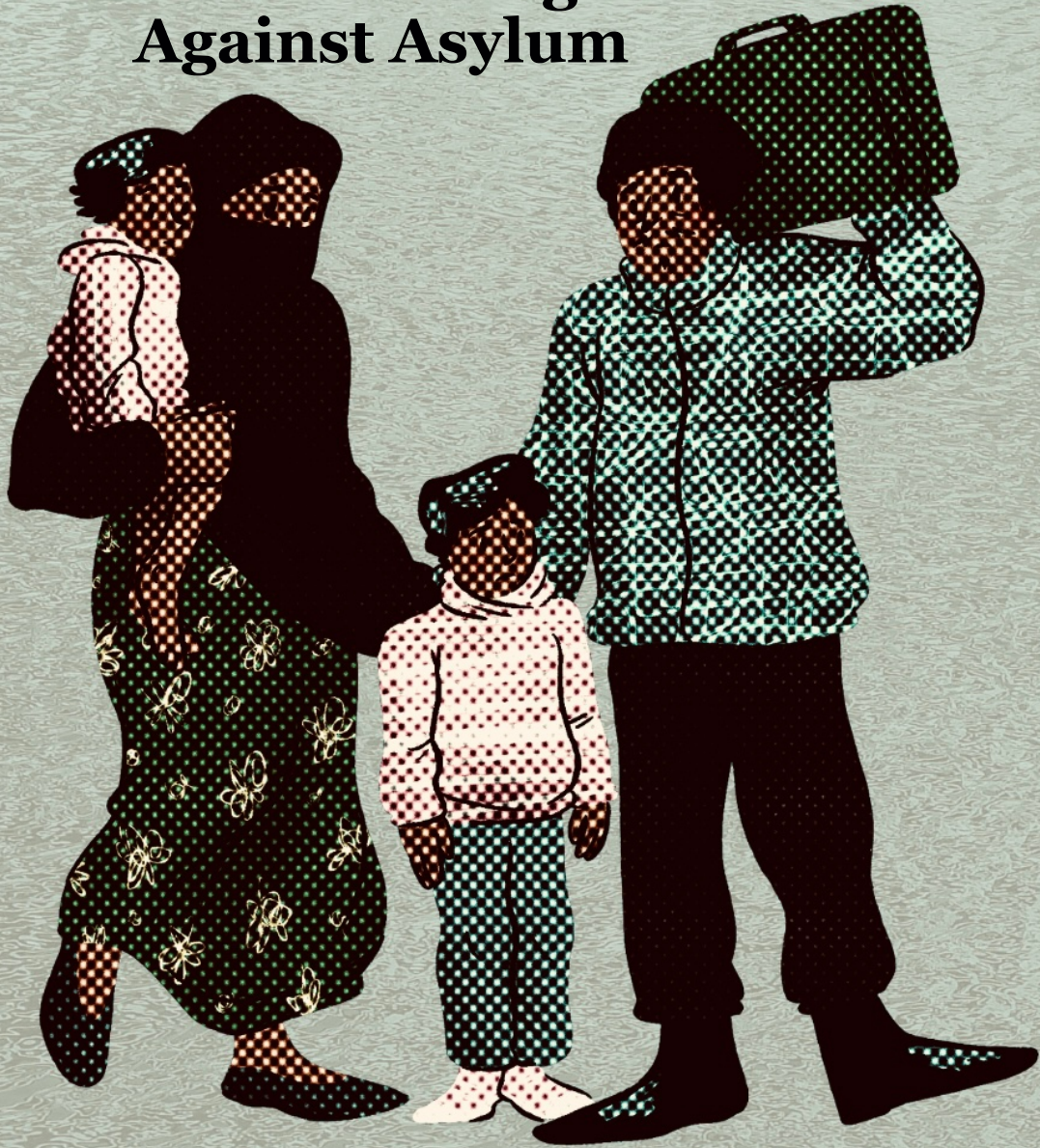


The Global Fight Against Asylum



Editor's Note

In a pool of global anti-immigration policies, asylum has attracted significant attention with recent policies that require a thorough scrutiny for ethical concerns. Two of the guiding principles that underscore the anti-immigration/asylum sentiments are well-documented in areas of crime and work. It is why South Africa feels justified in its xenophobia—that by throwing



undocumented immigrants who take their jobs out of their country, the political problem has been solved—and why the UK remains steadfast in its framing of asylum seekers as proprietors of crime, as if the action of an individual demands an apprehension of the whole.

