

## International Literature Project Series

Preparing Social Work Students to Practice in An Interconnected World

### IMMIGRATION


# NONFICTION FROM SYRIA & MYANMAR: *After the Last Border*

*A story of refugee displacement and resettlement in a reluctant America*

by Jessica Goudeau

FULL-LENGTH BOOK

Multi-media teaching and learning resources, including author bio, socio-geographic-political and cultural context, and resources for social work practice.

<b>Excerpt</b>	<p>"The first knock on her door the next morning was a Syrian woman who lived a few buildings over. Hasna was so grateful to see her and hear her Arabic with its thick Aleppo accent, she nearly cried...."</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> to see full excerpt.</p>
<b>About</b>	<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p><b>refugees</b></p> <p>People who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. (UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency)</p>
<b>Author bio</b>	 <p>Jessica Goudeau has written for <i>The New York Times</i>, <i>The Atlantic</i>, <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, <i>Teen Vogue</i>, among many other places, and is a former columnist for <i>Catapult</i>. She produced projects for <i>Teen Vogue</i> ("Ask a Syrian Girl") and "A Line Birds Cannot See," a documentary about a young girl who crossed the border into the US on her own that was distributed by <i>The New Yorker</i>. Goudeau has spent more than a decade working with refugees in Austin, TX. (<a href="http://www.jessicagoudeau.com">www.jessicagoudeau.com</a>)</p>
<b>Context</b>	<p><b><a href="#">Interview: After the Last Border, A Conversation with Jessica Goudeau</a></b></p> <p>C-SPAN (Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University)</p>

	<p><b>101 Facts &amp; Figures on the Syrian Refugee Crisis Volume II</b> American University of Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p><b>Syria</b> UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency</p> <p><b>Who We Are: 70 Years of the UN Refugee Agency</b> UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency</p>
<b>Playlist</b>	<p><b>Arts &amp; Culture: Exploring the Syrian war through the country's arts and culture scene</b> The New Humanitarian</p> <p><b>My Syrian Culture (Youth Essay)</b> One World Education</p> <p><b>Ask a Syrian Girl Video Series</b> Teen Vogue</p> <p><b>7 videos guaranteed to change the way you see refugees</b> UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency</p>
<b>Related readings</b>	<p><b>RefugeeOne Good Books</b> Reading lists, videos, and podcasts for children and adults Refugee One, Chicago</p>

Reading resources template based on the Teaching and Learning Resources by Words Without Borders Campus ([wwb-campus.org](http://wwb-campus.org)).

## **SOCIAL WORK TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES**

### **Realities in displacement: A focus on the experiences of Syrian refugee women**

#### **Women Alone: The fight for Survival by Syria's Refugee Women**

UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency

*"What happens when life as you know it changes overnight? When your role as a mother, wife, sister, or daughter, suddenly switches to that of the main provider and head of the household? How do you cope when thrust into an uncertain terrain that leaves you exposed to unfamiliar risks, and struggling just to make it through the day? Over the past three years, 2.8 million people have had to flee the civil war in Syria – nearly four in five of them women and children. They have faced dramatic changes to every part of their lives, with a direct effect on the structure of Syrian communities in exile. This report tells the story of one group – women who head their households alone – who face a particularly difficult challenge [based on interviews with Syrian*

women in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt]. Before the war, many of these women were supported by the men who headed their households, with comfortable lives, emotional support networks, and friends and family close by. But when violent conflict broke out in 2011, all of that changed. Their societies fell apart, and they had to flee to a new place, often taking with them little: a suitcase of necessary items, their wedding rings and their memories. Leaving their homes behind was only the first step in a journey that would change their lives. For these women, life as a refugee has meant becoming the main breadwinner and caretaker, fending for themselves and their families, away from their communities and their traditional sources of support. It means facing challenges head on, sometimes alone, and being creative with resources. This study is an attempt to document and understand what life is like for these women, and to understand the specific challenges they face."

