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Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons

It is trite to say that the crises linked to displaced persons continue unabated and that there is an increasing hardening of attitudes towards displaced persons in many countries.

In this Digest I begin with a quick snapshot of various issues around the world with regard to displaced persons. Crises in Asia, Japan, South America, Africa, the USA and Europe show just how universal, often complex and politically charged, this issue is. 64.4m people are displaced at present, and 71% of this number are women and girl children.


https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/migration-brazil-making-multicultural-society

https://www.cfr.org/blog/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-could-face-further-suffering

https://www.cfr.org/blog/new-report-africas-internally-displaced-persons


https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/structural-weaknesses-common-european-asylum-system

The link below takes the reader to an important article that makes the point that most displaced persons do not find refuge in the developed nations but in developing and very poor nations; and that the latter carry the burden of accommodating them.

Below is a thoughtful piece by Greek Orthodox Archbishop Clapsis on Greece and the Greek Orthodox Church’s response to the economic and refugee crises. It frames its response in terms of the important theological principle of ‘diakonia.’


A conference held near the Dead Sea, hosted by 2014 Nobel laureate and child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi and Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, heard frightening statistics including 50m children on the move, 75m children who cannot finish their education, 263m children who do not attend school and 152 m children involved in child labour.


The following link offers policy insights into the treatment of ‘unaccompanied alien children’ in the USA. It offers helpful guides to what policy in this area should focus on.


On 27th March the Sant’Egidio Community welcomed a group of Syrian refugees who arrived in Italy via the ‘humanitarian corridor’, a way of reaching safety which the Pope had commended in a visit to the Sant’Egidio Community earlier in March.

https://zenit.org/articles/humanitarian-corridor-brings-syrian-refugees-to-safety/


The link below leads to a short but disconcerting article on the toxic overlap of migrants and human trafficking.


A caravan of migrants making their way to the USA has temporarily halted in Mexico en route to the border. The Mexican government has tried to defuse the situation, but many express their determination to attempt crossing the border into the USA. At the same time, very strong language around immigration is emerging from the White House. President Trump has said that until the border wall between Mexico and the USA is complete, he intends to deploy the military in attempts to halt any illegal crossing of the border.


An Italian study centre in Milan has found that in recent times there has been a greater number of Orthodox Christian immigrants into Italy (1.6m). This is higher than the number of Muslim immigrants (1.4m) and both are higher than the number of Catholic immigrants (1m).


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