

Violence against women in the Middle East area: Constitutional matters and solutions

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1. Introduction

The refugee crisis in the Arab world has brought tremendous challenges to the Region¹. Over 25.4 million refugees (over half of whom are minors) and 3.1 million asylum-seekers, and 40 million internally displaced people were forced to leave Syrian territories and move to other countries². The Syrian refugee crisis is not an isolated phenomenon; it aggravates the situation: refugees from Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Eritrea, etc.³

From a global perspective, we can say that: the majority of refugees moved to Europe and neighbors hosting countries as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, etc⁴.

Those Arabic countries -that are middle, and low, income countries- are invested, through the migration crisis, by inevitable political, economic, and social challenges.

The scientific literature identified three migration systems in the Arabic countries: Maghreb Countries⁵, States from the Gulf⁶, Mashreq Countries (excepting Gulf)⁷, and

¹ R. Khalil, *Recent Migrations and Refugees in the MENA Region*, London, 2019.

² For more data, see the report of the "World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa" held in April 2019 in Jordan show, that according to the UNHCR's 2018 Global Trends Report, declares 25.4 million refugees (over half of whom are under the age of 18), 3.1 million asylum-seekers and 40 million internally displaced people.

³ ICJ, *World migration Report 2018*, UN, page 33.

⁴ According to UNHCR refugees data finder (<https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=90Bi>) only in 2019 are recorded: 129.210 Syrian Refugees under UNHCR's Mandate in Egypt, 245.810 in Iraq, 654.692 in Jordan, 910.586 in Lebanon, 3.576.370 in Turkey; 3.676 in Morocco, 951.142 Afghanistan refugees in Iran, 1.419.084 in Pakistan, 1.192 in Turkey, 1.110 in Syria; 21.861 Sudan Refugees in Egypt, 2996 in Jordan; 797 in Libya, 641 refugees and 1560 asylum seekers in Lebanon, 275.563 in South Sudan. In the same year Lebanon received 4.551 refugees and 8.911 asylum-seekers from Iraq, Turkey received 1.279 refugees and 173.245 asylum seekers from Iraq and other 11.580 asylum seekers with Unknown Country of origin; Morocco received 843 refugees from Yemen and 772 other asylum seekers from other countries. In the same year Egypt received 8.858 refugees and 9.374 asylum seekers from Eritrea, 11.657 asylum seekers and 4.599 refugees from Ethiopia, 70.010 refugees from Palestine, 4.426 refugees and 2345 asylum seekers from Iraq, 3.973 refugees and 2729 asylum seekers from Somalia, 9.034 asylum seekers from Yemen. Jordan hosted 34.336 refugees and 32.843 asylum seekers from Iraq, 660 refugees from Somalia and 14.060 asylum seekers from Yemen.

⁵ The Maghreb area since the end of 60' had a policy of maximising emigration in order to manage the unemployed level (especially in Morocco), that produced important minorities in some European countries such as France. The last two decades are characterized by a brain drain where highly skilled professionals move from Maghreb to Europe, Canada and USA, following the general labour market and the social conditions of hosting countries. Recently this area is used as a gateway to Europe, especially for routes used by sub-Saharan migrants.

⁶ Gulf countries are the most oil-rich Arabic Countries, these Countries know about migration principally as foreign labour in the field of oil resources. Abused are registered from migrants in Gulf countries: exploitation of workers, trafficking and forced prostitution. Amplus D. McMurray, *'Recent Trends in Middle Eastern Migration'*, *Middle East Report*, 211, 1999, pp. 16-19 and H. Jaber, F. Métral, M. Dorai: *'Migration in the Arab Middle East: policies, networks and communities in the context of globalisation'*, *Research Programme*, CERMO, Beirut/Amman,

then, there is Turkish system⁸, that also if it is not an Arabic country, must be analysed because it is strictly tied with the Arabic migration systems.

