

Regional Studies Association MICaRD Research Network

Practice and research symposium: Social service responses to migration

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini, Greece, 11-12
May 2023**

Location: Amphitheatre, Dept. of Social Work, Democritus University of Thrace, P. Tsaldari 1

Thursday 11 May 2023

Panel 1: Space and community

Chair: Michael Rasell, University of Innsbruck

Social services in times of displacement in Iceland

Óskar Dýrmundur Ólafsson, Reykjavik city/International team/South Center, and Hervör Alma Árnadóttir, University of Iceland (Iceland)

Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic with a population of 380.000. Until recently the population was at large homogenous. In the past decade there has occurred change in the demography resulting in a more multi-cultural society. Iceland has like other countries welcomed refugees. This has presented challenges for municipalities, especially the capital, Reykjavik city. Our aim in this presentation is to talk about the current situation, the main challenges and opportunities while welcoming a diverse group of refugees. Our data is from practitioners, experience and reports from Reykjavik city. In our findings we will discuss the growth of services related to these challenges and what kind of support has been needed according to the cultural background of refugees and other needs that have to be met. We will also discuss community work when addressing xenophobia and anti-migrant sentiment and response by social services to rapid displacement. We seek the opportunity to reflect with other practitioners and academics with knowledge and experience in this field.

Building Trust and Sustainability between Syrian's refugees and Jordanian community

Bader Al-Madi, German Jordan University (Jordan)

Jordan, a safe haven for refugees since its establishment. It has the third-largest population of Syrian refugees and considered the first refuge for Palestinians. Jordan's geopolitical history has positioned it for the prevailing problems. Taking the history of Jordan hosting refugees since 1948 into account draws a clearer image of the economic burden on the Jordanian government's shoulders. Increased unemployment rate, increased food pricing, shortage of health services, decreased subsidies, and high demand of such needs for both citizens and refugees caused an increase in government expenditure and budget deficits.

Over years, Jordan has developed its strategy dealing with those who seek refuge inside its borders. The increasing international involvement, the high number of populations causing pressures on the infrastructures and services, the protracted situation of refugees in Jordan, the press and social media development, along with the creation of NGOs and community centers impacted the strategy followed by the Jordanian government and its collaborations with INGOs, NGOs, and various supportive organizations.

Since 2011, the kingdom has played active role in helping Syrian's refugees obtain not only their essential needs and services, but in building their resilience and future. How can Jordan preserve the trust and sustainability among both host community and refugee's community?

Mobile commoning: the invisible community of old train wagons in Thessaloniki

Charalampos Tsavdaroglou, Paschalis Arvanitidis and Zacharias Valiantzas, University of Thessaly (Greece)

The paper examines the self-help practices of homeless people on the move that find shelter in old train wagons in the west site of Thessaloniki. Hundreds of train wagons have been abandoned there over the years, especially after the 2010 financial crisis, when the state-owned railway company came

across to significant financial difficulties. These abandoned wagons have provided temporary shelter to numerous homeless migrants that stop in Thessaloniki on their route to North Europe. Although there is a significant number of studies which discuss the formal services provided by the state and the NGOs', little attention has been given to the various ways by which, homeless migrants create and self-manage their own infrastructures to meet their needs. The paper aims to shed light in this gap examining the production of arrival infrastructures by the migrants themselves. In doing so the paper builds upon the concept of abandonment and attempts to enrich it drawing on the theories of arrival infrastructures and mobile commons. It is based on urban ethnography and explores how abandoned infrastructures, like the train wagons, are re-used and transformed into mobile commoning infrastructures, where newcomers and settled migrants join their forces in their attempt to support each other.

The becoming neighborhood: the role of social space as mediator to social services

Hind Al-Shoubaki and Matthias Drilling, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) (Switzerland)

The global displacement is accelerating from year to year, with more than 20 percent of the world's refugee population living in refugee camps and more than 80 percent of internally displaced people being sheltered in cities around the world, the emergency structures in and around the cities got an essential role in conceptualizing the relationship between social order and the processes of integration. We aim to understand the social space as a mediator between people and social services and stress the synergistic relation between urban redevelopment planning and social services to create a better-integrated community. There is broad consensus among policymakers about the failure of the temporary sheltering response to forced displacement, and the camp research shows that the urban space of the camp is in continuous transformation as a result of the socio-spatial and self-organization by its residents shaping them into semi-functional cities. However, the formation of ties for social and economic integration into urban structures is hindered by the existing rules of resettlement, and the newer shelter forms which create "invisible urban segregation" (European Commission 2019). We identify the socio-spatial dynamics of urban segregation of the refugees in two contexts: refugee accommodation centers in Canton Aargau, Switzerland, and the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. Aiming at developing social planning strategies capable of building social work-guided integration through place-making.

