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Migrant Rights in Southern Africa: A Study of Attitudes, Policies and Regional Context of Right of Migrants

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ABSTRACT Around the globe today, millions of people are on the move – living or trying to live in countries not their own. In some cases, this movement is voluntary. People move across borders for work, education or family reasons. In many more cases, the migration is forced, as people free civil unrest and war, or search for adequate agricultural land or employment simply for survival. The focus of this study is on the displacement and the typical response to migrants and other displaced people which has deteriorated from acceptance and assistance to hostility and rejection.

The fundamental human rights of migrants which come under review are too easily violated or ignored. This is most true for those who do not qualify within one of the categories (example, citizen, refugee, registered foreign worker, and student) that normally secure people legal protection. The violation of their rights contributes to increasing social disintegration and declining respect for the rule of law. It is argued that there is more need than ever before to promote the development and application of international standards which underline a fundamental fact: Migrant's rights are human rights.