



## *Difficult Life in a Refugee Camp*

Although refugee camps are established to accommodate, protect, and assist those fleeing from violent conflict and persecution, life often remains difficult there. Building on empirical research with refugees in a Ugandan camp, Ulrike Krause offers nuanced insights into violence, humanitarian protection, gender relations, and coping of refugees who mainly escaped the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This book explores how risks of gender-based violence against women, in particular, but also against men, persist despite and partly due to their settlement in the camp and the system established there. It reflects on modes and shortcomings of humanitarian protection, changes in gender relations, as well as strategies that the women and men use to cope with insecurities, everyday struggles, and structural problems occurring across different levels and temporalities.

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# Difficult Life in a Refugee Camp

Gender, Violence, and Coping in Uganda

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## *Acknowledgments*

Does research ever come to an end? This book is supposed to mark the final piece in the jigsaw of the project ‘Gender Relations in Confined Spaces’ that I carried out under the lead of Professor Susanne Buckley-Zistel at the Center for Conflict Studies, Marburg University, Germany. The research was made possible by the generous funding of the German Foundation for Peace Research, for which I am very thankful. The project started in 2013 and with it my work in Marburg. Although its lifespan and funding came to an end in 2016, here I am four years, two other research projects, and three university postings later, still unable to entirely let go of it. Carrying out this research has influenced me in many ways. I was able to continue my work with refugees and return to Uganda, where I had lived, worked, and conducted parts of my doctoral research three years prior; I was able to meet, speak with, and, most of all, listen to many women and men in Uganda’s refugee camp Kyaka II who shared their often very personal experiences of war, violence, and life in encampment; and I was able to learn about the hardships and cruelties they had faced but also the strengths they continued to possess not only to endure but to move on from their manifold challenges and create better lives.

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