

MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT EUROPEAN BORDERS
THE ROLE OF GRASSROOTS NGOs IN MONITORING
BORDER POLICE VIOLENCE AND
ABUSES IN EUROPE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL WORK

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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This thesis focuses on how to monitor violence at borders and the role of grassroots NGOs in being “watch-dogs” of agents’ actions, linking it to social work and underlying the possible consequences of these monitoring actions for volunteers.

In particular, it was interesting to find more about and reflect on the three different layers of violence reproduced at European, Croatian and Bosnian level, with the same repressive structures duplicated on smaller scales and initiated by the securitarian approaches of European institutions to borders.

Benefits and downsides of the presence of grassroots NGOs on the field were also analyzed, pointing out how international volunteers are recreating passive aggressive forms of violence and projecting them onto local population, in what can be described as white savior complex (Straubhaar, 2015). Findings include also additional forms of violence that are normally left un-reported such as harassment of residents toward both local and international volunteers and illegal businesses thriving in such desperate scenarios.

Keywords: Border violence, Bosnia i Herzegovina, Croatia, Human Rights, Grassroots NGOs, Social Work