Panel 2: Access to services and welfare

Chair: Eleni Koutsouraki, Hellenic Mediterranean University

A critical analysis of services for adult refugees and asylum seekers in English social services

Shulamit Ramon, University of Hertfordshire (UK)

English social services are formally committed to provide accommodation, financial and psychological support to refugees and asylum seekers. However, providing these objectives depends on governmental and public preferences, which are expressed in the level of funding, as well as in the input by social workers within the statutory services and by the voluntary sector. Services for adult refugees and asylum seekers are treated as secondary in importance to services for unaccompanied children, and are more clearly impacted by political considerations.

Politicians and public attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers have hardened since the migration wave of 2015-2017, and the continuing increase in the number of asylum seekers arriving by boats. With the exception of arrivals from Albania, most arrivals are from war torn countries. Yet ethnicity and skin colour seem to matter in dictating policies and service directives. In particular, the

political decision of depriving adult asylum seekers of access to public funding while not having the right to work created key dilemmas for them and for their social workers. Very recently on 26th April the UK Parliament has passed a new law titled The Illegal Migration Bill, which allows the removal of illegal migrants to a 3rd country, such as Rwanda.

Examples of both positive and less positive responses will be outlined of how social workers are responding to the challenges they are presented with.

Practices of social services towards “poor” foreign nationals

Stefanie Kurt and Lisa Marie Borrelli, HES-SO Valais-Wallis University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Switzerland)

The effects of crises, such as the Covid-pandemic, have negative consequences for marginalised populations, including the loss of employment, causing dependency on social benefits. Given the restrictive Swiss Foreign Nationals and Integration Act (FNIA) that allows for the loss or downgrading of residence permits of foreign nationals depending on social assistance, social workers within social services, are often facing tensions between care and control. They contribute to the creation of ‘client’ images and become part of circulating expectations that both administration and clients have towards services provided and actively shape policy implementation. Social workers further face a broad variety of individuals and an increased political pressure to select those “most deserving” from alleged “welfare fraudsters”, underlining the need to study their daily challenges regarding ethics and client interaction.

Based on ethnographically collected data between 2019 and 2021, consisting of case files, interviews, and observations in several Swiss social services, we trace how foreign national clients are handled and explore practices of social workers in Swiss social services. Our findings underline how a such practices reveal how states deal with “poor” foreign nationals and how social workers position themselves within such frameworks.

Social Service Providers’ Discrimination against Marriage Migrant Women in South Korea: Distinct Patterns of Discrimination across Social Service Institutions

Inwook Kwon, University of Toronto (Canada)

This study aims to determine if there are distinct patterns of discrimination against marriage migrants by social service providers. Previous research has identified the factors that contribute to discrimination in the provision of social services, including ethnicity, language, age, and sexual orientation. However, few studies have examined how discrimination varies across social service providers of different institutions. The unique characteristics of particular types of social services, such as social work/welfare facilities, public administration institutions, and hospitals, may result in distinct discrimination against immigrants. The results of binary logistic regression analyses (the sample size is approximately 200) indicate that the likelihood of experiencing discrimination by social service providers is related to the acculturation level, original nationality, size of the residing region, and Korean language proficiency of marriage migrant women. However, the results also indicate that there are distinct patterns of discrimination among social service providers. Emphasizing the need for customized/individualized improvements for various types of social services, the final discussion will focus on why there may be such differences in patterns across service providers and the policy/practice implications for minimizing discrimination.

Accounts of Adversities, Resilience and Actions of Resistance: Social Work with Refugees in Greece in a period of continuous crises.

