

# **Refugees' Health and Human Rights: A Review of International Laws**

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## **Abstract**

Refugees – the human rights victims seem to blame the state of origin. States are increasingly challenging the logic of simply assimilating refugees to their own citizens. Questions are now raised about whether refugees should be allowed to enjoy freedom of movement, to work, to access public welfare programs, or to be reunited with family members. Human rights law offers a promising starting point for understanding refugee law. Refugee laws are seen as a subsidiary system of human rights protection. The purpose of refugee law could be to serve as a backup system. Individuals, whose human rights cannot be guaranteed in their country of origin, benefits from protection abroad, granted through refugee law. Thus, it is arguable that refugee laws should become operative only on the premise that a human rights violation takes place. Even though international law provides for the protection of an individual in the International Bill of Rights, the international human rights system is notoriously ineffective in many ways – including the inadequate / poor access to good health care facilities. The international legal framework for the protection of the human rights in terms of individual's health has hitherto paid only insufficient attention to the problems of refugees' health. Simple reasons for the lack of attention to the problem of displaced and refugees have been the absence of their voice at international fora, where the interests of refugees have not been sufficiently represented; and until recently, refugees issues were kept away from legal systems of and debates on human rights. In this context, this paper, reviews the several international laws in general and international human rights laws in particular; examines the existence of refugee laws in the international legal systems; and enlightens the refugees' right to safe health under the human rights.

**Keywords:** Refugee, Health, International Law, and Human Rights.