The Refugee Crisis
Confronting Struggles, Gender Based Violence, & Extremism

10 million of the 21.3 million refugees across the world are stateless – denied nationality and access to basic rights. The refugee crisis of the 21st century, sparked by the Syrian conflict, brings attention to the unethical treatment of human beings and the cultivation of violence and extremism.

01 Inadequate Housing & Facilities

Overcrowding is the main threat to camps. It leads to disease, illness, and death.

Chronic malnutrition is the primary result of overcrowding. Clean water pumps and toilets aren’t appropriately updated and installed. Families and individuals live in tents. Diseases such as Hepatitis A, Cholera, and Scabies commonly affect refugees in camps across the world.

02 Violence & Trauma

Sexual assault, violence, and rape are epidemic within most refugee camps. Women and children are raped and assaulted by traffickers inside the camps. Traffickers force women and children to have sex in exchange for food, blankets, and basic necessities. Refugee camps aren’t always properly policed due to lack of funds and thus the cycle of violence continues.

Female camp residents can also be victims of violence by the hands of migration administration or humanitarian staff. A 2002 report revealed that girls were sexually abused by humanitarian relief staff in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.
03 Refugee Women and Girls' Health & Safety

A study published by the Refugee Rights Data Project (RRDP) found that refugee women in Greece were vulnerable to risks including gender-based violence, abuse by authorities, and sexual assault.

- 46% of women reported lack of safety in the camp.
- 69% of women didn’t have a secure lock in their dwelling.
- 95% of women reported to have experienced depression.

04 Extremism

Research has shown that transnational terrorism can often be correlated with the radicalization of the hopeless. Hopelessness breeds depression and depression breeds loneliness, anxiety, and the struggle for power.

Refugees’ vulnerable state in such abhorrent conditions can be effortlessly deceived by extremist ideology. As their means of comfort is stripped away from them, they are left in a vulnerable state of mind, seeking any type of comfort in the present environment and being more likely to succumb to the dominance of others.

The relationship between extremism and violence against women is frequently unnoticed. Violent extremists prey upon women and girls in conflict situations, with rape and sexual violence as a form of terrorism, for their own political and/or extremist agenda.

05 Solutions

1. Improve camp conditions
2. Establish proper security measures
3. Require mental health therapy for all camp residents
4. Address the critical funding shortages and corruption in humanitarian work that prevents these solutions.

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References