In this specific context, this paper attempted to map out one aspect of the crisis that shows a criticism into the criticism: the violence of women in migration. Our second and key aim is to speak about the duties and responsibilities that require third states outside the Region to offer women and girls refugees' adequate protection.

One of the first needs with these Arabic hosting Countries are called to face with came on the impact of migration on the humanitarian assistance ed the need to protect refugees population, chiefly protection for those categories of migrants defined as "more vulnerable"⁹.

2. Gender migration

The migration data portal shows that "Females comprise somewhat less than half, 130 million or 47.9 %, of the global international migrant stock. The share of female migrants has declined from 49.1 % in 2000 to 47.9 % in 2019, whereas the proportion of male migrants grew from 50.7 % in 2000 to 52.1 % in 2019"¹⁰.

Very often, gender¹¹ influences the reason for migration, the place of migration, and the migration and the migratory flow.

Konrad Adenauer Foundation, 2000, pp. 9, more M. Baldwin-Edwards, *Migration in the Middle East and Mediterranean*, 2005, pp 4 and subsq.

⁷ The Mashreq countries are characterized by extensive involvement with emigration, but also they hosted a very large number of refugees and, especially Lebanon, Syria and Jordan were importers of low-skilled labour from Asia. Is noteworthy that Jordan had the highest refugee ratio in the world and Palestinian refugees, that in camps administered by UNRWA in Jordan was considered as the most reservoir of manpower for the Gulf Countries, where granted Jordanian citizenship in order to facilitate the incorporation in the Jordanian society. *Amplius* M. Khawaja, Migration and the reproduction of poverty: the refugee camps in Jordan, *International Migration*, 41/2, 2003, pp. 27-57. Last important data noteworthy is that in Lebanon Palestinian refugees can't work in skilled professions, they can't buy property, and their civil rights dependent upon UNRWA. "*Lebanon's constitution forbids "implantation," which authorities generally interpret to preclude the permanent integration of Palestinians into the country... Palestinians are also denied access to Lebanese health care and other social services, and most are unable to attend Lebanese schools and universities. The government restricts building in and around Palestinian refugee camps, forcing many refugees to live in overcrowded, unsanitary, and substandard housing.*" *Amplius* U.S. Committee for Refugees World Refugee Survey 2003 – Lebanon.

⁸ Turkey must be considered a country of government-sponsored immigration and transit with respect to both asylum-seeking and illegal migration. The geopolitical location of Turkey as a gate between the Middle East and Europe, Turkey was the host one of the largest migrants population coming from the neighbouring countries involved in conflicts, especially Balkans, Iraq, Iran and Syria. *Amplius* see L. Williams, E. Coşkun, S. Kaşka, *Women, Migration and Asylum in Turkey: Developing Gender-Sensitivity in Migration Research, Policy and Practice*, Berlin, 2020.

⁹ According to Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situation published by UNHCR Office of the High Commissioner (Geneva 2017) "Migrants in vulnerable situations" are thus persons who are unable effectively to enjoy their human rights, are at increased risk of violations and abuse and who, accordingly, are entitled to call on a duty bearer's heightened duty of care. See page 4 of the Principles and Guidelines.

¹⁰ <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/gender-and-migration>

¹¹ The meaning of the word gender is here used, according to the Women Training Centre's Glossary of UN, referring to "*the roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men ... Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a women or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned,*

Gender has relevance also in the vulnerabilities and needs of migrants, and it represents, also, in the majority of cases, the base of violations against women in migration. Violence, too often, accompanies the entire migratory path: from the flow to the arrival, during the integration path until the consistency with the hosting Country's population. Statistic data detect cases of gender-based violence against women all around the world. IOM underlines¹² that yearly a relevant number of migrant women face violence and discrimination in both private and public spheres.

