



GLOBAL DETENTION PROJECT

June 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to the Global Detention Project's roundup of current research, publications, and events. For any questions about our content, please contact [admin \[at\] globaldetentionproject \[dot\] org](mailto:admin@globaldetentionproject.org)

OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Immigration Detention in Hungary: Transit Zone or Twilight Zone?

Hungary's efforts to block asylum seekers were at the centre of an important May 2020 European Union Court of Justice ruling concerning its "transit zone" detention sites, located along the border with Serbia. For years, Hungary refused to acknowledge that people were "detained" in these facilities, going so far as to refuse the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention entry during its visit to the country in 2018. Long denounced for their inhumane conditions, with the onset of the Covid-19 crisis these "zones" were completely sealed off, preventing people from applying for asylum in the country. The EU court found that Hungary was unlawfully detaining asylum seekers at these sites, prompting the country to close them while also further tightening asylum procedures.

[Read the full report](#)

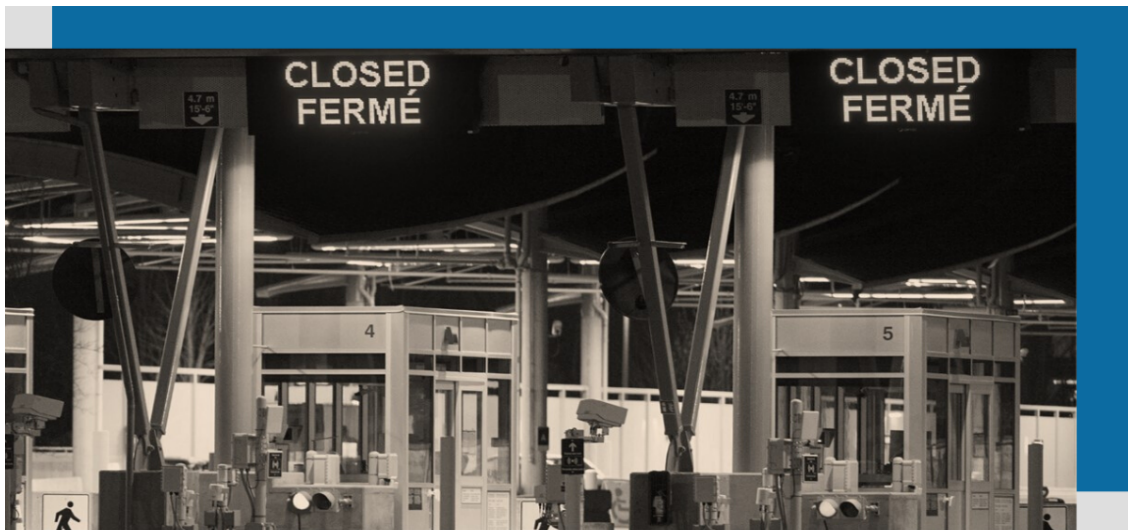
Submissions to the UN Committee against Torture: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria

In two submissions to the UN Committee against Torture, the GDP draws attention to concerns surrounding detention conditions—particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic—in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and [Bulgaria](#). As well as highlighting poor material conditions and accusations of abuse, the GDP points to reports alleging that women and children are forced to share dormitories with unrelated men in Bulgaria’s Lyubimets Detention Centre; the failure of Bosnian authorities to conduct age assessments resulting in children being exposed to manipulation, exploitation, and other abuses; and failures to mitigate health risks during the pandemic. The GDP also urged the committee to seek details about how newly set up Bosnian camps operate, in particular seeking details about the extent of control over the Lipa camp by the IOM and whether people are in fact de facto detained at that site.

[Read the Submission on Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

[Read the submission on Bulgaria](#)

NEWS + ACTIVITIES



Pandemic Vulnerabilities: Non-Status Migrants and Asylum Seekers

On Wednesday **24 June**, the GDP’s Executive Director will be participating in a webinar hosted by Ryerson University (Toronto) exploring the particular vulnerabilities migrants and asylum seekers face during the Covid-19 pandemic. Michael Flynn will join Margarita Pintin-Perez (OCASI – Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants), Petra Molnar (Faculty of Law, University of Toronto), and Dr. Anna Triandafyllidou (the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration at Ryerson University) to examine the populations who are targeted to ensure the “safety of others” and the technologies that are being used to do so. [Find out more about the webinar – and register – here.](#)

Joint Guidance Note on the Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of Migrants

As the GDP’s [Covid-19 monitoring platform](#) has revealed, many states have failed to incorporate non-nationals into their pandemic response plans—leaving many acutely vulnerable to the virus. However, the importance of protecting migrant workers and their families—regardless of their migration status—during the pandemic has been emphasised in new joint guidance issued by the UN Committee on Migrant Workers and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. In particular, the guidance note calls for tests, treatment, and prevention measures to be provided in a non-discriminatory manner; to promote the regularisation of migrants in an irregular situation or undocumented migrants; and to consider the temporary suspension of deportations. [Read the guidance note here.](#)

GDP ON THE RECORD



[“Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control of Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) in Migrant and Refugee Reception and Detention Centres in the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom,”](#) *European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*, 2020.

[“Independent Desk Review of UNHCR's Global Strategy - Beyond Detention,”](#) *UNHCR*, June 2020.

[“Coronavirus: A Window of Opportunity for Action on Migration?”](#) E. Reidy, *The New Humanitarian*, 2020.

[“The Invisible Islands: Covid-19 Restrictions and the Future of Detention on Kos and Leros,”](#) *Refugee Rights Europe*, 2020.

[“Australia's Detention Policies,”](#) *Refugee Council of Australia*, 2020.

[“Children Caught in Crises: Pathways of Advocacy for Unaccompanied and Separated Migrant Children,”](#) S. Bond, *Global Justice*, 2020.

[“Rethinking Immigration Detention During and After Covid-19: Insights from Italy,”](#) E. Roman, *Border Criminologies*, 2020.

[“Crackdown or Symbolism? An Analysis of Post-2015 Policy Responses Towards Rejected Asylum Seekers in Austria,”](#) I. Ataç and T. Schütze, in: *Migrants with Irregular Status in Europe*, S. Spencer and A. Triandafyllidou (Eds), Springer, 2020.

[“The Future of International Solidarity in Global Refugee Protection,”](#) O.C. Okafor, *Human Rights Review*, 2020.

[“The Criminalization of Migration,”](#) V. Baker, in: *Transnational Legal Ordering of Criminal Justice*, G. Shaffer and E. Aaronson (eds), Cambridge, 2020.

[“Israel's Return Migration Industry,”](#) N. Cohen, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2020.

[“Refugees and Suicide: When the Quest for a Better Life Becomes Thwarted,”](#) S. Kashyap and A. Joscelyne, in: *Alternatives to Suicide: Beyond Risk and Toward a Life Worth Living*, A.C. Page and W.G.K Stritzke, Elsevier, 2020.