

Abstract

Protection as responsibility: Fixing a malfunctioning system

The international regime which was meant to coax states to protect their citizens , prevent conflicts which do force people to flee have all but failed.

Putting the burdens of refugeeintegration on so-called 'frontline states 'in the vicinity of refugee generating regimes and crises is not merely unfair towards the former but also means that the numbers of those who are provided with protection will be limited by the resources of these states. Over the years, there have been calls from all sides to reform the Convention.

Since we are faced with a complete failure by UNHCR and states to innovate the way we actually deliver protection we need to revisit our current practices. It has been suggested that migration and mobility may help secure rights for the displaced in the long term; for example, by entitling refugees to enter the local labour market with the same rights as migrants, or issuing them time-limited labour visas so they have the right to come back to work should their return prove unsustainable. In this sense, perhaps, the idea of 'durable' solutions is now outmoded, and might be replaced with 'enduring' solutions.