIQ+ people seeking asylum, acknowledging the role of faith as a source of resilience and a strategic tool in navigating the asylum process.

**Van Wolleghem, P. G. (2025).** [Resettlement vs. spontaneous applications. Canadians' attitudes to asylum policy in a comparative perspective.](#) *Journal of Refugee Studies*. **Open access.** Increasing irregular crossings into Canada have put the asylum issue at the forefront of the political debate. This article explores Canadian citizens' attitudes toward two distinct asylum policies: the long-established resettlement policy endorsed by the federal government, and spontaneous applications, which have sparked public debate over the past seven years. Analyzing original survey data from 2021, they show that a majority of Canadians support asylum policies, irrespective of type. Delving into opposition to these policies, they identify welfare chauvinism as the primary factor, although attitudes to international collaboration on refugee matters and to the United Nations also correlate with

policy preferences. A comparative analysis of attitudes in Canada, the USA, the UK, and the Netherlands reveals similar influences on asylum policy preferences. By shifting the focus from attitudes to refugees to attitudes to asylum policy, this study provides novel evidence of an important dimension of Canadians' attitudes toward refugee-related matters.

## REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

**[Haiti — Haitians deported to Haiti — Profiles, migration experience and intentions of Haitians deported in 2024.](#)** (2025). IOM UN Migration. Deportations of Haitians to Haiti remain one of the country's main migration dynamics. Many Haitians attempt to leave the country through regular or irregular pathways for various reasons. Those who take irregular routes not only risk their lives but are often deported back to Haiti by destination or transit countries. In 2024, nearly 200,000 people were deported to Haiti from various countries. This report analyzes the profiles of Haitians deported in 2024, exploring their sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics, migration experiences, and future migration intentions.

**[Revolutionizing refugee registration: The Digital Gateway in Egypt](#)** by Simon Pierre Diouf & Raad Shaqman. (2025). UNHCR. In August 2024, UNHCR Egypt launched the Digital Gateway to address the growing demand for registration appointments exacerbated by the Sudan crisis and ease the pressure on existing service channels. This innovative platform allows asylum-seekers to create profiles, upload documents, and request appointments online, providing a much-needed alternative to in-person visits and calls to info line (operation's contact centre) to request new registration appointments. Since its introduction, the Digital Gateway has improved access to registration, enhanced operational efficiency, and offered valuable insights for future digital transformation efforts.

**[Smuggling and migration in South America: Insights from migrants](#)** by Ximena Canal Laiton. (2025). Mixed Migration Centre. This paper explores the use of smugglers by migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean on their journeys through South America. It is based on 1,129 4Mi surveys (4Mi is MMC's quantitative data collection project) and 29 interviews with migrants in Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Uruguay conducted between July and October 2024, along with 11 key informant interviews. This paper presents findings on the profiles of migrants who hired smugglers along their journey, the motivations for using them, the services sought, and their general perceptions of smugglers. It also provides information on smugglers' profiles and modes of operation on South American migration routes. This paper offers empirical evidence to inform decision-makers and humanitarian actors.

**[Socio-Economic Conditions of Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Populations in Asia and the Pacific.](#)** (2025). UNHCR. The report presents an explanatory analysis of survey-based data, reflecting the socio-economic situations of forcibly displaced and stateless people across 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The data is sourced from UNHCR's Results Monitoring Surveys (RMS), a household level survey tool that incorporates standardized

questionnaire modules aligned with international standards where applicable, while also being adapted in certain instances to meet UNHCR's specific contexts. The report offers evidence for enhanced advocacy and programming by exploring relationships between indicators within four thematic areas, covering legal status, social environment, basic needs and livelihoods. It further leverages the sustainable development goal (SDG) indicators to conduct comparative analysis between forcibly displaced and stateless people and nationals in the countries.

**[Ukraine Situation - Moldova: Disability Task Force - Disability Briefing Note \(March 2025\).](#)** (2025). **Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation.** Three years have passed since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, forcing millions of Ukrainians to flee their homes. Moldova, a country with a population of 2.4 million people, has hosted the highest numbers of refugees per capita. As of March 2025, approximately 127,000 refugees from Ukraine remained in Moldova, with around 76,000 having received asylum, temporary protection, or residence status. This briefing note provides an overview of the situation of refugees with disabilities in Moldova, highlighting key results achieved in 2024 by Disability and Age Task Force members, persisting gaps, and recommendations for improving inclusion and support. Forced displacement can create or exacerbate disabilities, placing persons with disabilities among the most at-risk and disproportionately affected groups in these contexts.

## NEWS AND BLOG POSTS

**[Atrocities mount daily. Promised aid does not arrive. Why has the west turned its back on Sudan?](#)** by Mark Townsend, March 23, 2025. **The Guardian.** As territory is won and lost by opposing military forces, people grasp at scraps of normality. But the country is undergoing the world's most severe humanitarian catastrophe and global announcements of help have amounted to nothing.