### **Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement: The Status of Syrian Refugee Women in Jordan**

UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)

*The Syria crisis has resulted in the forcible displacement of hundreds of thousands of people across the region, many of whom are seeking protection in neighboring countries, including the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jordan continues to support one of the largest Syrian refugee populations in the world, nearly 700,000 of which are formally registered with UNHCR. Eighty-six percent (86%) of Syrian refugees live below the Jordanian poverty line and three quarters (75%) are considered severely or highly shelter vulnerable. For the nearly half of Syrian refugees that are women and girls, which this report is focused on, the risks encountered in displacement are heightened by gender discrimination and inequalities.*

### **Syrian Women and the Refugee Crisis: Surviving the Conflict, Building Peace, and Taking New Gender Roles**

Yumna Asaf, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

Social Sciences (International Journal)

*"Women and men experience conflicts differently. Women, even as non-combatants, suffer a great harm. Wars are gendered, both in causes and consequences. Women are deliberately excluded from formal peace negotiations. Work done for the reconstruction of conflict ridden societies, fail to recognize with women's realities and needs. Despite that, women have remained influential at the grassroots level in peace-building and rehabilitation. The paper uses the example of Syria, to explore beyond the most prominent perception of women borne out of an armed conflict, i.e., of the 'victims of war' and assesses, in how many different ways women have survived the Syrian conflict and have made efforts for peace, informally and formally, challenging the narrative of women as just a group with special needs and requirements. For this purpose, the paper has content analysis of the previous research, data, reports, mainstream news articles, and other relevant information on the topics of housing, food, health, work and financial security, changed roles, isolation, and gender-based violence to understand how women's role in all these spheres are shaping new narratives for women, peace and security, distinct from the prevalent existing ones." [Journal Abstract]*

## Social services and humanitarian responses in support of refugees

### **Refugees in Town Project: Supporting Integration of Refugees and Hosts**

Tufts University, U.S.

*Explore this extremely rich and extensive resource of case reports, reflections and analyses of the refugee experience, drawing on refugees themselves as well as local hosts, in rich multi-media format: personal stories, art, photography, audio conversations.*

### **Refugees from Burma**

Cultural Orientation Resource Center, Center for Applied Linguistics, U.S.

*Video featuring interviews with refugees from Burma, talking about their challenges and accomplishments dealing with learning English, employment, housing and community, rights and responsibilities, and the long process of resettlement. Includes other resources: images, photos, and information.*

### **Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange (CORE)**

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United States Department of State (Funder)

*A technical assistance program which connects and supports refugee resettlement staff globally to deliver effective cultural orientation, specifically vital knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to help refugees adapt to their new lives and achieve self-sufficiency, including [Cultural Overboarding](#) and [Online Courses](#), among many other resources.*

### **Refugee Hosts: Local Community Experiences of Displacement from Syria: Views from Lebanon, Jordan And Turkey**

Global Challenges Research Fund, UK

*Refugee hosts are local communities, civil society groups, established refugee communities, and faith-based organizations providing essential assistance, solidarity and support to refugees. The purpose of the program is to improve our understanding of the challenges and opportunities that arise in local responses to displacement, both for refugees from Syria and for the members of the communities that are hosting them in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. See [Reflections from 'The Field'](#) and other excellent sections.*

### **Ethnic Conflict and Social Services in Myanmar's Contested Regions**

The Asia Foundation, San Francisco

*This report examines the dynamics of social service delivery in contested regions of Myanmar, in order to contribute to a more informed analysis and discussion of how aid can strengthen relations between the state and alternative service providers and support the evolution of legitimate and inclusive institutions necessary for peace.*

### **A Guide to Social Work**

Relief and Social Services Programme

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

*A plan to transform social work with Palestine refugees into a work force that could support individuals and families in better understanding their opportunities and taking control over potentially destructive dynamics. This work force should coordinate with UNRWA service provision programs and support most vulnerable Palestine refugees affected by conditions of social and economic stress compounded by external factors such as conflict, displacement and, in many instances, the absence of legal status that deprives them of protection within the framework of civil rights.*

### **2020 Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis**

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

*A high level analysis of the humanitarian response plan to Myanmar's Rohingya refugee community in Bangladesh. Some 860,000 Rohingya refugees currently reside in 34 highly congested camps formally designated by the Government of Bangladesh. This comprehensive analysis includes a strategic plan, priorities, financing, and progress achieved in areas including: protection, site management and site development, food security, education, health, nutrition, shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene. See also the graphic report, [2020 COVID-19 Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis – Snapshot](#).*

For teaching suggestions, please see [Using This Resource](#) in the International Literature Project Series.