

ROOTS & ROUTES

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Dear Readers,
Greetings!

We strive for a better world that can ensure safe, orderly, regular and dignified migration. It requires humane governance policies to be implemented on the ground. While formulating such policies, there is a need to prioritise the disaggregated data, which can look into the intricacies associated with the more vulnerable sections, including children, women, the elderly, and financially poor migrants. Considering such crucial issues, continuing the journey of promoting important constructive ideas, GRFDT brings you its organisational newsletter 'Roots and Routes' for July 2021, providing multiple perspectives by various authors. All these write-ups have been published in [The Migration News](#), the media outreach portal of GRFDT.

This issue contains a blog, two articles and a movie review. The blog written by Jasmin Lilian Diab titled "Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in International Law: Employing a Gendered Lens to Irregular Movement" highlights the usage of the gendered lens to understand complexities associated with trafficking and smuggling. An article titled "Ten Years of War in Syria- A refugee crisis" has been authored by Alejandra Camacho Vega. She has incorporated various issues relating to Syrian refugees emphasising emerging vulnerabilities for women and children during the conflict. Another article is written by Stephanie Haywood, which is titled "5 Guidelines for Immigrants Seeking Success in the Business World". The article is a repository of valuable information regarding visa, business, legality, networking and finances. In the end, a movie titled *Azali* has been reviewed by Jean Edwidge Petit-frère, exploring various crucial issues associated with child labour and exploitation.

You are requested to please share your valuable insights on the content of our newsletter. You may send us your queries or insights at

editorinchief@grfdt.com. We look forward to read your observations!

Happy Reading!

Abhishek Yadav

Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in International Law: Employing a Gendered Lens to Irregular Movement

Every year thousands of migrants and refugees travel across the world in search of a safe haven and better living conditions. Among these people, there are victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants. But what does it mean to be a victim of trafficking or a smuggled migrant, and what is the legal difference between “trafficking in persons” or “smuggling of migrants” in the eyes of international law and international legal frameworks?

These terms have been addressed in media reports on countless occasions, and while opinions are bound, there is still a [general lack of understanding](#) about these crimes, their root causes, the difference between them and their implications. To clarify key concepts, one can look at internationally agreed definitions of these crimes.

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling are complex phenomena that affect people in different ways. While sometimes linked, these are separate crimes. A [trafficked person](#) is someone who is recruited, transported, transferred or harbored through illegal means such as fraud, force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. An example of this according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) may be a person who takes a job as a domestic worker in another state under the promise of a good salary and benefits; however, the person turns out to be subject to degrading work conditions and does not receive a salary. In the MENA region for example, the [Kafala System \(Sponsorship System\)](#) governing this population would [fall under the international legal definition](#) of trafficking in persons on a number of occasions.

Similarly, the international community also agrees on a definition for [smuggling of migrants](#),

which is a crime that takes place when someone facilitates the person’s illegal entry or stay in a country of which the person is not a national or permanent resident in order to obtain financial or other material benefits. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are different crimes that require [different responses in international law](#) and legal frameworks, both with regards to the rights of the persons who have been the object of one of these crimes and to the penalty for perpetrators. An example of this as per the UNODC may be a case whereby a group of people charges money from migrants to drive them across a border into another country, thus [bypassing the official entry requirements](#) and border controls of the destination country. If migrants do not have enough money, the group takes whatever valuable possessions they have as payment.

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are often presented in an overly simplified way. The truth is that both crimes are very complex. For an effective and sustainable response, it is important to understand these complexities. A [gender-responsive approach](#) to human trafficking and migrant smuggling takes into account the different needs and circumstances of people of all genders and reveals the complexity and intersectional levels of these crimes. This enables practitioner and policymakers to better grasp patterns and trends, as well as adapt policy responses and legal mechanisms accordingly.

Victims of trafficking in persons can be women, men, girls and boys. They are exploited for different purposes with or without physical violence. While typical misconceptions have pushed us to picture young men arriving in overflowing smuggling boats, as the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime insists, most smuggling routes are over [land and some are by air](#). And despite the

fact that we often hear of men being perpetrators of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, data has revealed that in trafficking in persons, [women are convicted as perpetrators](#) more often than in any other form of organized crime.

