

African Women and Children in Motion: Focus on Regional and International Laws
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ABSTRACT

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Unlike Refugees, IDPs can not boast of protocols and conventions to protect their rights partly due to the contention around state sovereignty; consequently the number of people displaced in Africa with no access to health and education has increased over the last two decades. UNHCR estimates that 67 million people have been evicted forcibly by the end of 2007. Of these, only 25 million under UNHCR mandate are assisted. The remaining 42 million are deprived of receiving similar assistance due to lack of international agreements over legal classifications. According to IDMC, about half of the world's IDPs live in Africa. The issue of forced displacement in Africa has been a direct outcome of increasing civil conflicts characterized by wars, xenophobia, corporate expansion and local government development programs. In light of the above, this research examines the efficacy of international and regional laws pertinent to refugee and displaced women and children in Africa and their access to health and education. Using an interdisciplinary approach this research adopts both empirical and experiential model based on critical legal analysis of used human rights and refugee laws. It is hope that this research will be used to reform policies and to provide a platform for internally displaced women and children's voices to be heard.

BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Fynn holds a BSc (University of Ghana), BA (UBC), MPH (University of Nottingham) and is currently doing her LLM at Osgoode Hall Law School. Before law school she worked as a Research Analyst with the BC Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons. She also worked with the Migration Health Department of IOM in Geneva. In May 2008, Ms. Fynn incorporated her company - *EV Research Inc*, whose major goal is to reduce the 10/90 gap. She is the main organizer for CRS Annual Student Conference. Come April 27, Ms Fynn will be presenting at the 12th World Congress on Public Health in Istanbul.