Agapi Kandylaki, Lemonia Chydiroglou, Styliani Farmaki, Sofia Kralidou, Despoina Athena Zografou, and Katerina Delimbasi, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

This paper refers to the adversities, the challenges and the difficulties faced by field social workers who have worked with refugees and immigrants during a period of continuous crises in the last decade (i.e. the financial crisis, the refugee crisis of 2015 and the pandemic era in the early 20s). It also refers to professionals' actions of resistance and the resilience that they have presented throughout this long period. Based on a continuous qualitative research project which occurred in different phases starting from the period prior to the pandemic (2018-2019), proceeding to the initial period of the pandemic (2020) and ending during the period coming out of the pandemic (2022), the qualitative research was done with the use of individual semi-structured in depth interviews with 14 social workers initially, and it was followed by a research spiral of four focus groups throughout a two years' period. The data of the individual interviews in the earlier period, was analyzed and three collective documents were created following the "collective narrative practice" which was introduced by Denborough (2008). These collective documents were presented as reflective material to two parallel focus groups of nine postgraduate social work students each, prior to the pandemic. In the early period of the pandemic, a focus group of social workers working in hostels and camps in the islands and the mainland revealed professionals' adversities, the difficulties they were faced with and their resilience and resistance to these difficulties due to the social distancing measures applied, the dominant fear and the tight conditions that hospitals they were faced with. Finally, two years later, another focus group of professionals reflected on the collective documents and they then revealed their experiences and the ethical dilemmas that emerged for the refugees' population during the pandemic.

Keynote

Living in liminality: How unaccompanied minors are affected and supported in Greece?

Danai Papadatou, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece)

Chair: Theano Kallinikaki, Democritus University of Thrace

The aim of our Panhellenic study (2020-2022) was to explore how the psychosocial and mental health needs of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who live in long-term accommodations are being addressed. During the 1st phase of the study, we conducted an online survey with facility field workers and community mental health professionals to identify how they perceive and address UAMs' psychosocial concerns and mental health problems. The 2nd phase, involved 14 focus groups to further explore UAM's needs, perceived stressors, resilience resources, as well as the gaps, obstacles and opportunities of MHPSS service delivery. Living in limbo was identified as a key stressor, which led to the 3rd phase of our study; a grounded theory approach was adopted to illuminate the challenges of living with a prolonged -often intolerable- uncertainty about UAMs' legal status, relocation, family reunification, deportation or future in Greece. The presentation will focus on the identified Living in Liminality model that illuminates how minors experience, attribute meaning, and cope with liminality, which risk and protective factors affect their well-being, and how resilience and vulnerability processes affect their striving to find a place betwixt and between worlds.

Panel 3: Educational and clinical interventions

Chair: Irene Katsama, Democritus University of Thrace

Socio-educational integration of refugee children in Greece under the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

Maria Daniella Marouda, Panteion University, and Eleni Koutsouraki, Hellenic Mediterranean University (Greece)

This paper discusses findings of qualitative research regarding socio-educational integration of refugee children in Greece, carried out as part of the Horizon2020 research project ‘Integration Mapping of Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe’ (IMMERSE) and examines respective responsibility of EU Member States in the context of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Research focused on the theme of psycho-social wellbeing and its relationship to integration through the lens of migrant and refugee children’s experiences of education and school in their host country. Findings are based on qualitative data collection that took place between May and September 2019, as well as in 2021. Participants were key stakeholders in the socio-educational integration of migrant and refugee children at three levels: (a) Micro level workshops with refugee and migrant children, aged 6-18 years, and workshops with parents of refugee and migrant children; (b) Meso level workshops with educators and representatives working within the field of migrant services; (c) Macro level individual interviews with policymakers and experts in the fields of education and/or integration. Findings highlight critical factors affecting socio-educational integration of refugee children in Greece and show that responsibility sharing in refugee protection, especially regarding the most vulnerable populations, should not be random and based on geographical position of EU Member States.

Social integration for unaccompanied refugees through participation in the Greek education system

Fotis Parthenidis and Maria Kaldani, HOME Project (Greece)

The children living in the homes that are in need of funding are due to attend public, intercultural or private schools. They will benefit from the educational mentorships and scholarships that we have developed in collaboration with local private schools to support refugee children with language and digital skills, together with the multitude of positive skills gained by attending the public educational system. Over 300 children have participated in the “Youth to Youth” program in collaboration with the American Community Schools (ACS) of Athens, while more than 80 children participated in the “School Project” in collaboration with Athens College. Every Saturday, refugee children in our care “buddy up” with Greek students who help them advance in Greek, English, art, math, music, and sports. As a result, 43 refugee children have received full-time scholarships to ACS Athens. Likewise, nine young students have participated in a cohort group supported by Athens College in order to prepare for entrance exams. Others have been awarded scholarships by the Lycée Franco-Hellénique Eugène Delacroix and Paixnidagogeio kindergarten. Needless to say, the loss of shelter will cause them to stray from their educational path.

