



Sacrificing the few to save the system

The moral economy of resettlement to Norway

Nerina Weiss

“These are difficult cases: There are cases that both IMDi think they don't want to settle and that don't quite fit UDI's profile, but these are probably also the cases that really need to come to Norway”.

(resettlement officer, UDI 2023)



POLITIET
POLITIETS UTLENDINGSENHET

UDI Utlendingsdirektoratet
Norwegian Directorate
of Immigration



IMDi
Integrerings- og
mangfoldsdirektoratet



Resettlement a humanitarian response to the vulnerable stranger (care) and mode of border control.

Vulnerability

Compatability

Security

Capacity



Image-photo/demaerre/istock

The ethos of care and control



Be vulnerable (and resourceful) enough in order to be considered as vulnerable

If too vulnerable or vulnerable in the wrong way, one may be excluded from that same category

Case 1: Manipulating ‘the system at home’

Case 2: Relying on ‘a system out there’

Case 3: Letting die

To conclude

Perceptions of cost and risk are shaped not only by policy and politics but by deeper, collective understandings of responsibility.

Resettlement work is shaped by the tension between care and control, a space where human suffering is neither ignored nor easily resolved, but continuously present.



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