3. Violence against women and migration

As we, already, analysed women migrants are exposed to violence and violation of their rights during the migration:

A considerable number of women, for example, attempting to reach Europe, through Arabic countries, to seek protection from conflict or violence in their countries (just as an example the east route from Syria and the south route from Africa, both routes cross Arabic countries) are subject to violence during their journey.¹³

As it is well known the Central Mediterranean Route, passing through Libya, is one of the most dangerous routes for migrants¹⁴. UNHCR Italia reported abuse in Libya camps, in the route from Sudan or through Niger, and in the boat trip to reach Europe, especially on women migrants that are alone without their family. Practically all migrant that are detained in Libya Camps are raped Women, but also girls, According to UN Commission on Women refugees very often the rape is recorded and the movie of the rape is sended to the raped women family in order to obtain money and push them to pay the ransom. In Libyan detention center women are tortured and forced to work in a condition that is quite slavery.

There is also another violence phenomenon against women in migration, the sexual exchange of girls and women. *“Contemporary trafficking operations transform traditional bride wealth and marriage exchanges (prestations) by treating women's sexuality and bodies as commodities to be bought and sold (and exchanged again) in various Western capitals and Internet spaces.”*¹⁵

The connection between mafias and human traffickers in boat migration in Mediterranean area aggravates the complexity of the situation and amplifies the difficulties for protecting women and girls in migration.¹⁶

Violence, exploitation and other violations of rights on migrants women continue in hosting countries.

activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context, as are other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, sexual orientation, age, etc.”

¹² IOM Info sheet 2013 “Taking Action against Violence and Discrimination Affecting Migrant Women and Girls”.

¹³ J. Freedman, Sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women: a hidden aspect of the refugee “crisis”. *Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 24, Issue 47, May 2016, Pages 18-26.

¹⁴ Reques, L., Aranda-Fernandez, E., Rolland, C. et al. Episodes of violence suffered by migrants transiting through Libya: a cross-sectional study in “Médecins du Monde’s” reception and healthcare centre in Seine-Saint-Denis, France. *Confl Health* 14, 12 (2020).

¹⁵ L.D. Long, Anthropological Perspectives on the Trafficking of Women for Sexual Exploitation, IOM 2004.

¹⁶ P. Monzini, *Il traffico di migranti per mare verso l’Italia. Sviluppi recenti (2004-2008)*, CESPI Working Papers 43/2008.

Remaining in the Arabic countries area (but the phenomenon is recorded all around the world from Europe to Asia and America) UNDP reports, for example, that the 17% of domestic workers from Sri Lanka working in the Arab states had been sexually harassed and the 5% per cent had been raped¹⁷

A relevant number of Women involved in domestic labours in UAE are victims of debt bondage, slavery and exploitation. Serious health and safety problems are recorded as result of inhumane work and living conditions¹⁸.

The problem of migrant women workers is common in all areas. Under Lebanese law, domestic workers can stay only under the kafala system (or equivalent legal tools) system. Human rights violations are recorded as result from workers' exclusion from Lebanese labour law. Migrant domestic workers in Lebanon “have defied their spatial, social, and legal exclusions¹⁹”.

4. Fundamental rights and constitutional matters. State responsibilities: challenges and solution

In some of the Middle Eastern Countries, human rights had been conceptualized in a way that did not take care of immigrant women's matters and the fact that they experienced violence, crime, discrimination and coercion.

Also some certain norms and traditions put many restraints upon women, primarily in the male dominated society, and the human rights of women have not always been a priority²⁰.

The work of activists, human rights organizations and States has been critical especially in the gulf countries, with the violations of the human rights²¹.

Efficiently ensuring women's human rights requires a new laws and regulations in these countries, and requires also a wide-ranging understanding of the fundamental societal structures and power relations that define and stimulate the ability of the women to enjoy human rights²².

These power structures have an impact on all aspects of life, from law and politics, to economic and social policy, family and community life, education, health, skill development and attainment of employment opportunities²³.