Victims of trafficking in persons (male or female) should not be criminalized for crimes that they were forced to commit as part of the exploitation. A gendered lens makes the real issues visible, and reveals various barriers to reporting abuse, violence and exploitation for women, men, girls and boys, as well as the variety of tailored needs for assistance. Smuggled migrants [have human rights](#) that must be respected, including the right to be treated with dignity and the right to personal safety. It is not only pivotal to raise awareness about human trafficking and migrant smuggling, but also to address the root causes of social vulnerabilities, such as poverty or conflict and their impact on the forced migration rhetoric. [Data](#) on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants save lives. The [UNODC biannual Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) insists that in the trafficking context, understanding locations where trafficking occurs and specific populations most at risk of becoming victims of trafficking supports creating targeted responses. In the smuggling context, the report insists that data can not only assist in identifying the *modus operandi* of migrant smugglers, but that

it is also key in dismantling smuggling networks. Both crimes pose considerable risks to the safety of trafficked persons and smuggled migrants. For this purpose, there is a need for clarifying key concepts and employing correct terminology to inform debates around these important issue areas within the forced migration and asylum rhetoric. There is an indispensable need to provide practitioners, policy makers, researchers and academics with practical orientated tools to develop informed quality information around trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

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Ten Years of War in Syria – A refugee crisis

The year 2021 marks a ten-year anniversary from the beginning of the Syrian war. Even though a decade has passed, the conflict in Syria is still occurring provoking a massive displacement and killings of millions in the country. According to the [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights](#), there has been documentation of over 388,652 deaths across Syria from March 2011 to March 2021. Nevertheless, there is an estimate by the [Syrian Observatory for Human Rights](#) which specifies that this number could be higher, since this statistic is not including civilians killed under torture, missing persons, and kidnapped persons.

As the war continues, the destruction of schools, hospitals, and houses has been uprising provoking the massive displacement of millions of persons that used to live in Syria, this has occurred as an internal and external displacement. In the case of internally displaced people (IDP), according to [UNHCR](#) currently, there are about 6.2 million of IDP in Syria being at its most vulnerable since they have not crossed an international border and are located still inside conflict areas.

On the other hand, in the case of external displacement, it has been stated by [World Vision](#) that currently there have been 5.6 million refugees in diverse regions of the world. This is the reason why there has been identified an urgent humanitarian assistance response necessity regarding the damaged systems in healthcare centers, hospitals, water, and sanitation facilities. It is important to mention that the group which has been affected the most during this decade have been children and women. For this reason, it is indispensable to analyze this conflict through gender lenses especially now during a pandemic.

Syrian refugees – Where do they go?

The majority of Syrians have applied for asylum in countries near Syria such as: Egypt, Turkey, or Lebanon. Regarding these three countries, Turkey is identified as the country which has received the highest number of Syrian refugees

being [3.6 million](#). The [UN Refugee Agency](#) shared that the settings in which the majority of Syrian refugees (92 percent) are currently living are rural and urban, and almost 5 percent are situated inside or outside of refugee camps. Even though refugees got outside of Syria, the vast majority of them are living under precarious conditions, [with limited access to basic services, education or job opportunities](#).

It is crucial to provide an economic recovery plan for Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, as the majority of them are suffering the repercussions of their livelihoods lost, which prevents them from covering basic needs such as medicines, paying rents, or food. While this conflict has affected the livelihoods of each Syrian refugee and asylum seeker, it is important to comprehend how women and children have been more vulnerable.

Women and children under the Syrian War

More than half of Syrian refugees are women and children – [about 80%](#), and by the end of 2020, according to [UNICEF](#), some 4.8 million children were born in Syria since the conflict began nine years ago. As a lack of livelihoods for Syrians, families have made severe decisions for their children such as: [sending children to work and early marriage of girls](#). Even though specific humanitarian aid has been offered for children in Syria, for refugees and asylum seekers, still it is identified a massive necessity to cover such needs as: vaccination, medical attention, food, education, and specific attention for physical and mental disabilities in children.

While education is still not accessible for the majority of children in Syria, girls are particularly affected by this issue. As this conflict is preventing boys and girls from accessing education, girls are getting a higher risk of ending in child marriage. Child marriage for girls occurs due to several aspects, nevertheless, the [provision of financial stability](#) is one of the most alarming cases because marrying a girl can provide an opportunity of

livelihoods access or facilitation to enter a different country for her family. As girls grow, gender inequality increases leading to a [disproportionate impact of conflict on women](#).

Through a gender analysis on the Syrian conflict, it can be identified that in several cases women have to acquire new roles and responsibilities inside their families. Women have to face a conflict in which often, their rights to [work, educate, and movement](#) are continuously compromised. In Syria, women are part of the majority of poor people, as many of them have become the head of households by losing their partners, taking care of their orphan children has become a challenge, not only [due to the lack of income or inability to work, but also due to the lack of access to productive resources](#).

