

UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation
A.Y. 2015/2016

Redemptio pro Purgatorium

Right To Work inside 'Forgotten' Refugee Camps and the role of Microfinance
The case of the Sahrawi Refugee Camps

Author: Joana Mouta
Supervisor: Anna Johnson Cornell

ABSTRACT

In the wake of some of the gravest humanitarian crises, the world witnesses a growing number of refugees. A lot of the challenges that come along with this sudden rise are still to be addressed by the globalised world. Many of these vulnerable people, in the face of no other protection, end up seeking sanctuary from violence in places where they believe it cannot penetrate: refugee camps. However, what was designed as a temporary solution, far too many times, ends up being the sole alternative in the face of postponed peace. Intractability generates a potential for lack of media and donor attention. Moreover, this sprawling phenomenon of “forgotten crises” is leaving a great number of people on limbos of legal uncertainty and no future aspirations, causing not only despair but also human rights violations. In this sense, the focal point of this research is to explore what are the bundles of rights existing for refugees and within the premises of refugee camps. The crux is to understand the link between right to work and the possible unlocking of poverty cycles endorsed through substantive access to microfinance projects. As incontestable illustration of an urgent need of a revolutionary approach on livelihood inside intractable refugee camps, the 40-year deadlock Sahrawi refugee camps, will constitute our case study.

Table of contents

Abstract	2
Table of contents	5
List of abbreviations	8
<u>General Introduction</u>	10
	<i>The Macro-level Picture</i>
<u>TITLE I: THE REDUNDANTS</u>	12
CHAPTER I: REFUGEEEDOM	12
i. Background – when home is hell	14
ii. Identity	15
iii. The Liquidity of Fear	19
iv. Framework Protection	22
a. The Standards Scenario	23
b. The leading actor: UNHCR	25
CHAPTER II: REFUGEE CAMPS	28
i. “Safe Zones”	28
ii. “Camps keep refugees alive, but they prevent them from living”	30
iii. Protraction	31
iv. A legal milieu	32
v. Governance – anatomy of a limbo	33
a. Personality	36
b. Responsibility	37
c. Capacity	37
d. International Human Rights Law	37
e. “The worst blind is the one who does not want to see”	38
f. Challenges	40
g. Translation	41
CHAPTER III: FORGOTTEN CRISES	42
i. Suffering in Oblivion	43
ii. Assessment Methodology	44

a. Media	44
b. Donors	45
c. Measuring	47
iii. In focus: a crisis fingerprint	50
CONCLUSION OF TITLE I	51
<u>TITLE II: RIGHT TO WORK</u>	52
i. A look into poverty	52
CHAPTER I: ROOTS OF MEANING	54
i. The tyranny of value	54
ii. The happiness conquest	55
CHAPTER II: INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK	59
i. History	59
ii. International Human Rights Law	60
a. Legal basis	60
b. Actors	61
c. ESCR: 2 nd Generation Rights	62
d. The Human Right to Work	64
e. Millennium Development Goals	68
f. Praxis	72
g. Out of State: the putative Right to Work inside Refugee Camps	73
h. Strengthening of Right to Work	75
CONCLUSION OF TITLE II	76
<u>TITLE III: LIVELIHOODS: A NEW MODEL OF HELP</u>	77
CHAPTER I: HELP	77
i. The Good	79
ii. The Bad	80
iii. And the Ugly	82
iv. Good apple, bad apple?	83
CHAPTER II: UNLOCKING LIMBOS	83

i. A holistic approach	83
ii. Microcredit: the Autonomy Alternative	88
a. Philosophy	88
b. Empowering the poor	89
c. Microcredit encamped	92
CONCLUSION TITLE III	93

The Micro-level approach

<u>TITLE IV: CASE STUDY: THE DESERT OF OBLIVION</u>	94
CHAPTER I: RESILIENCE, AN HOURGLASS TIMELINE	94
CHAPTER II: TINDOUF: GEOGRAPHIES OF EXCEPTION	112
CHAPTER III: REDEMPTIO PRO PURGATORIUM	116
<u>General Conclusion</u>	<u>119</u>
<u>Bibliography</u>	<u>122</u>
Annexes	135