¹⁷ IOM Info sheet cit. Pag. 1

¹⁸ Sönmez, Sevil, et al. “Human Rights and Health Disparities for Migrant Workers in the UAE.” *Health and Human Rights*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2011, pp. 17–35. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/healthumarigh.13.2.17. Accessed 24 Nov. 2020.

¹⁹ D. Mansour-Ille, M. Hendow, *From Exclusion to Resistance: Migrant Domestic Workers and the Evolution of Agency in Lebanon*, *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 16:4, 2018, 449-469.

²⁰ Amplus S. Nazir, L. Tomppert, *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Citizenship and Justice*, Washington, 2005; S. Kelly, J. Breslin, *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Progress Amid Resistance*, Washington, 2010; OCED, *Women in Public Life Gender, Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa: Gender, Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2015, A. R. Norton, *The Future of Civil Society in the Middle East.*, in *Middle East Journal*, vol. 47, no. 2, 1993, pp. 205–216.

²¹ S. Kelly, J. Breslin, *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa*: cit, pag. 16.

²² According to the UN Arab Human Rights Development report a relevant number of Arabic Countries haven't signed, and ratified the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women

²³ L. Markle, *Women and Economic Development in the Middle East and North Africa*, in " *Student Papers in Public Policy*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 3. V. M. Moghadam, , *Women's Economic Participation in the Middle East: What*

The elimination of all forms of discrimination against women is fundamental human rights and United Nations values.

Women all over the world, however, commonly experience violations of their human rights throughout their lives, and human rights of women have not always been a priority.

Ending violence against women from the men, society and from the laws requires a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which women experience discrimination and are deprived of equality so as to develop appropriate strategies and norms to eliminate such violence and discrimination.

Many women experience additional forms of discrimination and violence, based on their age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, health status, marital status, education, disability and socio-economic status²⁴.

These interconnecting forms of discrimination and violations must be taken into account when formulating measures and responses to combat violence and discrimination against women

Combating against violence and discrimination treatments is essential for the progress of women.

Besides these, one should give priority to the rights of women and promote their effective implementation.

It was against this perspective that the governments all over the world felt the need to prioritize the needs and interests of women and recognize their contribution in various stages and overcoming impediments that would take place within the course of their empowerment.

The occurrence of violent and criminal acts against women within the house and outside, primarily lead to their absence.

Such as the "Dowry deaths"²⁵ are deaths of married women who are murdered or driven to suicide by continuous harassment and torture by their husbands and in-laws over a dispute about their dowry, making the women's homes the most dangerous place for them to be. Dowry deaths are found predominantly in India Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Iran.

When a women experiences violent and criminal acts at the hands of their husbands, in-laws, fathers, brothers or other family members.

These include verbal abuse, physical abuse, and inflicting various forms of mistreatment. There are numerous reasons for women experiencing domestic violence within their marital homes, these are inability to carry out the household tasks in an appropriate manner, financial problems, desire for a male child, unawareness and illiteracy on the

Difference Has the Neoliberal Policy Turn Made?" *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2005, pp. 110–146.

²⁴ UN, status of Arab women report 2017 violence against women: what is at stake?, 2018

²⁵ U. Vindhya, Violence against Women, 2000, 6(10):1085-1108. doi:10.1177/10778010022183532; AA. VV., The social construction of 'dowry deaths', *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 119, October 2014, Pages 1-9; Muazzam Nasrullah, Sana Muazzam, Newspaper reports: a source of surveillance for burns among women in Pakistan, *Journal of Public Health*, Volume 32, Issue 2, June 2010, Pages 245–249.

part of women, experiencing problems in meeting essential needs and requirements, health problems and feelings of antagonism and resentment.

Another kind of violence consists in Child Marriage²⁶ – Child marriage is when the marriage of girls takes place, when they are below 18 years of age.

Child marriage is regarded as a practice that deprives the girls of their childhood. They experience problems in the acquisition of education, getting enrolled in school, taking pleasure in other childhood activities and in enhancing their skills and abilities.