The history of asylum is that of war and human rights abuse. The modern global village is recording daily news of genocide and other deaths in various pockets of the world—from the unrelenting kidnapping in Nigeria to the displaced people of Palestine and Ukraine, to the victims of inhumanity in Congo and various African countries—all people who are to be denied asylum in the wake of new laws that harden the process of asylum acquisition. The US Department of Homeland Security, earlier this year, proposed a law that removes the work permit granted to asylum seekers and also a new fee requirement that influences the demography of people who are able to apply.

Cover Illustration

This design is a depiction of “asylum” as an element of mobility in precarious times.

Migration Monitor

Conflict, persecution, and economic hardship have forced millions to leave their homes in pursuit of safety and opportunity. Yet even in countries that offer protection, changing policies have created new challenges for migrants seeking a better life. Below are the recent migration policies across different countries and how these changes affect African migrants.

France

France adopts a contradictory approach compared to its counterparts, with a significant shift in the immigration policy enacted in June 2025. The reform aims to attract professionals through approaches ranging from simplified visa and permit systems to revised salary thresholds. By 2025, almost 50% of immigrants in France were Africans. However, deportation processes have been fast-tracked, with removal cases processed within 48 hours.



United Kingdom

The introduction of the White Paper Restoring Control over the Immigration System in May 2025 included eight policy changes aimed at reducing immigration and tightening labour market rules in response to high net migration. Further limiting



opportunities for migrants seeking stability.

Concerns have also grown over the safety of asylum seekers. A report states nearly 6000 assaults over 20 months, equivalent to at least 10 per day. However, crimes like this should be treated as an individual act rather than a justification for prejudice against an entire community.

Germany

The five-point migration plan announced in January 2025 aims to tighten border checks, reduce asylum benefits, and accelerate deportations, with about 70% turn-backs being Balkan and North African nationals. By September 2025, a joint deportation centre with Poland had processed over 5000 rejected asylum seekers, with approval rates dropping by 10%.

A controlled migration deal with Kenya prioritizes skilled migrants reflecting labour shortages in both countries.



Italy

Italy's Prime Minister introduced stricter immigration and asylum controls, describing migration as "an epochal battle for Italy and Europe". Her policies include agreements with Libya and Tunisia to reduce entry of migrant boats



and improve economic conditions in some African countries. However, few plans have been made towards that. Additional detention centers have been created to house illegal immigrants for up to 18 months. Numerous critics consider this a hateful choice and oppose these new policies.

South Africa

The court has ruled that rejected asylum seekers cannot reapply for asylum. Amid continuous hostility from Anti-migrant groups, hundreds of African migrants have fled their homes. Meanwhile, the Employment Services Amendment Bill seeks to regulate foreign worker employment by requiring employers prioritise South African citizens before foreign nationals and comply with economic sector quotas, with fines of up to R200,000 for violations.



Chad: A Safe Haven for Sudanese Refugees, Now in Crisis



By Abla Salih Boush

With the outbreak of war in Sudan on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces, the country entered a dark tunnel of violence and destruction, leading to the world's worst displacement crisis. According to UN reports, the human cost is estimated at approximately 150,000 killed, more than 25 million facing the risk of

hunger and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, 1.3 million children living in areas suffering from famine, and more than 14 million people forced to flee their homes, with nearly 11.1 million internally displaced. In contrast, more than 2.9 million people fled to neighbouring countries. Among these countries, the Republic of Chad stands out as one of the

main destinations, hosting over 844,000 Sudanese refugees. Chad was already hosting approximately 409,000 Sudanese who had fled previous waves of conflict in Darfur. The UNHCR coordinator in Chad stated that about 239,000 refugees are still stranded at the border, exposed to weather fluctuations, insecurity, and the risk of further violence.

