The burden of vulnerability: Legal and social perspectives on asylum claims submitted in Italy (NOT INCLUDED IN VIDEO)

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My paper focuses on the experiences of various institutional, legal and social actors dealing with asylum claims submitted by protection seekers in situations of vulnerability. The research has been carried out in Italy between February 2020 and October 2020 and it is based on qualitative research methods (analysis of documents, in-depth interviews, ethnographic observations) to explore diverse experiences of support and assessment of such protection requests.

In this paper, I analyse what vulnerability means for these actors, taking into account the variety of their roles (decision making, humanitarian aid, legal support and advocacy). Many participants discussed pros and cons of the asylum procedures and the reception system. Findings highlight how situations of vulnerability are framed, what procedures and guarantees have been implemented, and which challenges and shortcomings remain to cope with. This paper shows also how vulnerability may emerge (or not) and may be identified and assessed in different spaces, but also with different instruments and timings. The research reveals that some vulnerabilities may be fostered, created or invisibilized by specific procedures, highlighting the impact of the recent legislative changes affecting the Italian asylum system between 2017 and 2020.

In conclusion, the research examines the inconsistencies and shortcomings existing between the legal framework, its implementation and social (and local) realities. While some procedures are conceived to facilitate the identification of situations of vulnerability, others can create further obstacles to their identification, support and assessment, creating a dramatic impact on the vulnerabilities of protection seekers.

Keywords:  Vulnerability, asylum, Italy
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**Asylum seekers in disused military barracks: How the UK’s first refugee camps harm residents’ health**

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In September 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, the British government opened up refugee camps in Ministry of Defence sites. People were transferred in, often with a few minutes notice in the middle of the night, and left in dormitories where social distancing is impossible. Survivors of torture, trafficking and abuse were left to share public showers, with no privacy to change and in run-down facilities in extremely isolated locations. The Home Office committed not to place vulnerable people on the sites, but medical assessments from independent doctors found that many vulnerable and unwell people were in fact present on the sites. During an outbreak of COVID unwell residents were left with limited access to medical care, at times effectively looking after each other, and with COVID-positive residents locked in with those who did not have a positive test.

The presenters of this paper will share some of the initial findings of independent medical assessments undertaken of barracks residents by our charities and will explain how this work is being used externally by Parliamentary committees and in strategic litigation. These camps are a new phenomenon in the UK and it is vitally important for non-clinical professionals working in this field to understand how this move to institutionalise asylum seekers harms health.

**Keywords:** Refugee health, mental health, refugee camps, refugee accommodation, UK
Examining policies and priorities of the Indonesian government in fulfilling the rights of refugees amid the COVID-19 pandemic

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COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting refugees. Refugees are extremely vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak. Most of refugees in the world live in low to middle-income countries, most of which have insufficient resources to deal with an outbreak of this magnitude. Moreover, refugees are often excluded from many countries’ pandemic plans. Refugees do not have the rights to work hence they have limited access to healthcare and sanitation facilities during covid-19 in the world. Few states in Southeast Asia have never ratified UN refugee convention, such as in Indonesia, Indonesia as a non-party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, which are modern international refugee law instruments. This means that refugees in Indonesia are difficult in fulfilling their rights, despite in the facts, Indonesia mostly as transit country house a number of refugees running away from conflict areas. Moreover Indonesia’s treatment of refuges is based on the general obligation to protect and honour human rights. The authority to handle refugees is given to international organizations. However, the handling of this international organization has not been implemented optimally due to obstacles. This research has a suggestion that the Indonesian Government must implementing productivity empowerment schemes as one of the steps to enable refugees to live independently.

Keywords: Covid-19, human rights, protection, Indonesia
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