It also affects the social, psychological and emotional development of the child in a negative way. When girl children experience domestic violence within their marital homes, they feel vulnerable and apprehensive.

There is remarkable progress in the Middle East regarding women rights.

Advancements are most pronounced in Tunisia, birthplace of the pro-democracy uprisings known as the Arab Spring that started in late 2010.

The country's 2014 constitution is a model, affirms equal rights and duties for male and female citizens and says the state will strive to achieve parity in all elected assemblies.

Tunisia has enacted laws against economic discrimination and harassment of women.

Saudi Arabia has lifted its restrictions on women traveling abroad, the most notable weakening yet of the country's notorious guardianship system. It marks another advance for gender equality, more than a year after the kingdom ended the world's only ban on women driving.

Abolish the sponsorship system in Saudi Arabia²⁷.

What is the sponsorship system in Saudi Arabia?

The sponsorship system is a law that applies in Saudi Arabia as it applies in most Arab Gulf countries, and aims to determine the relationship between the worker and the sponsor, which is the employer, so the expat works in the institution owned by the sponsor provided that the sponsor is in control of most of the operations of the expatriate, does not allow the travel of the immigrant outside the country. Only with the approval of the sponsor, the expat can also move to another institution or transfer the sponsorship to another sponsor except with the approval of the sponsor as well,

The law will be applied by the next year, and the expatriates will be free to change jobs and the right to leave the country without the permission of the sponsor.

Qatar adopted fundamental changes in its labour market, abolishing the requirement for migrant workers to obtain permission from their employer if they want to change their employer sought to change their employers and became the first country in the Gulf countries to adopt a non-discriminatory minimum wage.

²⁶ Zeynep Şişli, Stephanie A. Limoncelli. (2019) *Child brides or child labor in a worst form?*. Journal of Labor and Society 22:2, pages 313-324; Megan Arthur, Alison Earle, Amy Raub, Ilona Vincent, Efe Atabay, Isabel Latz, Gabriella Kranz, Arijit Nandi & Jody Heymann (2018) *Child Marriage Laws around the World: Minimum Marriage Age, Legal Exceptions, and Gender Disparities*, Journal of Women, Politics & Policy, 39:1, 51-74; KAMAL, S., HASSAN, C., ALAM, G., & YING, Y. (2015). *CHILD MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH: TRENDS AND DETERMINANTS*. Journal of Biosocial Science, 47(1), 120-139.

²⁷ Omar Hesham AlShehabi (2019) *Policing labour in empire: the modern origins of the Kafala sponsorship system in the Gulf Arab States*, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies; Gulf Research Center, *The Legal Framework of the Sponsorship System of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait: a comparative Examination*. GLMM – EN – n. 7/2014.; Absal, Rayeesa 2009 "UAE Government Launches Wage Protection System for Workers," Gulf News, 26 May 2009; Afsar, Rita 2009 "Unravelling the Vicious Cycle of Labor Recruitment: Migration from Bangladesh to Gulf Countries," International Labour Office.

Following the adoption of Law No. 18 for 2020 on August 30, 2020²⁸, migrant workers were able to change their workplace before their contract expired without first obtaining a no objection certificate from their employer. This law, coupled with the abolition of exit authorization adopted earlier this year, effectively abolishes the sponsorship system and "*marks the beginning of a new era for Qatar's labor market*". As ILO said.

The abolition of the sponsorship Increased freedom of movement in the labor market would generate additional opportunities and increase workers' job satisfaction.

The introduction of a non-discriminatory minimum wage directly targets some 400,000 private sector workers" in Qatar only" and will improve the lives of family members of millions of workers in countries of origin thanks to increased remittances.

To ensure compliance with the minimum wage, the Government is working to strengthen the monitoring of violations, impose sanctions more quickly and strengthen the capacity of inspectors.

The sponsorship system is in place in, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE.