The Sudanese refugees in Chad represent a demographic mix that reflects the devastating and uneven impacts of the war on different groups. The approximate distribution can be detailed as follows:

- Women and girls are the most affected group. Women and girls together constitute the largest proportion, their share reaching about 58% of the total number of refugees.
- Adult women represent approximately 26%. Girls (under 18 years): Represent about 32%.
- Children (both males and females) under the age of 18 collectively constitute approximately 55% of the total refugees. This massive percentage clearly shows how childhood is bearing the heaviest burden of this humanitarian crisis.
- Men and Boys: Their proportion is only about 12%. This strikingly low percentage reflects a tragic reality that many men are either engaged in fighting, losing their lives in it, staying in Sudan to defend lands and property, or choosing more dangerous asylum routes to Europe. Boys (under 18 years): Their proportion is about 23%.

Chad: The Compelled Choice

The choice of Chad was not coincidental, but rather the result of several compelling factors. Chad is located on the western border of Sudan, specifically with the Darfur

region, which has a long history of conflict. This geographical proximity made it the fastest and closest refuge for civilians fleeing the scourges of bombardment and violence. In addition, the interwoven tribal and cultural ties between the populations in the border areas of both countries facilitated the asylum process, compared to other options that require greater financial resources and complex entry visas, as is the case in Egypt.

The journey itself is a trauma. Israa, a 23-year-old university student who fled from the Morni area, located about 83 kilometres south of El Geneina city, to Chad, describes the journey as exhausting: "The journey to Chad was arduous. After our relatives offered to get us out and sent a car to pick us up, we didn't know what would happen to us. The road was perilous. "For others, like Susan, a 32-year-old mother and former teacher, says the escape was pure horror:

"The journey was very frightening, moving from one country to another for the first time because of war and insecurity. There were corpses in the streets; it was indescribable terror. It's normal for a person to be killed in the street because of their ethnic affiliation, or for your child or your family to be killed, and you can't save your loved ones."

An Escalating Influx

Chad has witnessed successive waves of displacement with the escalation of the war in Sudan. These numbers have increased significantly with the expansion of military operations and the imposition of a suffocating siege on main Darfur cities such as El Fasher and other cities. This siege, which prevents the arrival of humanitarian aid and food and prevents civilians from fleeing safely, has pushed thousands to leave their homes on perilous journeys

through conflict areas on foot or on the backs of animals, seeking a safe haven across the border in Chad, only to be met with a harsh reality.

Sudanese refugees are primarily concentrated in six camps: Al-Malik, Mije, Abu Tinein, Abu Tinqouri, Hajjar Hadid, and other camps. These camps are nothing but worn-out tents spread across arid areas, suffering from a severe lack of the most basic necessities. Basic services are almost non-existent, as the camps suffer from a severe shortage of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, threatening the spread of epidemics and diseases. Healthcare services are almost non-existent, especially for those with chronic illnesses and pregnant women. A food crisis threatening with famine: Families rely entirely on international food aid, which does not arrive regularly or sufficiently. Deaths due to malnutrition have been recorded among children and

the elderly.

Overcrowding in these camps exacerbates social problems and increases the risks of violence, especially against women and girls who are exposed to the risk of sexual exploitation. The life these refugees were forced to leave behind stands in stark contrast to their current reality. Before the war, they were building their futures. Susan remembers a life of stability and community: "We were settled, employed, and our children studied in the best schools. Our time was organised; we had shifts at institutes to improve our English. Our children and family were around us, happy. We used to go out on holidays and attend family weddings. Our community had strong relationships. Our life was comfortable, with electricity, water, and an affordable internet."

