

# Review of: "The Support and Rehabilitation of Refugees – Personal Opinion and Experience"

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This text tells a chronological, almost diary style story about the experiences of the UK based author working as a physician for displaced people in several African and Middle Eastern countries. Since I was asked to review this article, I will treat it as such and consider its potential to make an experience-based intervention in the humanitarian/migration field yet this potential is not fully reached now. The following comments offer ideas to shape the critical intervention it can potentially develop into.

The article starts with a rather generalized depiction of care in what the author refers to as Western societies which he opposes to divided opinions about dealings with refugees. The term refugee being so central in the text would benefit from some unpacking. Many scholars pointed out that not only is the categorization of refugee itself highly political (e.g. Zelter 2007) but that crucial differences are made on the ground between those refugees, not in the least place in the humanitarian field (e.g. Ticktin 2006, Rozakou 2012) where an overlap might be found with the specific subjectification of refugees as imposed by states (e.g. Kalir & Wissink 2016) and borders actually might get reproduced in humanitarian practices (Pallister-Wilkins 2017), also within Britain itself (Sales 2002). Related to a critical reflection on the use of the term refugees, it would strengthen the text if the author could reflect on his own positionality as a white male humanitarian worker and citizen of a former colonial power. What historically shaped power relations are still relevant in the work he does in these countries, and how to overcome or transform these through humanitarian work?

These points could then easily be related to an analysis of the structural causes of why, as stated in the opening sentence of the text, the lives of some are so much more difficult than others, and the complexities that arise in 'doing good' in such heavily politically loaded fields.