

7.7.2. Treatment by state, society and other actors

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Palestinian refugees, mostly of Sunni Muslim faith,⁸¹⁸ have long faced structural discrimination in Lebanon.⁸¹⁹ Unlike in Jordan and Syria,⁸²⁰ under Lebanese law⁸²¹ Palestinian refugees in Lebanon were barred from 39 types of jobs⁸²² involving higher wages,⁸²³ excluded from state-provided healthcare and education⁸²⁴ and banned from owning immovable property.⁸²⁵ Palestinians are subjected to significantly harsher movement restrictions than Lebanese citizens,⁸²⁶ as Lebanese security services monitored movements of people into and from refugee camps⁸²⁷ and often restricted access. Refugees were vulnerable to exploitation at work and sex trafficking.⁸²⁸

Refugees faced heightened risks to their well-being.⁸²⁹ Palestinian refugees, including children, were affected by significant exposure to various forms of violence, both inside and outside their own communities. In refugee camp settings marked by overcrowding, lack of privacy⁸³⁰ and an absence of governance, justice and law enforcement mechanisms,⁸³¹ high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported, including physical assault and sexual and domestic violence. Children were vulnerable to physical and psychological violence such as aggressive enforcement of discipline by parents and instances of bullying.⁸³² Despite the reported prevalence of GBV and violence against children, victims were often reluctant to seek help due to stigma and concerns about lack of confidentiality and potential reprisals.⁸³³

When the escalation of Israeli aerial attacks in autumn 2024 triggered mass displacement, some IDP shelters refused to accept Palestinian or Syrian families, giving priority to Lebanese citizens, fearing tensions or overcrowding. Moreover, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) quoted a Palestinian woman newly displaced to Mount Lebanon as saying that aid organisations at times distributed food, clothes and money in an unequal manner, often prioritising Lebanese families.⁸³⁴

⁸¹⁸

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