The length of this story has been reduced for this magazine. You can read the full report on the Diaspora Africa website

**African Migration News
Biweekly**

**Compiled By Migrants
For Migrants**



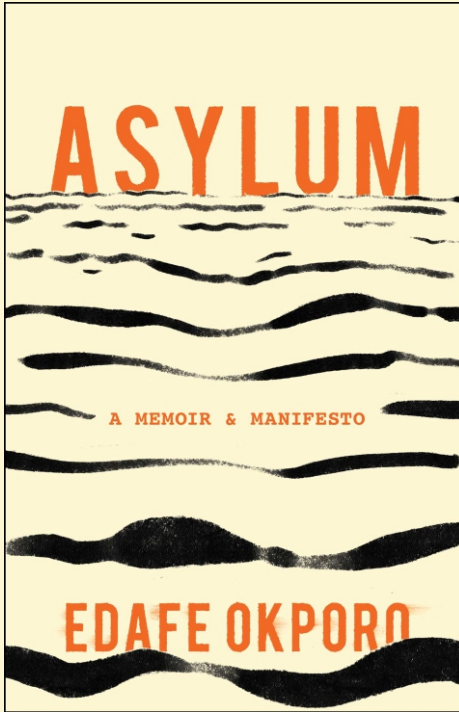
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If you need to send us questions or feedback about this magazine, write to us at info@diasporafrica.org

What to Read Now



What happens when one escapes persecution only to encounter new barriers in the country where they seek protection? Does asylum or the act of seeking asylum always mean seeking full safety? In *Asylum: A Memoir & Manifesto*, Edefe Okporo tells the story of his journey from Nigeria to the United States after facing threats and discrimination because of his sexuality. Hoping to find safety, he instead found himself moving between a complex asylum system and spending months in immigration

detention. As much as this could usually be a regular asylum story for many immigrants, Okporo tells his story with a particular kind of seriousness, one that battles with his reality at the time, as Black, gay, and African. Reading Okporo's story through these labels helps to understand the kind of intervention that he offers through the memoir.

We might want to categorize *Asylum* as more than a memoir, as it is also a call to action. Okporo's argument is based on a more compassionate approach to immigration and refugee protection, drawing attention to the realities many displaced people face long after they cross a border. The book is both an intimate narrative and a powerful critique of systems that often fail those seeking safety.

Resources

The 'African Refugees and Migrants Aid' (ARMA)



The 'African Refugees and Migrants Aid' (ARMA), is a South African not-for-profit (NPO) organization, founded on the 1st of May 2018, located in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape. Registered as a no. 214-221 NPO in terms of the Non-Profit Organization Act of 1997 (Act no. 71 of 1997), and Public Benefit Organization (PBO) No. 930067473 and Tax registration no. 9582788189 charitable organization.

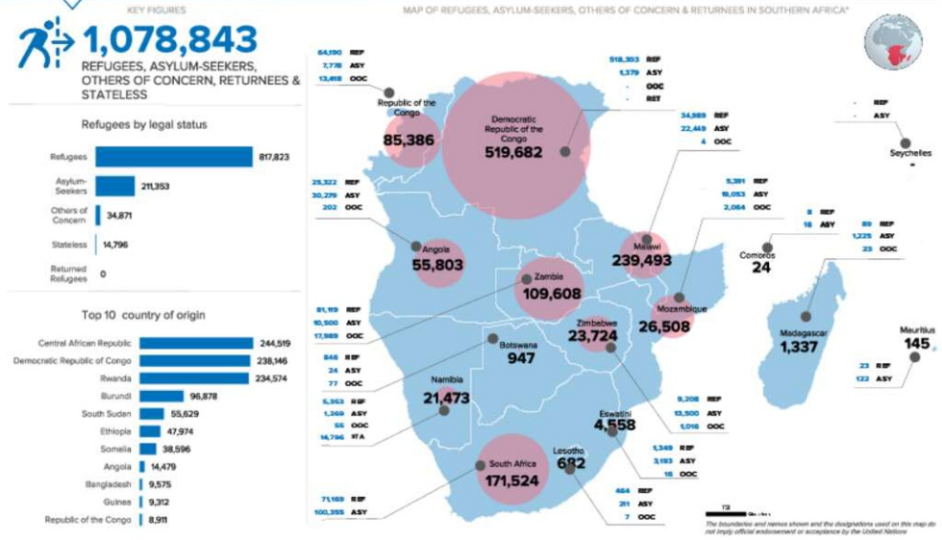
With an inherent understanding of the difficulties faced by these communities and families, ARMA seeks to dismantle the various forms of abuse and injustices experienced, to empower them towards objective survival in terms of economics and human rights endowed to them, but additionally to ensure their development, growth, and societal participation – these being towards a more subjective sense of well-being.

