

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION'S RESPONSE TO REFUGEES' AND OTHER MIGRANTS' HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AT THE CROATIAN BORDER

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Located in a country on the external borders of the European Union, social workers in Croatia have the rare opportunity to work in a context that is highly challenging but that offers the potential to use various methods to resist dehumanising policies, practices and discourses. In considering social work to be a human rights profession, this analysis of social work profession's response towards the human rights violations of refugees and other people who migrate at Croatian borders was based on three aspects: social and political circumstances that produce (un)involvement in these issues; potentials for empowering social workers; and resistance practices against unjust and repressive policies and practices. Findings of thematic analysis were interpreted through the human rights-based approach. By revealing the multi-layered circumstances that have contributed to professionals' reluctance to take a proactive stance against oppression and human rights violations, the study showed social work needs to critically reconsider social workers' role in migration.