Clinical interventions of social workers with beneficiaries of international protection in Cyprus

Despina Cochliou, University of Nicosia (Cyprus)

Migration, at the European level, occurs on an unprecedented scale. It has been argued that we are entering a new era – the age of migration – where migration is “the visible face of social change”. Policies, services, and professionals are required to reflect on how to intervene, organize new programmes, and revise existing intervention models.

This presentation discusses findings from an ongoing study on setting up effective clinical interventions for beneficiaries of international protection residing in Cyprus. The collection of data

began in 2014 in the context of supportive supervision of social workers and clinical psychologists of social services for refugees. The data is analyzed using the methods of comparative analysis and theme mapping based on grounded theory. Some key findings illustrate that professionals adapt a variety of interventions to the needs of their clients within a therapeutic relationship. Understanding feelings of loss, traumatic experiences, and difficulties in adapting to the host country refer to the need to formulate short and long-term interventions. They are concerned about the lack of specialized training for professionals and the ethical challenges they deal with. It is argued that existing intervention models need to be reconsidered and enriched to include different cultural and social claims.

Cultural Adaptation Framework and cognitive debriefing results of clinical ethnographic narrative interview in Greek: implications for social work practice in a vulnerable group

Lina Pelekidou, Kleio Koutra, Nikoleta Ratsika, Hellenic Mediterranean University (Greece); Effrosyni Kokaliari, Springfield College (USA); Denise Saint Arnault, Michigan University (USA)

Exposure to trauma is pervasive in societies worldwide and is associated with substantial costs to the individual and society, making it a significant global public health concern. The Clinical Ethnographic Narrative Interview (CENI) is an innovative tool that will build knowledge and capacity for social workers to understand and address trauma, to examine and evaluate the complex interplay between suffering, culture, and help-seeking. This article aims to initiate a broader dialogue about the implementation of using the CENI as an intake tool for social work practitioners in community-based services.

Translation and cultural adaptation of the CENI into Greek followed the principles of good practice by the Translation and Cultural Adaptation group. Qualitative research in a sample of 8 people from the general population who have experienced trauma was conducted for the needs of cultural adaptation. The framework for describing each step of cultural adaptation and the results of cognitive debriefing will be discussed.

Implications for CENI as an intake tool in community social services and as a tool to reduce symptoms, and increase social support behavior for vulnerable groups who have experienced trauma, will be recommended for further discussion.

Friday 12 May 2023

Panel 4: Integration across different sectors

Chair: Sotiris Serbos, Democritus University of Thrace

The legal aid crisis and strategies of resistance

Lizzie Hobbs, London School of Economics (UK)

In 2012, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offender Act (LASPO) radically changed access to representation for immigration cases in the UK. Within the framing of ‘austerity measures’, LASPO removed many forms of immigration applications from ‘scope’ for Legal Aid (LA). Although many forms of immigration casework are eligible for ‘Exceptional Case Funding’, the capacity of good quality immigration LA providers has collapsed over the recent years. I am a PhD research and a caseworker in the Migrant Right’s Sector in London. My role as ‘Access to Justice’ Coordinator in a small community-based organisation originally involved coordinating immigration advice and facilitating onward referrals to LA providers. As LA capacity has collapsed it has become increasingly difficult. In this presentation I will reflect on the broader disproportionate consequences of a dire lack of access to legal representation on racialised communities but also on the forms of resistance occurring. Stemming from the inaccessibility of LA provision, I now led a project which facilitates in evidence gathering for Long Residence applications. This work predominately supports elders, who are precariously housed, from former colonised countries in gathering evidence which consequentially makes it easier for individuals to access legal representation for their substantive application.

Integration system in Greece: challenges and human rights protection

Christos Tsevas, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

Integration in Greece includes an interdisciplinary approach between social service responses to migration, human rights protection and social rights development. Community inclusion, work and employability aspects, humanitarian aid, housing, monitoring of integration, support on social care services and personal and professional development are aspects can form a specific migrant understanding and experience of using social services. The identification of the main characteristics of the integration system is of outmost importance in order to approach the way social services recognize and respond to migration. Specific integration projects, their updates and evolution in order to fulfil beneficiaries’ needs can change the perspective of how the refugee and migrant populations and communities interact with the host community. The legal and policy framework of a national integration system can present gaps and good practices that can have impact on the access to social services, social rights and human rights in general.

