Human rights violations and forced displacement affect millions of individuals around the globe. Failure to account for gender-based violence in these contexts is a missed opportunity for interventions.

How We Work

We provide a platform for faculty and students to expand human rights research and collaborations, identify knowledge gaps, and develop transdisciplinary approaches.

We offer expert technical assistance — such as practitioner toolkits and workshops — to international partners on key issues affecting human rights, gender and migration.

We care about the human rights of immigrants in St. Louis and facilitate WashU engagement with area immigrant and refugee service providers.

What We Do

**ISSUE**

More than 80 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, increasing their vulnerability to human rights abuses.

Gender affects migration experiences, forms of human rights abuse, and in turn, the types of support that people need.

**OUR ROLE**

With a crisis of this scale, no one discipline or field has the answer. Our center convenes scholars from public health, law, social work, medicine and the humanities to devise creative solutions to complex human rights issues.

Our center works with humanitarian service providers and community organizations to develop gender-sensitive tools, trainings and guidance for identifying and supporting people with diverse protection needs.
According to the UN Refugee Agency, gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on gender. Our center works to change knowledge, policy and practice related to the disclosure of GBV among refugees and migrants in Mexico, Greece, Kenya and other countries.

Response to GBV in migration settings first depends on survivors’ willingness to disclose their experiences and needs. Without disclosure, humanitarians’ ability to detect and respond to GBV is severely hampered.

We developed a practitioners’ toolkit to address this critical first step. The toolkit offers guidance and resources to help service providers implement safe and ethical approaches to the disclosure of GBV among the refugees and migrants they serve.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) features the toolkit in its guidance for shelters operating at the U.S.-Mexico border and uses it in its work with Mexican asylum authorities and service providers.

Increasing levels of violence, persecution and insecurity have led millions to flee their homes in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Many people on the move now find themselves in North African countries like Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

For community-based organizations and local service providers in the North region, which are often the first to come in contact with refugees and migrants, we developed a training module on strategies to identify people in need of protection.

We developed a “Community Protection Network Map” for the UNHCR that shows services provided to these refugee and migrant populations. UNHCR partners use the map to strengthen community-based collaboration, coordination and referral networks.

Study participants from five countries and South Sudan convened in Kampala, Uganda to share research findings and discuss next steps on GBV-focused work.