In Lebanon the Palestinian refugees have continued to be treated as foreigners²⁹ deprived of the most basic rights provided for their lives. Although Lebanon affirmed its respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law, the reality of the situation indicates otherwise. "The Palestinian labor force in Lebanon is estimated at 75,000 workers who are stationed in difficult areas such as agriculture, construction, furnaces and gas stations."

The Palestinian deprived from many professions in Lebanon.

They are not entitled to practice law in Lebanon for reasons related to the prohibition of Palestinians mainly from working in Lebanon from multiple professions, and for the legal profession, the law governing this profession did not allow the Palestinian to practice it, and the issue is not about restricting, but preventing, not only the Palestinian, but also the law of regulating the legal profession in Lebanon only, even if it is the nationality of another Recognized Lebanese State, which inevitably includes a Palestinian residing in Lebanon.

The Palestinian doctor is also not entitled to practice medicine in Lebanon, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Regulation of the Medical Profession, and prohibits the Palestinian engineer from working in the engineering profession in Lebanon, under the Law regulating the profession of engineering.

²⁸ ILO, *Dismantling the kafala system and introducing a minimum wage mark new era for Qatar Labour market*, https://www.ilo.org/beirut/projects/qatar-office/WCMS_754391/lang--en/index.htm

²⁹ SOUHEIL AL-NATOUR, *The Legal Status of Palestinians in Lebanon*, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 10, Issue 3, 1997, Pages 360–377. L. Charles, *Syrian and Palestinian Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: the Plight of Women and Children*, *Journal of International Women's Studies*, vol. 15; Sari Hanafi, Jad Chaaban, Karin Seyfert, *Social Exclusion of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon: Reflections on the Mechanisms that Cement their Persistent Poverty*, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Volume 31, Issue 1, March 2012, Pages 34–53.

In Lebanon, the Palestinians were not congratulated on a comfortable and economically secure establishment, and they were exposed to various crises, sometimes originating from the Lebanese Government, other Lebanese parties, the Zionist entity and the misconduct of some Palestinian factions at other times. Most of the crises were transient except for two: the refugee crisis and the distance from home, and the second the Lebanese government's bias against refugees. Some Lebanese have justified and continue to justify bias against refugees on the basis of disrupting Lebanon's population balance. Lebanon is divided sectarianly, and its constitution enshrines this division, which Lebanese parties and sects continue to adopt.

An estimated 200,000 migrant domestic workers in Lebanon come under renewable three-year employment contracts and are forced to live in the employer's home as a prerequisite for obtaining a visa. The problem of migrant workers begins immediately after the employment contract is signed in the employment offices, as some of these offices offer two different contracts for both the employer and the worker coming from abroad. The first confirms that the worker is not entitled to a weekly holiday, and that she is not entitled to build social relations with fellow nationals, to other prohibitions that satisfy the employer at the expense of the worker. While the other decade mentions completely opposite information. Thus, the first stumbling block has been placed in the way of building a good relationship between the worker and the employers, as the expectations of each other are quite different from those of the other. Some may think that this problem of the employment contract has been solved through the "unified employment contract" that has been in place since 2009, which for the first time required the employer and the worker to sign the same contract in their respective mother tongues, but the reality does not give much optimism in this regard. Work (this is if we assume that the contract was actually written in the mother tongue of the migrant worker, and that she was informed of her rights before signing).

A bail system or a license for enslavement? From the injustice of some employment offices, to class and ethnic discrimination, it is the second leg of the worker's journey to Lebanon.

The system links the worker to a single employer (sponsor) for the duration of the contract. Once that period has expired, the employer must return the worker to her country. If she wants to work in another house, she cannot do so without obtaining a waiver from her first employer. It should be noted that the escape of the worker, even due to the state of exploitation or physical violence, makes her presence illegal from the moment she leaves the house of her client.

