

Editorial

Since the last edition of OxMo was published just six months ago, we have witnessed both triumphs and tragedies for the protection of forced migrants in many parts of the globe. In more positive developments, in July 2013 the High Court of Kenya declared void a policy requiring all refugees in Kenya (including those living in urban areas) to relocate to one of Kenya's refugee camps (Martha Marrazza explored this directive in the previous edition). Even more recently, in September 2013 the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice struck down a law that authorised the prolonged detention of asylum seekers, providing an increased measure of protection for those seeking sanctuary within the country.

Such victories, however, only benefit those forced migrants whom make it safely to the borders of these states. In early October 2013, up to 300 asylum seekers lost their lives when their boat sank off the coast of Lampedusa. This tragedy elicited widespread public sympathy for the plight of those forced to make dangerous voyages to seek sanctuary, with Pope Francis describing the deaths at sea as 'shameful'. However, only the following week a similar story was reported in the Mediterranean showing that one can never act fast enough to augment protection for those who must seek asylum in this way. More worrying, however, is that these events occurred almost simultaneously to the Australian Government's announcement in October 2013 that they were reintroducing temporary protection visas with no rights to family re-unification for refugees who arrive by boat.

This brief snapshot of developments in the past six months canvasses the temporally and geographically ever-changing state of protection for forced migrants. It thus highlights the need for persistent and rigorous evaluations of social movements, events, laws, and policies that can impact the experiences and rights of forced migrants. It is this objective to which OxMo is dedicated. This edition in particular sees the contributors examine the impact of some of these movements, laws and policies - both new and ongoing - on the protection of forced migrants.

This edition opens with our *Academic Articles* section in which Debora Gonzalez Tejero considers the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of the UK's *City of Sanctuary Movement*. Her research importantly analyses how the strategies adopted by the movement aim to quell, as opposed to inflame, anti-asylum sentiment thus fostering understanding and connection between those seeking sanctuary and the communities hosting them. Theoretically, her integration of a Kantian and a Rortian philosophical approach provides a fascinating and novel contribution to the literature.

Following on from this, our two contributors to the *Law Monitor* discuss regional protection regimes. Izabella Majcher critically analyses the pre-removal detention regime under European Union law. Heloisa Marino examines recent reform to refugee protection in Ecuador to explore the contemporary relevance of the Cartagena Declaration of Refugee's in

Latin America. Both articles highlight the benefits and challenges of regional legal approaches to protection.

Our *First Hand Monitor* focuses on the experiences of forced migrants in the United States of America. Evelyn Aleman provides a moving account of learning about her mother's deportation and incarceration in detention centres. Sarah Degner draws on her experience with the forced migrant community in the Midwest to consider strategies for eliciting empathy of her fellow citizens with respect to the experience of forced migration, providing a practical example of the behaviour advocated for in Tejero's contribution to this edition.

In our *Field Monitor* Cleophas Karooma outlines some of the evidence she has collected in her interviews with those involved, stakeholders and refugees, in the repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Uganda to Rwanda. These interviews highlight the need to take into account refugees' voices when formulating law and policy at a national, regional and international level.

Finally, we conclude with our *Policy Monitor* which highlights Rwanda's role of hosting up to 70,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Authors Evan Easton-Calabria and Annelisa Lindsay examine durable solutions for protracted Congolese refugees in Rwanda. While acknowledging the difficulties presented by the protracted refugee situation, they argue that creative solutions can be found when taking into account not only humanitarian considerations but also interests of states and other key stakeholders.

Altogether, the contributions to this edition of OxMo provide insight into forced migration challenges in four continents: Africa, Europe and North and South America. Collating such a diverse analysis in OxMo has the benefit of highlighting both the contrasts and similarities between these forced migration movements at a variety of scales, and of drawing upon the different scholarly approaches and backgrounds of a diverse group of contributors. Our readers' knowledge of forced migration is enriched by such diversity, and we therefore continue to encourage submissions on any aspect of forced migration.

This concludes the last edition that will be published by the current editorial team. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the team, who have worked with dedication, passion and creativity to deliver Volume 3 of OxMo. We welcome the incoming editorial team and look forward to their contribution to the continuing analysis of crucial issues in the field of forced migration. OxMo is incapable of operating without the generous time and support volunteered by editors new and old, and the insightful and expansive range of contributions made by our authors. With three Volumes of OxMo having passed, expanding the networks of alumni, editors and authors into ever more corners of the globe through our publications, tweets and facebook page, we look forward to its continuing development over Volume 4.

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