

"Gender Dynamics and its impact on SGBV cases throughout the refugee cycle"

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Gender roles are social roles that are a result of social-cultural constructions (Connell: 1985) that change throughout time and space. As Simone Beauvoir has mentioned "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman" (1949).

During the refugee cycle these gender roles may (or may not) change. Thus, it has a great impact on gender dynamics.

Refugee cycle has 5 major phases, according to the UNHCR (2003):

1st phase: During conflict, prior to flight

2nd phase: During flight

3rd phase: In the country of asylum

4th phase: During repatriation

5th phase: During reintegration

In all these phases new femininities and new masculinities face several challenges.

On the one hand, as Jane Freedman points out, people migrate and with them gender dynamics and behaviours migrate as well (2007), which can lead to the reinforcement of certain gender dynamics based on certain gender roles.

However, on the other hand, new scenarios can challenge traditional social roles and generate new ones, which happens throughout the entire refugee cycle due to the diverse chain of power relations that influence refugees' dynamics, journey and choices.

Hence, social roles are not fixed, and they may change. However, if the refugee cycle sets the scenario for that change to happen or if the refugee cycle provides the environment for a violent response to that change is the main debate of this paper. All of these has a major impact on the SGBV cases reported throughout the refugee cycle. Although behaviours migrate along with people, no one stays the same after going through refugee cycle.

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