

# Migration in the 21st century and its effects on education

By Human Rights Watch, adapted by Newsela staff on 06.01.17

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Refugee children from Syria at a clinic in Ramtha, Jordan, in 2013. Although they have been welcomed by Jordanian communities, many refugees do not have the resources to obtain legal jobs. Photo by: U.K. Department for International Development

There are many reasons why people leave the place where they were born. Often, the reasons are war and violence. People who leave to escape war are called refugees. People who are escaping a country to get a better life are called migrants. They are often looking for jobs or an education.

Many children leave their countries for a better life. But it can be hard for them to get an education. Half of refugee children can't go to elementary school. Three out of four refugees can't go to middle school. It is even harder to get into school if they are girls.

Many refugee children are running from violence. For example, children are leaving El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. They leave because their hometowns have gangs. Many children get attacked as they walk to school.

## **"All Children Have The Right To Education"**

The United Nations is a group of countries. They work together to try to solve world problems. The U.N. writes laws that all these countries should follow. One law says that all children have the right to education. Still, some countries do not follow this rule. They make it hard for children to register for school. They force them to pay money they do not have. They also make it hard for refugee families to work legally.

There are many Syrian refugees living in Jordan. Refugees here are arrested if they do not have work papers. But papers are hard to get. Families then choose to send their children to work. Even though they do not have papers, it is harder for a child to get arrested.

### **Injustice In A Refugee Camp**

Afghan migrants also have trouble going to school. In Iran, migrants have to pay extra for education. They are also not allowed to go to university.

Human Rights Watch is a group that checks if people are being treated well. They do studies to find out where there is injustice. In 2016, members of Human Rights Watch went to a refugee camp in France. The camp is called the "Jungle." In it, children did not get any education. Later, the French government closed the camp. Refugee children were sent to other centers in France. Even there, the children did not have any schools or spaces to play.

### **Many Fear Of Being Arrested**

In some countries, migrant children can get arrested. For example, this sometimes happens in Mexico, Thailand and Indonesia. Migrant families are scared of being arrested or kicked out of the country. They choose not to send their kids to school. If they did, they would have to give their children's names. They fear that the country's government would take them away.

In 2016, children in Greece were also being arrested. They were put in small, overcrowded and dirty cells.

Millions of children are not getting an education. This problem needs to be fixed. Kids are running from war. In a new country, education helps them get back on their feet. School helps them find friends and work when they grow up.