Social solutions for the inclusion of migrants: A focus on integration of migrants and refugees into the labour market and the role of social firms.

Valentini Bochtsou, Niki Darmogianni and Athina Fragkouli, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos (SSPPS) (Greece)

As it is well known, the refugees’ needs are complex and multilevel. Having experienced massive and sudden changes in their lives, many losses (concerning both human lives and basic resources), they also have to face serious challenges during their integration process in the host country. This traumatic situation increases the possibility of developing distress or other mental health problems. Even if some people do not develop symptoms or a specific psychopathology, they remain vulnerable and in high risk to develop mental health problems in another period of their lives, unless they receive proper psychosocial assistance.

Thus, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos (SSPPS) has provided a multilevel psychosocial support to refugees and migrants in different parts of the Greek territory. The intervention is based on the model of outreach mobile mental health services joined with the social firms run by the SSPPS and the adoption of SFE CEFEC's principle basic diagram.

This intervention aims at the migrants' liaison to the labour market and their gradual socioeconomic integration, whereas at their future well-being and at their integration in their new communities as active and healthy citizens.

Pathways to housing for migrants: a social innovation experience in the border region of South Tyrol
Marzia Bona, Eurac Research (Italy)

This contribution explores the role of social services in promoting autonomous and sustainable housing pathways for migrants. It is based on data collected through the monitoring activities of the European Social Fund-funded project "GoHousing", targeting migrant workers living in the Italian multilingual border region of South Tyrol.

GoHousing had a twofold articulation, acting at both the micro (individual) and meso (organizations) levels. On the one hand, it assisted migrant workers in accessing the local housing market. On the other hand, and in line with the literature on social innovation, it aimed to promote "changes of attitudes, behaviour or perceptions [...] leading to new and improved ways of collaborative action within the group and beyond" (Neumeier 2016).

The article examines the agency of social services involved in the project and selected contextual factors (segmented housing market, territorial structure, discrimination), to find which factors supported and hindered the social innovation process. The analysis of social innovation and its impact in the study areas draws on the theoretical and methodological framework developed by the Horizon 2020 SIMRA project on social innovation in marginal rural areas. Data have been collected through stakeholders mapping, in depth interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries of the action, and participant observation.

Panel 5: Social services and women migrant domestic workers in Greece
Chair: Iordanis Psymmenos, Panteion University

Domestic work and welfare values of migrant women in modern Greece: the case of employment services

Christophoros Skamnakis and Maria Grammatika, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)

Based on survey data from extensive field work in Greece, we argue that migrant women workers in the domestic sector now face greater difficulties in accessing the social protection of the state than they did before the recession. Interviews conducted with these women demonstrate that they live in a new environment that leads them away from formal mechanisms of social protection, compelling them instead to adopt more individualized strategies in their work and life choices as a whole. This failure of the social state is due to a dual process of exclusion that arises from both the discriminatory practices that marginalize these women and a dramatic shift in how they themselves see the expensive and inefficient social protection offered to them. We conclude that this new environment has in fact intensified their social and welfare marginalization, dissociating them from communal and family-based support networks. The second part of the paper relies on the case study stemming from a field work on the job center and the employment services focused on frontline officers. It highlights how ideologies and values strengthen and account for particular kinds of discretionary practices, how

organizations and officials manage immigration and welfare protection issues based on local private interests and stereotypical perceptions. The data analysis is based on a current Doctoral Thesis which examines the role of welfare agencies and job centers, in particular.

The history of social services and their role in the lives of migrant workers during crises

Konstantinos Archontakis, Marianthi Christopoulou and Olga Bourounsouzi, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)

The paper examines the history of social services and their responses towards women migrant domestic workers, during times of rapid social change. The analysis of the data suggests that migration policies, scarcity of material and manpower resources and high competition, increases social exclusion risks. The analysis presented is based on three consecutive studies on the Greek and European role of social services prior and during the current crisis (2000-2008 and 2010-2019) completed by the Centre of Social Morphology and of Social Policy and by the National Institute of Labour (I.N.E-G.S.E.E). The data stem from primary and secondary sources, historical archives, institutional reports, and interviews given by frontline officers and women migrant domestic workers.