Exploitation and abuse³⁰
In the sponsor's home, the journey begins that determines the fate of the migrant worker. While some of them are lucky, they happen to be in a family that respects human rights and their different rights (from decent shelter to food, clothing, timely pay,

³⁰ V.N. Sherry, Human Rights Watch, *Bad Dreams: Exploitation and Abuse of Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia*, 2004.

etc.) Others fall victim to work in a house whose employers do not respect the rights or freedom of others, and are deprived of the most basic human rights, namely, to treat them as a human being, not as a commercial commodity, or as a robot devoid of feeling and pride.

In a house like this, the worker begins the journey of oppression and humiliation: from locking the door of the house and holding it inside all day (boasting in front of the neighbors), to forcing her to work hours without giving her enough time to rest, to reprimanding and violently when anything goes wrong, as well as holding different responsibilities at the same time, such as taking care of children, housework and caring for the elderly (such as grandfather or grandmother) who live in the same house. Some users are not content with this amount of exploitation, but go further by forcing the worker to clean the house of a relative "in free time", depriving her in return of the day off, preventing her from getting to know her colleagues from home and spending time with them under the pretext of "teaching each other rebellion", as if these poor women come from poverty and hunger to launch a coup d'état in return from the employer's house!

Facing abuse by suicide!³¹

The above-mentioned abuse is just the tip of the iceberg of a large number of migrant domestic workers. This is confirmed by reports prepared by some humanitarian institutions as a result of studies on the reality of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. In the summer of 2008, Human Rights Watch published a report noting that 95 migrant domestic workers died in Lebanon, with an average of one working women per week. Their embassies classified 40 cases as suicide, while another 24 were classified as falling from high buildings while trying to escape from the employer's home. In contrast, only 14 domestic workers died as a result of illness or health reasons. In interviews with officials at the embassies of female suicide bombers and friends, Human Rights Watch found that the reasons for these workers' suicides were mainly the restriction of forced stay in the workplace, excessive job demands, employer abuse and economic pressure. Human Rights Watch officials have confirmed that investigations into the girls' deaths have not been pursued seriously enough. Most reports are based on the employer's statement, while the motives that led to the suicide have not been verified.

One of the worst problems experienced by some migrant workers in Lebanon is contempt, physical violence and sexual harassment. The first is usually practiced by housewives who look inferior to the worker, and she misses that this women is entrusted with the house and the most precious thing is the children, who care about them throughout the absence of the mother from the home and who will convey to them negative or positive feelings according to the treatment she receives from the heads of the house. This is enough to treat the worker with respect and humanity, taking into account the principle of equality among all human beings.

³¹ P. Budhwar, K. Mellahi, Handbook of Human Resource Management in The Middle East, 2016, pag. 266.

The issues of physical violence and sexual harassment, which are criminalized by law, remain, but the worker's ignorance of the laws and her inability to prove the physical harm done to her, in addition to her eagerness to keep her work as a result of her family's need for it, prevents her from seeking help except in extreme cases that reach hospitals and police stations.

Human Rights Watch: Judicial failure to protect female workers

In September 2010, Human Rights Watch issued a report on 114 Lebanese judicial rulings in which domestic workers were either plaintiffs or defendants, interviewing workers who reported ill-treatment, and lawyers who regularly handled their cases. According to the report, the Lebanese judicial system "failed to protect the rights of migrant domestic workers". The report added: "At the heart of the judicial failure to protect migrant domestic workers is the sponsorship system, which links migrant workers to the employer of their work, where workers lose their legal status if their sponsor breaks their contract, or if they decide to leave their employers (even if they have legitimate reasons to resign, such as not receiving wages or abuse).

