

Chapter 2

Forced Migrations and the Risk of Human Trafficking

Milica Boskovic

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3421-7107>

Independent Researcher, Serbia

Brankica Jankovic

Independent Researcher, Serbia

ABSTRACT

For the last two decades, forced migrations become so massive that no one could deny the fact that millions of people left their homes, maybe forever, running away from wars, civil wars, violence, and/or political victimization. War and violence are for sure two of the most serious traumatic events, as they are long-termed, cause different kinds of injuries, fear, unsafety, and hopelessness – and this is the first stress migrants are faced with. By being concerned for their own or the lives of their families, many migrants agree to be smuggled. But smugglers offer inhumane and often intolerable conditions, placing more migrants in their vehicle or boat than it can receive, and this leads to many migrants' lives being lost. In situations of fear, hopelessness, and uncertainty, which migrants running away from, they are vulnerable to many risks, and one of them is human trafficking, which can occur during their trip, illegal migration, or even when they get the final destination. It is important to understand the difference between smuggling and human trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

Migrations are indispensable activity in societies, inside and/or outside national borders and even continents. Even primal people left their territories looking for food sources, or better shelters. People migrate voluntarily, aiming to find a job, better living conditions, or because of other personal or professional motives. These activities are numbered and happen every day. We have to highlight the fact that many states were formed as a result of migrations across the continents and oceans. Today, many migrations are caused by climate changes and decreased level of environmental quality; they lose their

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-6334-5.ch002

Forced Migrations and the Risk of Human Trafficking

arable land, drinking water, and clean air or weather become extremely unfavorable for quality living; these are so-called environmental refugees, and their movements and relocations cannot be neglected. But, in all these types of migrations, people plan and more or less, have clear goals and pathways. What becomes an extreme challenge and phenomenon, for the whole world, states, societies, decision-makers, and protectors of human rights, are forced migrations. While voluntary migration is likely to follow economic cost-benefit considerations of the migrants, involuntary migration is the result of forces outside the control of the migrants (Becker & Ferrara, 2019). For the last two decades, forced migrations become so massive, that no one could deny the fact that millions of people left their homes, maybe forever, running away from wars, civil wars, violence, and/or political victimization. These people were forced to run from terrifying violent conditions, mostly without a clear idea of where to go and what to do then. According to International Organization for Migration, in 2001. There were approximately 12 million refugees in the world, in comparison to 8.8 million in 1980 (Boskovic, Putnik, Dragisic, 2017:8). According to the estimates by the United Nations, 65.3 million people had fled or had been forced off their homelands by the end of 2015 (UNHCR, 2016), and deserts and seas are littered with the bodies of those who perished trying to reach safe havens in recent years (Purkayastha, 2018:168). One-third of displaced people are refugees; of whom more than two-thirds come from five conflict-ridden countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia. (Braithwaite et al., 2019:6). The period from 2010-2019 is declared by UNHCR as *a decade of migrations*; at that time almost 100 million people migrated, because of bad socio-economic conditions. But, the most tragic triggers for mass migrations in the last 10 years, were (civil) wars and political violence in some states of the north of Africa and the Middle East. All these migrations were forced by fear for life and the future, and people escaped, hoping to find peace, mostly in EU countries, USA and Canada.

Arabian Spring and Forced Migrations

Forced migration crises are typically based on some mixture of ethnic, political, or religious conflict and violence (Ridge et al., 2018). Episodes of forced migration display substantial variation in scale: conflicts or natural disasters can affect small groups in the case of selective expulsions along ethnic, racial, or religious lines, or can take the form of mass expulsions of millions of individuals (Becker & Ferrara, 2019). Countries with an unstable economy, less or absence of democracy and equality, are vulnerable to different kinds of pressures, violence, and conflicts. Most of the cases of forced migration studied over the last decade look at rather massive migration flow that is rarely found in peaceful times (Becker & Ferrara, 2019:1). The fact that some terrorist organizations find their base or shelters at some of these, mostly Muslim countries, focused so-called West, but also some of East countries on these places, to start the war against terrorism and persecution of these dangerous organizations. Other countries faced a high level of political violence, crime, and violence, which escalated to the level of civil wars. As Ridge and associates say (2018), ongoing conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Myanmar, Eritrea, Venezuela, Colombia, and others have combined to force approximately 20 million people from their homes. Common among these conflicts is their protracted nature. Civil wars, on average, last between 7 and 12 years, so even the newest of these (e.g., Syria and Yemen) could presumably last well beyond 2020 (Ridge et al, 2018). The act of Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian who set himself alight, after a long period of officials' pressure, probably was the key point for the explosion of people's dissatisfaction and pushing up the so-called *Arabian Spring*. Mohamed's act was recognized as a painful motive for

17 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

www.igi-global.com/chapter/forced-migrations-and-the-risk-of-human-trafficking/318751

Related Content

Academics in Exile: Navigating New Educational Landscapes Amidst Displacement and Uncertainty

Sara Mohammed Aldousand Ghaith Ismail (2024). *Resilience of Educators in Extraordinary Circumstances: War, Disaster, and Emergencies* (pp. 9-28).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/academics-in-exile/346505

Michael Walzer's Work and the Idea of Humanitarian Intervention in Syria (2011-Present): The International Response to the Situation in Syria During and After the Arab Spring

Piotr Pietrzak (2023). *Handbook of Research on the Regulation of the Modern Global Migration and Economic Crisis* (pp. 173-187).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/michael-walzers-work-and-the-idea-of-humanitarian-intervention-in-syria-2011-present/318761

A Dialogic Synthesis of the Career Development: Journey of the International Doctoral Student

Grace Ukasoanya (2021). *Examining the Career Development Practices and Experiences of Immigrants* (pp. 197-210).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/a-dialogic-synthesis-of-the-career-development/266165

Alien Must Go: Reappraising the Challenges of Migrant Integration in Africa From an Unbuntu Perspective

O. Damola Adejumo-Ayibiowu (2021). *Impact of Immigration and Xenophobia on Development in Africa* (pp. 111-129).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/alien-must-go/268267

Marina O'Neill

(2022). *Exploring the Economic Opportunities and Impacts of Migrant Entrepreneurship: Success Stories and Case Studies* (pp. 61-68).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/marina-oneill/308413