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**Power, Inequality and Vulnerabilities:  
Mission in a Wounded World**

**The Tension between European values of Christianity and the urge to criminalise humanitarianism**

*Daniel Mekonnen*

According to UNCHR's annual report of 2017, the *Global Trends*, the total number of refugees around the world was said to have reached its highest record in 2016 – since the establishment of the UN refugee agency in 1950. Many of these refugees ended up in Europe, making net migration the largest component of population change in Europe (MPI 2003). In keeping with old-age European values of Christianity, the overwhelming majority of Europeans are welcoming refugees in a manner that is consistent with obligations emanating from International Refugee Law.

On the other hand, there is a growing tendency of criminalising the humanitarian activity of individual citizens and groups actively involved in alleviating the plight of refugees, particularly those stranded in the high seas. By taking this development as a major challenge, requiring soul-searching of a deepest level, this paper critically interrogates the emerging tension between European values of Christianity and the urge to criminalise humanitarianism.