

Mission in a Wounded World: The Plight of Migrant Women Today

Abstract

Dr. G. Lazar.

A record 71 million people were forcibly displaced around the world in 2018(U.N Report). Within days of the airstrike, at least two boats filled with migrants sank off Libya's coast, leaving around 140 people missing. Migrants wash up on the banks of the Rio Grande. They sink without a trace in the Mediterranean, in the Pacific or in waterways they can't name. A handful fall out of airplanes' landing gear. As their choices narrow on land and at sea, migrants are often seen as a political headache in the counties they hope to reach and ignored in the counties they flee. Most live in limbo, but recent tragedies have focused attention on the risks they face and the political constraints at the root of them.

Migration is sometimes perceived as a predominantly male movement, with women left behind. However, with both international and internal migration, female migration has been almost as great as male migration overall. For more than 40 years, female migrants have been almost as numerous as male migrants. In 1960 there were 35 million female migrants and 40 million male migrants; by 2000, although the total number of migrants had more than doubled, the gap between females and males remained about the same, 85 million female migrants versus 90 million male migrants. (Zlotnik 2003). This phenomenon of "feminization of migration" has recently been captured in a growing body of literature focused on gender and migration. This disturbing paper on the plight of migrant women in a wounded world covers research on gender and migration as a global phenomenon for missiology.

There are a number of crucial questions that a researcher on gender and migration wish to address, including how gender norms shape migration, and how migrant households allocate resources. This paper segments the literature thematically to facilitate finding answers to these overarching questions using headings. The sections in this paper also include an overview for mission studies that highlight multiple aspects of gender and migration in a wounded world.