Crisis and women migrant domestic workers: a case study of a suburban area

Eleni Poulou, George Kouras, O. Istikopoulos, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)

The paper examines the effects of crisis on women domestic workers and their families in a suburban area of Attica. It follows the course of life changes (stratification and mobility study) from 1991 till 2019, with the same group of women domestic workers and their families. It is a follow-up study of the one conducted by the Center of Social Morphology and of Social Policy, at Panteion University (2010-2015) and it looks at household conditions of two groups of people. These are: women migrant domestic workers and men migrant construction workers. The study (National Institute of Labour, 2017-2019) charts the social change of people's conditions and their meanings for social services as they take place in the micro-environment of migrants' social setting. In this sense, the current longitudinal study reveals the lasting effects of crisis and the inability of social services to cope with the spiral effects of unemployment, family poverty, homelessness, and the break-up of families in a given area.

Family, social services and domestic work

Katerina Vassilikou, Academy of Athens (Greece)

The paper concentrates on the problems of social protection, women migrant domestic workers and their families encounter due to the current crisis. The data presented is a synthesis of three consecutive research studies from 2010 (Center of Social Morphology and of Social Policy, Panteion University and National Institute of Labour) till the present day. The analysis of the paper is focusing on the following two main issues. First, the worsening of migrant family ties due to the effects of the economy on the primary modes of solidarity practices. In particular, the paper examines family fragmentation, family formation by migrant domestic workers, the emergence of new forms and perceptions of family ties and the emergence of new family needs. It is suggested that all the above are leading to an increasing distantiation of women domestic workers and their families from social services and care facilities. Second, the paper concentrates on changing family protection values, and how these are affecting family cohesion and are leading to alienating conditions. The personal stories, responses and experiences of migrant domestic workers are crucial for understanding the existing barriers to care provided by social services.

Educational services and women migrant domestic workers: the case of nurseries in Athens

E. Malekaki, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Greece)

The problem at hand is an increasing exclusionary practice by social services towards women migrant domestic workers and their children. The paper analysis is based on the findings of two consecutive studies (2010-2022, Center of Social Morphology and of Social Policy, Panteion University, and a current Doctoral Thesis). It is suggested that the current economic and social crisis has multiplied the barriers women migrants and their children face due to an increasing bureaucratic inertia, means-testing practices by social services, liability conditions of local nurseries and the employment conditions of frontline officers. In this sense, access and use of pre-schooling services has become one of the main burdens for women domestic workers and the care of their children.

Panel 6: Family and child well-being

Chair: Agnieszka Rydzik, University of Lincoln

Children and families who are subject to immigration control: Learning from reviews into child deaths

Andrew Jolly, University of Plymouth (UK) and Anne Gupta, Royal Holloway University (UK)

This presentation reviews 26 reports into deaths and serious abuse of children in families who were subject to the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) rule in the UK. The NRPF rule is a welfare chauvinist provision in the immigration rules which prevents access to social security benefits for most temporary migrants. Our analysis illustrates the vulnerabilities caused by exclusionary policies, exacerbating social deprivation and isolation experienced by the children and families and making it more difficult for professionals to respond in ways which safeguarded children's welfare. Drawing upon a social model for protecting children that requires recognition of the social determinants of harm and the economic, social and cultural barriers faced by families, we examine the experiences of children and families with NRPF who were the subject of a serious case review into the death of a child, and the responses of agencies responsible for safeguarding child welfare. We conclude with recommendations for practices aimed at promoting the rights and well-being of children and families subject to NRPF rules.

Restrictive Refugee Policies and Their Impact to Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) in Greece as a result of the EU-Turkey Deal: Policy Barriers to their Social Integration.

Christina Velentza, IPC-Stiftung Istanbul/Attorney at Law (Turkey)

The refugee crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean was a big challenge for the European Union. The high numbers of asylum seekers pushed the European Member States and their asylum systems to their limits, especially the front-line entry point countries, such as Greece. It is a fact that 32 per cent of the refugee population that entered Europe consisted of children. The shift from a human rights approach to a security-based approach is a fact. For this reason, there is an increased need to protect the most vulnerable groups who are the victims of failed policies in Europe. Unaccompanied minors are especially vulnerable as their welfare and development are strictly linked to obtaining and maintaining lawful status. It is frequent that unaccompanied minors are detained in closed reception due to a lack of adequate shelters to host them for sustained periods. The controversial EU-Turkey deal has come as another severe blow to states' obligations to provide dignified living conditions to them. A more inclusive social protection system, outcome of genuine political will, vis-à-vis refugees is needed. The methodology of the study is based on findings from field work (during the period 2016-2022 when the author had the opportunity to conduct interviews with policy makers, civil society spokespersons, academics, local communities and refugees), critical analysis of the recent literature and policy suggestions. This study could be used as a reference for future interdisciplinary research.

