

Abstract

Refugees and the pandemic: Double jeopardy of Statelessness and Pandemic

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As the world continues to grapple with the novel corona virus, the refugees have a dual battle to wage against the virus as well as their statelessness. Their statelessness adds to their miseries and doubly jeopardizes them in the wake of an epidemic. As the world struggles to control the menace of the virus, the refugee groups struggle to make their ends meet. While the haphazardly announced nationwide lockdown came with hefty promises of uninterrupted supply of essential goods and services, it also carried along an unwritten clause, 'only for citizens'. This paper seeks to analyze the statelessness of refugee groups residing within the country's borders and its impact on them amidst the outbreak of a pandemic. The creation of the Modern Nation State to provide protection to its citizens has created a group of people who have become stateless and have been stripped of all political, social and economic rights. The paper shall also focus on the failure of international law to secure basic sustenance for the refugees. The central objective would thus to be analyze how the pandemic have aggravated the impact of statelessness.

Keywords: Stateless, refugee, protection, state, international law