Another aspect that has affected women the most is the lack of health facilities access. Currently, it has been identified that in Syria there is a high death rate maternal mortality which could have been prevented through access to [childbirth attention and pre-natal control](#). Nevertheless, women have to live their pregnancies in a war zone without optimal attention and sometimes adding some challenges such as [psychological harm, social, and economic exclusion](#) that they have to confront in

the country, challenges that are more difficult for women to overcome.

It is indispensable that, after ten years have passed since the beginning of the war, to analyze each aspect through gender analysis. It is important to provide a recovery plan that specifically attends to women's and children's necessities. These responses should not wait until the conflict ends, but they should be addressed in every country in which asylum seekers and refugees are establishing. Also, it is crucial to provide a gender response through humanitarian assistance in the country and to protect and attend to women's and children's needs.

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5 Guidelines for Immigrants Seeking Success in the Business World

Immigrant-run businesses are an important and thriving part of our national economy. Immigrant business owners have much to offer to their communities, often adding diversity to products and services available.

Starting a business as an immigrant comes with its own unique set of challenges, though, from the hassle of acquiring a visa to the difficulty of networking without community contacts. But this has not prevented countless immigrant entrepreneurs from achieving success in a multitude of fields. If you're an immigrant considering starting a business, don't be dissuaded by the difficulties. Instead, take a methodical approach to achieve your dream of business ownership, starting with these steps, presented by [The Migration News](#).

Apply for the right visa

Obtaining a visa to reside in the United States can be a lengthy and complicated process. While not everyone wishing to travel to and visit the country needs a visa, it is necessary to acquire one to reside and start a business. The EB-1 and the O-1 are visas for immigrant entrepreneurs who have [exceptional](#) education or ability. And then there are the investor visas. The E-2 Visa is a good choice for anyone hoping to enter the country and work there, based on controls of a US business. This visa does not automatically lead to a green card, but there are no limits on how long it can be extended. For investors with a lot of capital, the EB-5 offers further advantages, including green cards for the whole family.

Choose a business that's a good fit for you

Popular business ideas for immigrants to the United States include restaurant ownership, computing and internet technology, clothing boutiques, and food hubs. Your business should reflect your own individual talents and abilities, as well as your interests. For instance, an [ethnic-themed restaurant](#) is a great idea for those who are passionate about food and the culinary arts, but

if you are indifferent to food and cooking, choose something else. You should also research the area and [make sure there's sufficient demand](#) and not too much competition for what you intend to offer.

Make your business a legal entity

Companies in the United States are formed in different ways, depending on their size and management structure. This formation affects how your business is taxed and your personal liability. A sole proprietorship is one option for owners of very small businesses, but a limited liability company might be a better choice as it involves tax benefits and better protection of your assets. Whichever business type you choose, you will need to register with the IRS and other government departments as they apply to your desired location and industry. Seek the help of a registered agent to assist you in the process.

Develop a network

This is the part where there's no set blueprint. Having a network for marketing, collaboration, and a starting customer base is essential, but how you go about networking may depend on your individual situation. Use social media to touch base with other entrepreneurs in your community, as well as to begin to create social connections. Also, having a good website can make a huge difference when it comes to being noticed.

Manage business and personal finances

The services of a professional accountant are essential for new business owners to get off the ground without mishaps, especially those unfamiliar with the US tax and legal system. But besides an accountant, you will also want top-notch [accounting software for your business](#) to keep tabs on your business's financial well-being. Look for software that features real-time financial insights, batch invoicing, and accurate time tracking and scheduling.

If you plan to support your family back home

and will be sending money and care packages or paying for flights to visit one another, be sure to budget accordingly. You'll want to keep an eye on any [deals on flights](#), grab [cheap shipping rates](#) when you can find them, and take advantage of [money transfer services](#) that offer safe and free transfers. Family relationships are critical to your mental health and the success of your business. By planning ahead, you can have both.

There are many opportunities for immigrants to the United States to succeed as business owners,

so take advantage of them for optimal outcomes. Keep in mind that what you have to offer to our communities is valuable and can make a difference for others, as well.

Stephanie Haywood is happy to be living her best life. Personal development and self-care gave her a boost when she needed it most, and now she works to share the gift of self-knowledge, self-care, and self-actualization with everyone who visits [MyLifeBoost.com](#).



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Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

AZALI: A Way to Understand the Complexity of Child Labor

Azali is a 2018 Ghanaian drama movie directed by Kwabena Gyansah. The film is based on a true story of the lived experiences of a girl named Amina. The movie narrates the story of Amina, a 14-year-old girl exiled from Tamale, her rural home village in Northern Ghana to avoid an arranged marriage. Amina plunges into prostitution and poverty in the slums of Accra. Although she rejected the idea of sex work during her initial days in Accra (the capital of Ghana), Amina was lured into it by a friend and yielded in because of the situation of destitution she found herself in. Overall, the movie highlights the challenges faced by young girls in the community in question, particularly forced for arranged marriages and child labor.