Social work and advocacy for equal access to public health services for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors: multifaceted challenges and demands.

Lefkothea Rizopoulou, Alice Salomon Hochschule (Germany)

Between 2015 and 2020, Greece received 13,995 asylum applications from unaccompanied minors (UAM) (Eurostat, 2021); with NGOs overseeing the management of these migrations. Although at international, regional and national levels the rights of asylum-seeking minors are enshrined and protected in a series of legal instruments, systemic human rights violations are observed in Greece (Buchanan & Kallinikaki, 2020; Teloni, et. al., 2020). In the summer of 2019, the abolition of AMKA (social security number) for asylum seekers denied their access to public health services. As social workers in an accommodation shelter for UAM in a Greek border village, were called to act in our fundamental role; as human rights defenders and claimants of social justice for UAM.

More precisely, the presentation includes the successful policy/cause advocacy plan social workers designed and implemented. The advocacy plan for the institution's compliance with human rights will include outlining the negotiations that were had with the local public hospital. Further, a critical focus will be given to the minors' involvement in the process and the multifaceted challenges practitioners faced. Finally, grounded in human rights principles, the impact of violating the right to health on UAM's lives and social work practice will be framed.

Learning from the resilience of unaccompanied children and young people

James Cox, University of Dundee & Independent Social Worker (UK)

Drawing on examples of social work and care of unaccompanied children in Northern Greece, Southern Italy and Scotland and upon international research, this presentation will consider perspectives on the nature and development of resilience in unaccompanied children in a range of context. There is a depth of expertise in work with unaccompanied minors among practitioners in a wide spectrum of agencies in Greece. Specific, context-specific knowledge is certainly needed by practitioners, carers, social work educators and strategic leaders. However, it is suggested that analysis of relationship-based practice with unaccompanied children and young people may offer generic and transferable learning for social work across borders and in other fields. In addition, the experience of social workers and asylum seekers during COVID-10 pandemic has indicated components and accentuated patterns in their relationships which seem to have a broader relevance. They are clues to sustaining and building resilience in other contexts and stages - perhaps including phases of armed conflict. Part of the learning is to be cautious about thinking in blanket categories, like 'unaccompanied child'. This can obscure the individuality and potential of each person to make essential connections, not only for him/herself but also to reach out and help each other.

Keynote

Social work in times of war

Darja Zaviršek, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Chair: Vassilis Karagkounis, Democritus University of Thrace

The invasion of Ukraine reshaped Europe, which economically, and socially was a safe place to live for most people. The war and the discourse of war became a caesura in people's economic and social lives, in the human rights standards and life expectations achieved, for people from Ukraine, but not only for them. UNHCR reports that about 8 million people have left the country; about 6.5 million are internally displaced (UNHCR - Ukraine emergency) and that 17.3 million people need humanitarian assistance (Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis - Center for Disaster Philanthropy). The humanitarian disasters, economic devastation, and unspeakable human suffering reflected in raging dehumanising

ideologies, insurmountable inequalities, and intergenerational trauma are experienced primarily by people who have already lived in vulnerable contexts, people with impairments, older people living alone, people living in large residential institutions, and vulnerable people such as children and people who have lost loved ones (<https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-situation-report-19-dec-2022-enruuk>). Looking at the different traditions of social work, we find that both social work and education have barely addressed the issue of war and peace in recent decades. The solidarity and support network with social work educators from Ukraine is a good example of transnational solidarity in international social work.

