

## **Editorial**

Welcome to Volume 6, Issue 2 of the Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration!

We are pleased to introduce this issue, which reflects the global state of forced migration and presents diverse global scholarship.

We start our exploration in **Europe**. Our first stop is **Portugal**, where **Costa** and **Sousa** cover the country's receptive orientation towards refugees. Costa and Sousa highlight that this open stance towards refugees reflects humanitarian conviction and image-building, but also intends to address Portugal's domestic economic and demographic challenges. **Topouzova's** piece then takes us to **Bulgaria** where recent measures for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum highlight the need for increased safeguards for adequate representation.

Looking elsewhere in Europe, **Venturi** reflects upon her field research based in **Italy** and the **United Kingdom** to consider the benefit of using qualitative methodology within legal analysis, as well as the interplay between a researcher's identity and access to subjects. **Samshuijzen** focuses on the harsh conditions children face throughout the asylum process in the **Netherlands**, with a focus on detention.

Turning to **Asia**, **Fatima** and **Niaz's** coverage on **Afghan** refugees in **Iran** and **Pakistan** provides a lens into the gendered aspects of forced migration. They argue that, whilst issues particular to women have been historically overlooked in policy development, forced migration and the accompanying repatriation policy arena provide a unique opportunity for the advancement of the status of female refugees that international agents, donors and governments ought to seize. Next, **Zingg's** work focuses on the quandary of migrants deserting the **Syrian** army who are then subject to ambiguous and currently unpredictable consequences under international law.

We also travel to the northern tip of **South America**, where **Sandoval** examines the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in **Colombia**, with a spotlight on an exciting model of resettlement, the Land Restitution Program (LRP). With 15% of its population internally displaced, Sandoval measures the strengths and limitations of the LRP for IDPs in Columbia. We then take you to **Ecuador** where two refugees, **Garces** and **Bonilla**, who have fled from Columbia, share with readers the harrowing events they have escaped as well as their new lives.

Finally, **Taylor's** piece takes a theoretical look at the limitation of semantics in understanding migration.

We are pleased to share this issue with our readers.

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