**[The EU wants to increase deportations and supports 'return hubs' in third countries,](#)** March 11, 2025. **Associated Press.** The European Union wants to increase deportations and is opening the way for "return hubs" to be set up in third countries for rejected asylum-seekers, according to a new migration proposal unveiled Tuesday. Only 20% of people with a deportation order are effectively removed from EU territory, according to the European Commission, which presented the "European System for Returns" in Strasbourg as a potential solution. The proposal aims to set a standard for all 27 members of the bloc and allow national authorities from one country to enforce the deportation order issued by another. Such rules were missing from the EU's migration and asylum pact approved last year.

**[The Yogyakarta Principles and Kenya's Failure to Protect LGBTQIA+ Refugees: Is Community-controlled Policing the Solution?](#)** by Christopher Belden, March 6, 2025. **Refugee Law Initiative.** With the growing anti-LGBTQIA+ political climate worldwide, it

comes as no shock that only 37 countries grant asylum for a well-founded fear of persecution based on one's sexual orientation or gender identity. One of these countries is Kenya located in East Africa. Kenya is home to the Kakuma refugee camp which opened in 1992 in response to the displacement crises during the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005) and at the close of the Ethiopian Civil War (1974-1991). The camp in recent years became a gathering place for LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers and refugees from East Africa as a result of the increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation— such as “The Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023” in Uganda. While the Kakuma refugee camp provides a place for LGBTQIA+ asylees and refugees to live, it is far from a sanctuary.

**[UN chief visits Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh as hunger fears rise](#), March 14, 2025.**

**Aljazeera.** United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has visited Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh as their food rations face drastic cuts next month, threatening already dire living conditions in the world's largest refugee settlement. Guterres's visit on Friday to the border district of Cox's Bazar is seen as critical, after the UN World Food Programme (WFP) announced potential cuts to emergency food supplies following the shutdown of USAID operations.

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

**[Borderlines Podcast: Immigration, Refugees and Border Related Issues](#). **Borderlines.****

Borderlines is a podcast that was co-founded by Steven Meurrens, Deanna Okun-Nachoff and Peter Edelmann, in July 2016. Peter Edelmann left the program in December 2020, after having been called to the bench of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Episodes feature discussions – often with a special guest – on Canadian immigration and border-related issues. We are also beginning to venture into various other complementary political and social justice topics affecting Canadians.

**[Crisis in Congo \(DRC\)](#). **Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture.** This is a virtual event on April 2nd, 2025, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST. The panellists for this discussion on the crisis in Congo are Patrick Mpiana, President of Association Des Congolais De L'Ontario (ACO), Dr. Evelyn Namakula Mayanja, Professor Carlton University (Human Rights and Social Justice), Christian Rumu, Senior Campaigner at Amnesty International (Kenya), Ezat Mossalanejad, Policy Analyst/Researcher at the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT), and Dr. Minakshi Das, working on the Congo crisis with Monash University, Australia. Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Health, Global Health, York University (affiliated).**

**[Launch webinar: Addressing Dementia in refugees and migrants- Epidemiology, public health implications and global responses](#). **World Health Organization.****

Dementia is a critical and growing global health concern for refugees and migrants, as the increasing number of older individuals in these populations exacerbates the burden of this non-communicable disease. There is an urgent need for migrant-inclusive health policies and practices to ensure that refugees and migrants living with dementia receive timely and equitable care. On 31 March 2025, 12:00 – 13:30 CET, WHO will host a high-level webinar

to present the findings of the sixth report in the Global Evidence Review on Health and Migration (GEHM) series, focusing on dementia among refugees and migrants. The report explores global challenges and public health impacts for these populations, offering key considerations and priority actions to guide policymakers in addressing these issues at both national and global levels. Click the link for more details.

**[Podcast episode: Skills shortages, AI and the future of work. Borders and Belonging.](#)**

Migration has been a constant feature of human history, shaping societies and cultures for millennia. Far from being a new or unusual phenomenon, people have always moved in search of better opportunities, safety, or resources. From ancient trade routes to modern global networks, migration has played a vital role in economic development, cultural exchange and social transformation. Yet despite its ubiquity, migrants are often scapegoated as the cause of economic and political problems in host states, overshadowing the many contributions that human mobility brings to both sending and receiving countries. *Borders & Belonging* helps cut through the noise. In season 3, host Maggie Perzyna focuses on: Can sanctuary cities inspire innovative approaches to migrant and refugee urban integration? How can we put the principle, “nothing about us without us” into practice? And what does it mean to decentre migration research?

**[2025 CRS Summer Course on Refugee Issues Climate Migration Futures: Shaping The Research Agenda for 2050.](#)** CRS.

The Centre for Refugee Studies’ 2025 Summer Course: Climate Migration Futures – Shaping the Research Agenda for 2050, is taking place from June 2–6, 2025 at York University in Toronto, Canada. This course brings together leading international scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to explore the urgent and evolving nexus of climate change and human mobility. Recognizing the recent financial challenges faced by many institutions and individuals, CRS is offering a 50% discount on the early bird virtual participation fee - so the final cost is between CAD\$300 - \$462 (approx. USD\$200-\$320) depending where you’re based, plus HST, until the early bird registration deadline on April 15th, 2025.