

Preface

Discrimination and stigmatization have had profound impact on the livelihood patterns of the refugee and migrant population living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. The extent to which they suffer and succumb to irrational and risky behaviour is largely unknown. This book intends to reveal the dynamics that influence choice, behaviour and lifestyle of the infected immigrants and refugees. By scholarship, therefore, this book adds to the existing knowledge about refugee and migrants and expands a unified theory of discrimination and stigmatization within the context of human rights.

Refugee and HIV issues have emerged as one of the most important topics in contemporary scholarly discourse on public health and human rights. Refugee populations are the most vulnerable groups due to various reasons. Dislodged from their homeland, they descend into a situation of total uncertainty in terms of financial, physical and health security; resettlement process; and adaptation in a new society. The situation becomes unbearable if they are diagnosed with HIV positive, which places them in extremely precarious conditions as they are in desperate need of shelter, protection, healthcare services and psychosocial counselling. Only a handful of resettlement countries accept them on the basis of their commitment to the 1951 Refugee Convention, and Canada is one of them. The book formulates a number of policy recommendations based on the findings of the empirics with a view to helping reshape policies regarding refugees, HIV/AIDS and the social ramifications. By scholarship, this expands a unified theory of stigma, discrimination, prejudice, xenophobia and human rights through a contemporary perspective.

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