

ARMED CONFLICT, WAR, THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT, THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACE, AND THE FORCIBLY DISPLACED

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It is irrefutable that armed conflicts and/or wars are the principal causes of forced displacement in the world today. The numbers of those who have been forcibly displaced have reached unprecedented levels and have been escalating continuously for at least the last decade. The United Nations' Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine has developed into an international norm and requires states, individually and/or collectively, to protect their residents from the "atrocities crimes"—war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and ethnic cleansing—which are among the world's most serious international crimes and can be persecutory in and of themselves. The overlap between refugee protection and the R2P doctrine is self-evident. All states, both individually and collectively, have a responsibility to protect people from serious international crimes. This is perhaps most evident in the granting of refugee protection. This article argues that the human right to peace, which is essential for the realization of all other human rights, is so crucial that the mere breach of the human right to peace is persecutory and therefore could constitute grounds for a claim to a fear of persecution and form a basis for granting Convention refugee status, provided all other requirements in the 1951 Convention Relating to the

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