It all started when the Amina's grandmother attempted to force her to marry an old man from the village to become her fourth wife. Her mother rejected the proposition. However, Amina and her mother found themselves in complicated situation because all the elderly women of the village wanted Amina to accept the arranged marriage. And because of the patriarchal nature of the community from which Amina hailed, older women had more decision-making power. This forced Amina's mother to accept an offer from a woman who came to recruit the children of the village to place them in odd jobs in Accra. In the movie, the children never worked but they were trafficked. She accepted the offer as an opportunity to exile Amina and thus avoid the forced marriage. In the process, however, Amina's mother had also accepted a deplorable solution that intended to force Amina into child labor. Indeed, this woman abused the parent's trust because she was a child trafficker.

On the day they left Tamale, the truck carrying the children to Accra for child labor was intercepted by the police before it arrived in Accra. As a result, Amina was placed in a children's home in Bawku, northern Ghana. This is how she met Seidu, a young man with whom she fled from the children's home to Accra. Fleeing into exile was a way for Amina to protect herself from child marriage. In Accra, Seidu and Amina lived together. Seidu was resourceful and loved working. Amina could not keep her street vendor job because she was lazy. Seidu was recruited for another job, and they broke up. Amina was therefore alone and had to pay the rent on her own. She

became a tenant in the house of a lady to whom she had to pay a daily sum. On several occasions, she was threatened with eviction because she could not pay the money. Many times, Amina rejected offers by Seidu's friends to work as a sex worker. She wanted to earn her life with dignity. A very pious girl, she devoted herself to prayer and remained attached to her religious convictions. Like many vulnerable children worldwide who are often taken advantage of and exploited, Amina was caught up in a situation of destitution and ended up yielding to the way of life of some suburban girls. This way of life involved indulging in sex work for survival. A friend of hers in Accra lured her into prostitution to make money for survival and she accepted. Everything changed when Amina hurt a man and tried to flee the area before being raped by the employer of Seidu.

Back in her home village, Amina's mother was worried. Her uncle Akatorik, a lazy man, travelled to Accra to find Amina but met an old acquaintance and forgot his primary mission, telling himself that Amina is fine. One of the interesting aspects of the



Photo credit: CypressGH.COM

film is Amina's resilience and kindness. Despite her vulnerability in Accra, she always wanted to keep her dignity and her parental values. She wished for a better future for herself and Seibu. Despite her young age, she had the maturity to know what is right and wrong in the absence of her family members. Her attachment to her native village is extraordinary. "I want to go back home," Amina frequently told herself.

Amina did not want to get involved in sex work, but the suffering she endured motivated her to become a sex worker. Seidu's involvement in illicit drug trafficking and alcohol abuse was also motivated by the desire to integrate to earn his living. "I have to integrate in the group; otherwise, they will evict me," he said to Amina, who blamed him for his behavior.

The film does more than depicting telling narrative of a young girl who leads a difficult life in Accra. It also enables one to grasp the socio-economic realities of developing countries, and we can cite, among others: the difficult life led by those who live in the countryside, the vulnerability of young people who live in the slums, employability in the informal economy, corruption, and institutional impunity, and so forth.

Indeed, one of the film's most beautiful moments is the realization of Amina's dream of returning to her native village to reunite with her family. Akartok (Amina's uncle), with the help of Joan, his old acquaintance, later found Amina. Despite the disagreement with her mother when she left Tamale for Accra, they embraced each other with love and tenderness upon the return of the exile.

This film also allows us to understand the complex abuses specifically child labor, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. We can understand that many aspects of the violations are interrelated. Children who come from low-income families are very vulnerable, parents can be unconsciously involved in the trafficking of their children. People may exploit children without the victims realizing it. The supposed custodians who should fight to end these abuses can also be the preparators of such crimes.

Finally, everyone should watch this film, especially the stakeholders involved in eradicating child labor and sexual exploitation. The movie highlights various aspects of child labor. For example, stakeholders must avoid a globalized and dominant advocacy narratives approach. Children in different localities face different realities which require different approaches suitable to each different case. Therefore, it is imperative to listen to victims' voices and localized experiences to make the best policies.

Jean Edwidge Petit-frère is currently finishing a master's degree in International Migrations with a focus on actors and institutions of migration, reception, and international solidarity in France. He is the Head of Research at The HAITI Migration group, an organization whose mission is to contribute to better migration policy development in Haiti.

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