#### **International Literature Project Series**

Preparing Social Work Students to Practice in An Interconnected World

**IMMIGRATION** 

## NONFICTION FROM IRAN: A Year Among the Boat People, My People

Offering solace, even as "no refugee is allowed an unconditional dream."

by Amir Ahmadi Arian

SOURCE: Words Without Borders Campus (wwb-campus.org)

Click on the title above to access the reading and related multi-media teaching and learning resources, including author and translator bios and representations of socio-geographic-political and cultural context.

#### **SOCIAL WORK TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES**

Stories of social workers working with refugees and asylum seekers across the world

# The Role of Social Work in the Refugee Crisis: In the Camps, Refugees Need Shelter and Food; But Things Get Trickier When the Moving Stops

The Guardian

A newspaper article on the refugee crisis across countries in Europe, due in large part to the Syrian war, and the ramifications for social workers addressing their needs. The article provides a brief snapshot of the different ways that social workers are responding in the context of their country's policy responses to refugees.

#### **Social Work Values And Refugee Policy**

Australian Association of Social Workers

Speech delivered by Australian social worker and lecturer at the Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education, Lucy Fiske, urging social workers that human stories are not lost in important policy debates regarding refugees and asylum seekers.

# Voices from the Front Line: Social Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Australia and the UK

British Journal of Social Work

This study examines the narratives of 30 front line workers in non-government organizations who delineate the issues, shortages, and problems they face in providing effective services. The author, a lecturer at the University of Kent in the UK highlights the role played by political context, namely "the growing trend internationally of immigration policy that promotes deterrence, detention and destitution."



#### Building an infrastructure for refugee resettlement, adjustment, and societal integration

#### **Challenges of Refugee Resettlement Policy and Psychosocial Factors**

National Association of Social Workers (U.S.)

A social justice brief describing the refugee policy environment in the United States and how it has affected the nation's commitment to providing a safe haven for the world's displaced populations as well as the consequences for individual wellbeing and mental health. Attention is given to the mental health impact of migration and resettlement, migration as a precipitating factor of emotional stress, exposure to trauma and emotional health risk due to existing policies.

### Mental Health Promotion and Mental Health Care in Refugees and Migrants: Technical Guide World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe

The experience of migration can be complex and stressful, related to events before departure, during travel and transit, and after arrival. Consequently, refugees and migrants can suffer from mental disorders, although prevalence is highly variable across studies and population groups. This technical guidance reviews the prevalence of some disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depressive and anxiety disorders. Based on best-available evidence regarding risk factors and areas for intervention, eight key priority action areas are identified for consideration by policy-makers regarding the mental health of refugees and migrants. While different countries may be more or less able to adapt depending on their baseline capacity, areas and models for intervention to promote mental health and provide good mental health care to refugee and migrant groups include social integration, facilitating access to care, fostering engagement with care and treating patients with manifest disorders.

### Health of Refugee and Migrant Children: A Technical Guide

World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe

Between 2015 and 2017, almost one million asylum-seeking children registered in the European Union, and 200 000 of these arrived unaccompanied by a caregiver. These children faced particular risks, including being exposed to discrimination, marginalization, institutionalization and exclusion. When considering health and health care interventions for migrant children, some areas need specific attention, such as their diverse backgrounds, whether they are unaccompanied and separated from family, whether they have been trafficked and also if they are children who have been left behind. Policy considerations include an intersectoral approach to promote good health and well-being, particularly mental health, in migrant children that target risk factors at the individual, family and community levels. Particular emphasis is placed on how national/local governments have an important role in fostering or hindering living conditions for refugee and migrant children in the areas of housing, health care services and education.

#### **Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services

Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS) aims to strengthen the capacity of refugee-serving and mainstream organizations across the U.S. to empower and ensure the successful development of

refugee children, youth, and their families. The organization provides technical assistance and maintains the nation's largest online collection of resources related to refugee and immigrant children and families with the goal of increasing public awareness and facilitating knowledge building, information sharing and collaboration among a diverse group of service providers, including child welfare, schools, refugee resettlement agencies, and ethnic and community-based organizations.

#### Promoting Cultural Sensitivity: A Practical Guide for Tuberculosis Programs That Provide **Services to Persons from Burma**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

While this guide focuses on services related to tuberculosis, it is highly relevant to other areas of need. This Guide is intended for health care providers, community-based workers, program planners, administrators, health educators, and resettlement agencies that work with Karen (pronounced ka-RENN) communities in the United States (U.S.). It includes information to help providers better understand the background and sociocultural context of the population so that a deeper understanding of pertinent issues will heighten the cultural sensitivity of providers, enhance communication, and improve the overall effectiveness of organizations and staff in cross-cultural settings.

#### **Refugee Academic and Employment Support**

RefugeeOne (Illinois Refugee Settlement Agency)

General repository of information for refugee resettlement, adjustment and societal integration. Includes specific guides tailored to Burma (Rohingya), DR Congo, and Syrian populations. Mentorship guides are included for practitioners to help refugees to adjust and integrate.

General Resources: Inter-cultural Communications, Syria Culture Guide, Trauma

Mentoring Resources: Teaching English, Public Benefits, Employment

Tutoring Resources: Tips and Activities, Academic Workbooks

#### Beyond Work: Reducing Social Isolation for Refugee Women and Other Marginalized **Newcomers**

TransAtlantic Council on Migration Migration Policy Institute

As migrant- and refugee-receiving countries in Europe, North America, and beyond prioritize services that are focused on employment, language instruction, and civic integration, newcomers who are not in the workplace are at high risk for social isolation. The consequences for this population, which is largely made up of women, refugees, the elderly, and migrants who are unskilled or illiterate, are far-reaching and go well beyond simple economics. As a result, societies should reconsider what successful integration looks like for newcomers who will never find traditional employment or who need a longer-than-average timeline to get there.

For teaching suggestions, please see Using This Resource in the International Literature Project Series.