

In summary, true to its purpose, the book provides a striking view of the faces in the revolution. Through the particulars, Straker provides insight into the general, which both enriches the field at a theoretical level and guides it at the level of clinical and community intervention. Her analysis inspires us to action and conveys the reality that there is plenty of work to be done as mental health workers, researchers, social service workers, policy makers, and community activists.

References

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Reviewed by Joan W Duncan, Professor of Psychology, Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York.

Refugee Women, Susan Forbes Martin, Zed Books, London and New Jersey, 1991, 140 pp. (ISBN: 1-85649-001-7). Price £10.95.

This book introduces the reader to the situation of refugee women from various parts of the world and the problems that they face and on a day-to-day basis. She 'sets the scene' by introducing the reader to the whole question of the refugee problem and also gives statistics on refugees. The second chapter addresses the crucial issue that faces any refugee: the changing of roles that occurs when people move from their own countries or homes. The third chapter focuses on what can be done to provide safety to refugee women, including obtaining refugee status.

The fourth and fifth chapters focus on the provision of basic services such as food, water and education and the involvement of refugee women in economic activities. Chapter six looks at what the author calls "durable solutions" for those who have been forced to leave their homes, and the options that are available to them. While some refugees are lucky to be resettled in other countries within their regions, some find themselves in developed countries where they have to cope with new ways of living. The author successfully draws attention to the problems that these refugees may face. Finally she outlines what the United Nations bodies have

and are doing to assist refugee women. She also provides a list of international organisations that are involved in work with refugees.

Throughout the book the author stresses the need for refugees to participate actively in decision-making in all matters that affect their lives and she sees their participation as a tool which can empower refugee women to sustain development. She manages to capture the lives of refugee women vividly and highlights the common, but untalked about problems that refugees experience, such as sexual harassment and rape. However, because the author addresses many issues she does not go into a lot of detail on these. Her ability to suggest solutions to some of the problems makes her book very useful to anyone interested in work with refugee women. The book is written simply and her case studies enable the reader to conceptualise and appreciate the problems that women face. I view it as an eye-opener and hope that anyone involved in development work will have a chance to read the book which covers the gap that was existing in as far as literature on refugee women is concerned.

Reviewed by Perpetua Gumbo, Director of Fieldwork, School of Social Work, Harare

Homeless Children: The Watchers and the Waiters, Nancy A Boxill (ed), The Haworth Press, New York, 1990, pp 156. (ISBN: 0-86656-789-5). No price listed.

This book is a unique collection of eight articles about homeless children in the United States of America. The relevance of this book cannot be overstated as homelessness is a growing problem in all societies; developed, developing and underdeveloped. It is more so in the latter two where resources are usually meagre. The authors have viewed homelessness and its impact on children from several perspectives. Each author presents a professional discourse of the phenomenon of homelessness and caps this with recommendations on policy and practical intervention. Thus, this book is ideal for use by field workers and policy makers tackling the issue of homelessness and in particular homeless children.

In the first chapter Leanne G Rivlin sets the tone of the book by presenting an analysis of the impacts of various forms of homelessness on children and the meaning of personal space and personal place in the lives of children. Rivlin outlines the significance of the environment to children's social, emotional and cognitive development. The author takes the reader into a discussion of the powerful and enduring impacts that environmental experiences have on children, considering implications of shelters, welfare hostels and street environments to children's welfare and lives. The author offers the concept of attachment to place and underlines the direct functions of attachments, stabilising children's lives and rationalising their stimulation and preventing alienation.