Migration by Sea Symposium

Women Refugees at Highest Risk of Gender-based violence

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Overview

- 181,673 arrivals to Europe by sea in 2016
- 35% - Children
- 20% - Women
- 45% men

Source: Turtle Bay and Beyond: International Law, Policy and Institutions.
Overview

Zaatary Camp, Jordan

Calais Camp (Illegal), France

Source: Agence Francaise de Presse
International and European Law response

**International Law:**
- The Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of the 18 December 1979 (Article 6 - Article 16);
- The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (Article 3 (f) (h));
- The 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugee (Article 16)

**European Law:**
- The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating violence against women and domestic violence (The Istanbul Convention) of the 12th April 2011 (Articles 18-28)

**Application barriers**
- Inadequate implementation of existing policies that aim to protect and prevent women from gender-based violence.
- Lack of the implementation of the international conventions.
- Lack of the financial and human resources.
Recommendations

• A range of policies and conventions for protecting women refugee that have been adopted under the UN system and the EU must be implemented by States more adequately to ensure the safety and protection of victims;
• Expand and improve services to respond to Gender-based violence including access to sexual and reproductive health;
• Increase access to safe spaces for women and girls;
• Involve men and boys to prevent, mitigate and respond to related risks.
Thank you