

GENDER AND FORCED MIGRATION: WHERE DO MEN FIT IN?

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ABSTRACT

The concept “gender” has long been equated with women and so its use has failed to perceive men as gendered actors. Thus, humanitarian programs for displaced populations, when they address gender issues, have merely referred to refugee women and girls, leaving out the men and boys. This paper argues that it is not only problematic but also counterproductive to view gender in this light. It dwells at length on the nature of sexual and gender-based violence men and boys in conflict situations have suffered, and how unfortunately this abuse has failed to attract the attention of any interventions. The paper suggests a number of reforms.