Therefore, any worker who leaves her employer and complains against him loses the right to work and faces the possibility of arrest and deportation." "Even if they file complaints, female workers often face inaction by the police and judicial authorities, who have failed to address some allegations as potential crimes, have addressed some complaints carelessly, or even ignored them altogether. Human Rights Watch found no example of the 114 cases it reviewed in which the authorities prosecuted employers on charges of forcing female workers to work excessively, detaining them at home, seized their passports, or deprived them of food. In one example, a Kenyan worker told the police that her employer was holding her at home when she left, and the employer admitted to doing so in her statement to the police. However, instead of charging the crime of "detention of liberty" (article 569 of the Penal Code), the prosecutor simply asked the police to "obtain a pledge from the employer to complete all official transactions of the maid, pay her, and not to take reprisals against her".

In cases where female workers complained that employers had not handed over their passports or other identity papers, the courts dismissed the complaint, or merely asked the employer to return the documents. Even then, there was little follow-up to ensure that the employer complied, and no employer was prosecuted for his conduct in any of the cases reviewed by Human Rights Watch, accepting employers' argument that it was legitimate to withhold the worker's passport to prevent her from escaping.

Finally we need to single very important elements behind the violence against women in the Arab world and the Middle East; it's the intervention of the big powers in these countries and their support for dictatorships there, as well as their assistance and efforts in fueling conflicts and creating climates for wars in the region to maintain their control over these countries.

This, in turn, drives millions to migrate their countries and go to Europe, and many of the great and rich countries support dictatorships in those countries in order to control

the wealth and fortunes of those countries, as is the case in many African countries, they refused to condone human rights violations in order to preserve their interests.

We see this as evident in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Sudan as well as in Africa as is the case with Mali, Nigeria and many other countries.

Women and children in refugee camps in Greece³² are vulnerable to sexual abuse and violence, despite the fact that they were built under the auspices of the European Union, refugee groups said.

A large number of children and women trapped in the camps, supposedly safe, have been sexually abused, the Guardian newspaper reported on January 13.

In a camp set up at a former Soviet toilet tart factory outside Thessaloniki, aid organizations said the risk of sexual abuse was so high that women were afraid to use the camp's communal "toilets" at night.

The newspaper quoted a volunteer in the "Softex" camp, which is home to 1,400 refugees, mostly from Syria, that organized crime networks of men had succeeded in trapping young girls, and cited the case of an Iraqi family who had been transferred to a temporary shelter outside the camp after a child was sexually assaulted inside the camp.

The volunteer pointed to the poor psychological state of some families to the extent that some of them were considering returning to the country from which they fled, abandoning the dream of life on the European continent.

Topics you might be interested in at the end

The international federation of international federations of international Red Cross societies confirmed the increase in cases of sexual violence in refugee camps in Greece and that the Greek authorities had been informed of the incidents of sexual violence against children and women.

"The widespread sexual violence has made these camps unsafe for children and women, in our opinion, and we have raised the issue of security in the camps over and over again," the UNHCR said.

The problem of violence and sexual abuse against children and women is not confined to camps in Greece, but is common in refugee camps and displacement camps in countries where Syrians fleeing the ravages of war in their country have come.

Has the international community failed to protect children and women in refugee camps from sexual abuse?

Who was involved in these attacks?

Does the silence of the victims encourage further attacks?

³² I. Sirkeci, f. Tilbe, M. Erdogan, The Migration Conference 2017 Programme and Abstracts Book, pag. 290.

What measures should be taken to stop these attacks?

It is a combination of more than one factor that all get together and form the kind of anti-women environment, such as the one caused by bad norms and tradition, sexist male institutions or accumulated social injustice that over decades have targeted women's rights.

There are also lots of mistaken policies that have dealt with women in a very unclear and unserious way; we need a real intervention from states and international organizations to help the refugees and immigrants women, to protect them and to help them by educations and financials aid.

Why would women play a role in instigating injustice against them? They do this while waiting for those who would offer them their rights on a golden plate.

They also expect men and the society to give them their rights without having to struggle for extended periods of time.

Rights are taken. They are never given.

Realistic people look to the future in a scientific and systematic way.

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