



## Refugees Digest 7 July 2016

### Migrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Displaced Persons

June 20<sup>th</sup> marks World Refugee Day. It is worth noting that the number of displaced persons has doubled in the last 35 or so years and has reached the highest figures since World War II. 2015 statistics point to 244m displaced persons, 64m of these are classified as refugees. By mid-June this year, 221,151 migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East had crossed the sea to Europe in 2016 alone. 2, 861 did not make it. It is also worth noting that despite the near hysteria in some quarters about people entering First World countries, about 83% of all displaced persons remain in their broader region of origin. For example, most of the 4.8m Syrian refugees have remained in the region, in Lebanon, in Jordan, Turkey and other nearby areas.

A recent book by Jacqueline Bhabha maintains that 11% of all displaced persons are under the age of 20. This group remains amongst the most vulnerable group of human beings in the world. A recent global report also indicated that SA had 1,096,100 pending asylum claims while Germany had 420,000 and that at the present rate it would take SA 20 years to clear the backlog. In the USA the Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling which effectively holds the spectre of deportation over millions of undocumented migrants in the US. It is also worth noting that while most news from the European Council concerned Brexit, the EU leaders also decided on a Partnership Framework with third countries proposing deals with countries in Africa and Asia from which large numbers of migrants and refugees come. Many NGOs have been fiercely critical of this Partnership Framework.

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