Further inquiries and information culled from: ARMA Website

In Numbers



REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA POPULATIONS THAT UNHCR IS MANDATED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST As of 31 March 2025



Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Southern Africa

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Southern Africa was home to 1.08 million refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and others of concern as of March 2025. Of these, 817,823 were recognized refugees, while 211,353 were asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their protection claims.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) hosts the largest displaced population in the region, with more than 519,000 people, followed by Malawi (239,493) and South Africa (171,524). South Africa stands out for having more asylum seekers than recognized refugees, reflecting ongoing pressures on asylum processing systems.

Source: *Operational Data Portal, 2025*

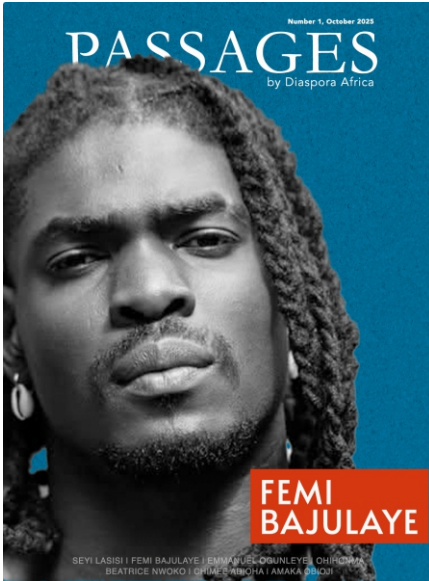
The Mobility Gaze



Photo credit: Daniel Case (2017), Asylum seekers preparing to cross the U.S.-Canadian border from the end of Roxham Road, Champlain, New York. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 (CC BY-SA 3.0).

**Are you a traveller or just someone who is on the move?
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The Community Corner



When multidisciplinary artist, Femi Bajulaye migrated to the United Kingdom with his parents and siblings in 2006, he was ten years old. Recalling events that led to their departure, he remembers feeling a sense of adventure on the horizon. His uncles and aunt had promised him endless possibilities should he be hardworking. Of course, his ten-years old mind couldn't grasp the entirety of their words and its meaning. However, he was conscious of the impending change. "An air of innocence, a strange fear of the unknown that metamorphosed a spirited boy

to a near insular one that for a while chose to only exist in his imagination," was how Bajulaye described leaving Nigeria in a recent interview with Diaspora Africa. On getting to the UK, he wasn't conscious of his "migrant" status until his parents tried enrolling him into secondary school. The tedious administrative process that required him to be approved as a student and the microscopic analysis of his parents' ability to rightfully parent him and his siblings made him conscious of his "otherness". Responding to this, young Bajulaye became quiet and introspective.

A full essay is available to read on Diaspora Africa's website.

Got a migration experience to share or want to be featured?
Send us a message on WhatsApp at +44 7986 983956, and we will chat with you!

We are building a newsroom & community that counters misinformation and bias in global mainstream news about African migration. We are working with local and cross-border journalists to challenge biased global reporting frameworks that shape migration. We want to disrupt extractive storytelling practices & expand the range of perspectives represented in international media discourse surrounding migration.

The magazine is independently funded by the Diaspora Africa team. Many updates featured in this publication are sourced from our Migration Monitor database, which tracks migration trends affecting African migrants and diasporic communities globally.

monitor.diasporafrica.org

The Magazine Team



Publisher
Amaka Obioji



Editor
Chimee Adjoḥa



Research Lead
Jazmine Cuevas



Design & Visual Media
Emmanuel Ogunleye

Contributors

■ **Chidinma Ayika**

■ **Janet Meziem**



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