

EDITORIAL

100 Million Forcibly Displaced: An Obligation to Act¹

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Another devastating record: 100 million forcibly displaced human beings in 2022! A steady increase over the past decade. No end in sight (see Section News & Notes). This is not a law of nature, however. It is human made. Thus, humans can solve it. Humans can make a change and humans must turn the tide. Humanity owes those affected to strive for it at least. There is a call, an obligation to act. Everyone able to is morally obliged to make a difference with his or her individual background, capacities, networks.

The Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem (AWR) has heard this call. Being a scientific society and close witness of this disastrous development since 1950, AWR revives its official journal as a contribution to seek, collect and make accessible international and cross-disciplinary expertise for possible solutions. To increase its impact, it becomes open access, under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License, with no author fees charged. The inclusive global outreach to the community of scientists and practitioners beyond the members of AWR is further expressed in swapping the previous title and subtitle into *Quarterly on Refugee Problems – AWR Bulletin (QRP)*.

QRP looks back to a publishing tradition starting 1954 under the title “Integration” (1954-1962), later renamed “AWR Bulletin - Vierteljahresschrift für Flüchtlingsfragen/Revue triestrielle des problèmes des réfugiés/Quarterly on Refugee Problems/Rivista trimestrale sui problemi die rifugiati” (1963-2003). Since its establishment, it has been uniting scholars and practitioners from all fields. It is this international and interdisciplinary approach and the recognition that motives of forced and voluntary migration are all too often intertwined in migratory decisions that is needed to solve one of the most pressing topics on the humanitarian and political agendas. To be a platform for related discourses remains *QRP*'s mission.

While the editorial team and authorship are already diverse, interdisciplinary and international, the editors would like to see a further increase and invite scholars and practitioners globally to join and submit research articles, scientific reviews, practitioner or political reports as well as conference reviews for peer review or to volunteer as peer reviewers. The editors would like to overcome the mainly Western centered coverage of many journals as well as the Western dominance of relevant discourses in the international arena. Steps were taken to bridge the gaps between the discourses of

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scientists and practitioners as well as of the Global North and Global South. More will follow. You are invited to strengthen this initiative.

Are we doing injustice to those forcibly displaced by speaking of a “refugee problem”, by showing the term in the title of the association and the journal? Are we confusing responsibilities of perpetrators and States on the one hand and of victims on the other? We are strongly convinced, we do not. Suspecting the oldest international scientific association in the field to do so would be somewhat odd. To make it clear once and for all: It is not the individual refugee who is to be seen as a problem. At the same time, if solutions ought to be honestly found, the multitude of problems related to the root causes, confronting the refugees in their countries of origin, transit and refuge have to be clearly identified and addressed. AWR is strongly favoring positive, resource-oriented approaches. However, even if in the individual case, neither the displaced had resources nor the States had an interest to protect, the moral and legal positions would remain. To neglect this would shift the burden of responsibilities to the displaced and put their fate at the discretion of the States. Negligence and violations of these moral and legal positions are actually the true root causes for the problems leading to and accompanying displacement as well as resulting from them.

A selection of these problems are addressed in the current issue from a variety of perspectives. *Ebimgbo et al.* analyze challenges for and perceptions of elderly family members left behind in Nigeria as a country of origin. Turning toward receiving societies, *McCarty et al.* study attitudes towards immigration and refugee policies, while *Franz* highlights reflective solidarity and inclusion work as mechanisms of social transformation in the U.S.A. *Negozio et al.* analyze and compare national responses by Italy and France to environmental and climate-related displacement. The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the Schengen border regime are evaluated by *Friedery*. Also from a legal perspective, *Manca* introduces to the mandate and practice of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. The current war in the Ukraine, resulting displacement, and huge solidarity but also discriminatory tendencies in receiving States were covered by a symposium and are reviewed by *Kleibl et al.* *Hoffmann*, is providing an overview of and linking to relevant European case law for the period January to July 2022. Last but not least, *Roßkopf* is flagging selected recent developments in the field of forced migration.

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From now on, QRP will be published on a regular basis as a quarterly on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year. Submissions for publications and books for reviews are highly welcome!