Panel 7: Addressing gender-based violence and domestic abuse

Chair: Agapi Kandylaki, Democritus University of Thrace

Mapping gender-based violence against refugee women in Greece: prevention and protection measures

Pasxalina Chatzibei, Hellenic Open University (Greece)

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against women is a global phenomenon that occupies the modern societies all over the world the last decades. Refugee women are a special population that deals with GBV since they are more vulnerable due to their refugee status. This paper shows the results of a survey that was conducted during the spring of 2022 in order to map the extent of GBV against refugee women in Greece. Moreover, 7 semi-structured interviews with field experts- social workers, sociologists, and lawyers- that work with GBV victims and survivors were conducted. The collected data revealed that the most victims have experienced several types of violence at their homelands, during the journey to Greece and staying in Greece and approach violence as a part of their culture and religion and thus they do not identify it as something illegal. Also, NGOs and private actors substitute the official state providing victims or survivors with the necessary care and legal support, promote women's awareness for their rights, and offer them the knowledge for the 'next day'. Finally, the survey highlights the practical and legal gaps and weaknesses in the prevention and protection measures of GBV in refugee context in Greece.

Case management of gender-based violence in a Greek refugee camp

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The current presentation aims to focus on GBV violence migrant women, staying in Greek refugee camps, encounter. It consists of a practice project mainly based on Social Workers' interventions towards the prevention and early identification of the existing violence. All phases involving prevention, means of identification, management and intervention are being described. Based on case studies, the empirical data highlight how, and under which conditions, women gradually begin to show trust to the professionals and share their experiences. As migrant women already face the risk to suffer from mental health issues, the existing violence brings them in the most vulnerable situation and in need of immediate protection. Matters of children protection also derive as they are witnesses of the violence against their mothers. In the light of the theoretical approaches and methods of social work the connection of empirical data with anti-oppressive concepts, is thoroughly presented.

Social workers' needs assessment of gender-based violence (GBV) related to migrant women with precarious legal status. Similarities and differences between Italy and Sweden.

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Post-national approaches to studying welfare systems have reconceptualised the Westphalian state apparatus highlighting that the access to social rights, and consequently to welfare benefits, is strongly related to two interlocking dimensions: temporality, meaning the period of residency in a specific country, and territoriality, which corresponds to stratified membership regimes based on the socio-economic position of individuals within a national system. Thus, the centrality of the nation-state in enforcing human rights has been questioned by feminist researchers working in gender-based violence (GBV), pointing out how the precarious legal status of migrant women impacts their access to welfare benefits negatively. By contrast, a transnational humanitarian logic emerged within the women's shelter movements in opposition to the exclusionary welfare-bureaucratic regime described previously. Women-led NGOs provide state and non-state-funded interventions necessary to protect women from GBV, regardless of their immigration status (de-bordering process). However, in this scenario, categorial tags linked to vulnerabilities and cultural forms of violence (e.g. female genital mutilation, forced marriages, honour-based violence, trafficking) defined the boundaries of transnational humanitarian logic to enforce the human rights framework from within national borders (re-bordering process). In light of all of the above, this study aims to investigate the role played by women-led NGOs in de-bordering and re-bordering practices within Italy and Sweden. To do this, I interviewed thirty-six professionals, street-level workers, and activists employed in 30 NGOs in Italy and Sweden. The qualitative interviews using a vignette method were constructed to investigate if and how territoriality and temporality influence the professional assessment of the interventions. Further, the investigation will expand on how strong the support shall be and whether professionals recognised specific needs to be covered. Similarities and differences in the assessment of the vignettes will explain the influence of institutional logic common to all interventions led by women NGOs while constructing social responses. At the same time, emphasis will be given to the welfare-state contexts, in which categories of "migrant women needing protection" stemming from immigration politics are negotiated, reproduced, reshaped, and resisted by women-led NGOs operating in Italy and Sweden. How do women-led NGOs negotiate the needs of migrant women with precarious legal status, reshaping welfare responses at the intersection of gender and migration in Italy and Sweden?

Fear, hope and despair: Polish migrant experiences of navigating domestic abuse services in the United Kingdom.

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This paper presents the results of the first research project about Polish women's experiences of domestic abuse and support from services in the United Kingdom. It draws on data from 28 life history interviews with Polish survivors of domestic violence and 18 semi-structured interviews with practitioners from domestic abuse, statutory and voluntary services across the UK.

Results show that 'navigating' the service landscape is complex. Women's understandings of support are often shaped by their awareness of [limited] support in Poland and concerns about official scrutiny by police and social services, especially the risk of children being taken into care. Unfamiliarity with service provision, financial support for victims, legislative frameworks and practice processes in the UK. Multiple information flows and referral paths are therefore needed to provide a strong safety net. Service responses are only effective if they address the complex dynamics of abuse facing Polish women, including the socio-political construction of domestic abuse in Poland and individual experiences of migrant life in the UK.