Human Rights at International Borders: A focus on OHCHR’s Recommended Principles and Guidelines

Tunisian Red Crescent approach to Humanitarian border management

The 28th session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 23 March 2015
Survival instinct

The law of nature,

The lighthouse principle
Migration routes through Tunisia

In 2014:
- 5,000 deads.
- 130,000 people rescued at sea.

Routes of mixed and irregular migration through Tunisia

West African Route

East African Route
ASYLUM SEEKERS GET CASH HANDBOUTS

REFUGEES ‘FLOOD’ BRITAIN FOR NEW HOMES

Why don’t they send these scroungers HOME NOW
The Sphere Project
Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response

Primacy of Human Rights/ Humanitarian imperative

Non discrimination

Assistance and protection from harm/ Do No Harm

Code of conduct – Humanitarian charter – Migration Policy
The 10 principles

1 - We focus on the needs and vulnerability of migrants.
2 - Migrants are among the beneficiaries of our humanitarian programs.
3 - We support the aspirations of migrants.
4 - We recognize the rights of migrants.
5 - Humanitarian assistance we provide to migrants goes along with their protection and advocacy for their rights.
6 - We encourage partnerships for migrants.
7 - We act throughout the migration paths.
8 - We provide assistance for voluntary return and reintegration of migrants who wish.
9 - We act in accordance with our mandate to face displacement.
10 - We carry out actions to reduce migration pressures.
YOU ARE ILLEGAL!!

NO, I'M AN IMMIGRANT IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

NOT HAVING IDENTIFICATION PAPERS IS NOT A CRIME!!
Conclusions

• We all have a responsibility to change the perception of migrants;
• There is a need to focus on the human story rather than faceless statistics;
• Labels and terminology are important; we need to get it right!
• Ensuring migrant voices are heard by involving them in our work;
• Creating formal and informal links between migrant communities and the host community where they live.

After all, We all have been migrants!
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