



THE JOURNAL OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

EDITORIAL

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The Inaugural Volume 1: Definitions, Scopes, Theories and Concepts – Focus on

The birth of this journal arose from the severe lack and neglect by academics, researchers, public institutions, private organizations and not-for-profit agencies to prioritize discourses on this marginalized populations by way of centralizing debates, ideas, and concerns on IDPs into a organized but diverse funnel of thoughts. It can be argued that the gradual decrease in global refugees populations is, in part, attributed to the protraction of IDP populations especially knowing that the number of violent conflicts globally (especially in Africa) have remained the same if not increased. There is no better way to initiate this discussion except for launching the Journal of Internal Displacement Inaugural Volume 1. The aim of this first volume is to provoke thoughts and tease out ideas around the definitions, scopes, theories and conceptual framework of internal displacement.

The term “Internally Displaced People” (IDPs), unlike “Refugee”, is not only relatively new but has become the central focus of scholarly and non-scholarly debates around the globe. The questions of (1) who should be included in the definition of internal displacement; (ii) whether an Internal Displacement Law should be enacted; and (iii)

whose responsibility it is to protect IDPs are but few of the many contemporary issues. Academics, civil society groups, humanitarian agencies, refugee practitioners, lawyers and policy makers have created numerous camps, each defining and understanding the concept from their disciplines. Some promote a generic definition of internal displacement; others push for a distinct categorization of displacement, yet few argue that, indeed one size does not fit all. For example, some researchers have suggested a distinction between development-induced displacement and conflict-induced displacement, and the exclusion of the former from statistics on internal displacement.

Depending on which camp you choose, one thing is sure, the Journal of Internal Displacement was created to stimulate inclusive dialogue from the variety of interested scholars, practitioners and policy makers. The Journal of Internal Displacement (JID) is a scholarly and inter-disciplinary platform for raising the profile of IDPs through critical dialogue, emerging themes, and reflections on a wide range of topics and regions; aimed to explore and embrace diverse perspectives (practical and theoretical) on internal displacement globally.

To initiate this process, we started by sending out a Call for Papers. By the deadline (May 2010) a total of nineteen articles were submitted to the Journal. A rough scan of the articles submitted begs for the publication of two Inaugural Issues: 1) Focus on International Perspectives, and 2) Special Focus on Africa. Of the 19 articles assessed, 10 were accepted for publication in the first issue. With emphasis on international perspective topics ranging from environmental displacement in Kenya to Israel's occupation in Palestine in addition to internal displacement of Aborigines in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and United States, encompass the vastness of concepts, scopes and themes associated not only with this Issue of JID but also with the multi-dimensionality of internal displacement.

At this juncture, expressing my gratitude to the founding Editorial Team is in order. With much gratitude, I say A GIGANTIC THANKS to our outstanding editorial team without whom this publication will not have been. Their exceptional commitment promises to elevate the Journal of Internal Displacement to unparalleled levels successes. On that note, I cordially invite everyone with interest in internal displacement to subscribe to the JID in order to have free and open access to the publications. As a new Journal with hopes of improving our publication, we encourage to engage us with your feedback, input, and suggestions. Finally, I admonish you to kindly visit our website for more information on the next Call For Paper: **Definitions, Scopes, Theories and Concepts – Focus on Africa**. NB: Deadline for Submission is **February 25, 2011**.

Thank you very much for prioritizing the concerns of IDPs around the globe.

Warmest Regards,

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Editor-in-Chief

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