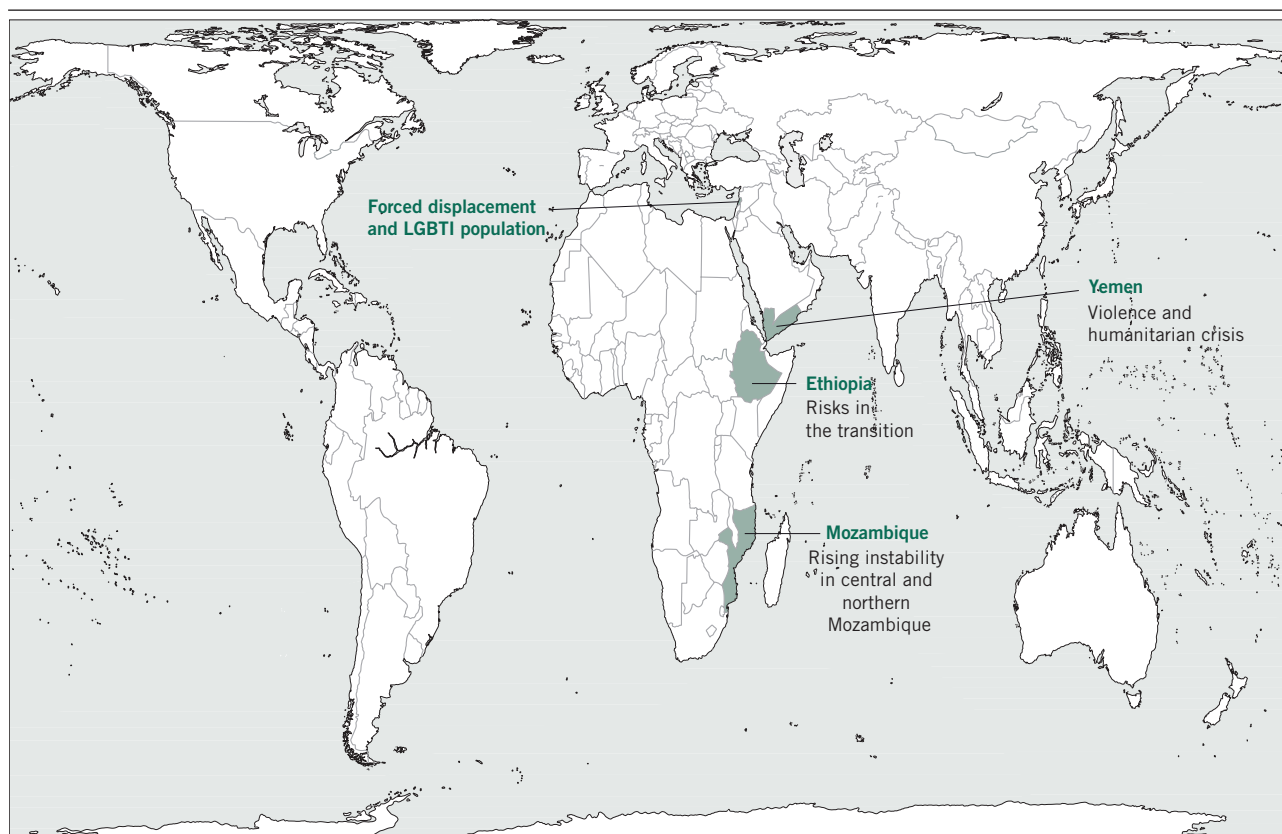


5. Risk scenarios for 2020

Drawing on the analysis of the contexts of armed conflict and socio-political crisis in 2019, in this chapter the School for a Culture of Peace identifies four scenarios that, due to their conditions and dynamics, may worsen and become a focus of greater instability and violence during 2020. The risk scenarios for 2020 refer to the challenges of the Ethiopian transition in a year that is expected to be in turmoil; the increase of the violence in Mozambique and the risks for the new peace agreement; the future scenarios in Yemen after five years of escalating violence and in a context of fragile peace initiatives; and the specific risks for LGBTI population in a global context of forced displacement.

Map 5.1. Risk scenarios for 2020



5.1 Challenges and risks in the Ethiopian transition facing a turbulent 2020

The appointment of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in early 2018 led to important and positive changes domestically and regionally in Ethiopia. The historic peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia in September 2018, the result of many displays of camaraderie on both sides of the Red Sea creating momentum for peace in the Horn of Africa, would not have been possible without Abiy Ahmed's vision and political determination.¹ Domestically, in line with some of the policies initiated by former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, in a few months Abiy lifted the state of emergency in the country, ordered the release of thousands of prisoners and allowed dissidents to return to Ethiopia and promoted greater freedom of expression by facilitating the creation of new parties and by lifting bans on hundreds of websites and television channels. He reached peace agreements with the historical insurgencies in Oromia (the OLF) and Ogaden (the ONLF). He initiated reforms by appointing former human rights activists to strengthen institutions such as the electoral board and accelerated economic reform due to the indebtedness of the state. His actions earned him both national and foreign praise, culminating in the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in the peace process between

Eritrea and Ethiopia. However, Abiy's moves to dismantle the old order have led to a weakening of the Ethiopian state. They have given new impetus to ethnic-based nationalist movements that resurfaced during the Oromo community's massive protests that began in 2015 and finally brought him to power. This situation is triggering an escalation of political violence that could even affect the development of the elections scheduled for 2020. When the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition established the ethnic federalism system after coming to power in 1991, it sought to balance the demands of more than 90 ethnic groups, many of which were organised into armed nationalist movements. Ethnic federalism, which divided Ethiopia into nine semi-autonomous states (and two multi-ethnic cities), gave larger ethnic groups a greater degree of self-government and provided recognition and lower levels of autonomy to many smaller groups. However, over two decades later, the system that was once designed to unite a multi-ethnic nation is now fuelling its implosion, as highlighted by various analysts. It has sown political dysfunction, as ordinary government tasks have become spaces of competition and ethnic conflict. The delimitation of administrative boundaries, the allocation of state resources, the organisation of a twice-postponed census and plans to hold elections in 2020 are causing increasing tension.² These ethnic

Ethiopia's system of ethnic federalism, which was once designed to bring together a multi-ethnic nation, is now fuelling its implosion, according to various analysts

tensions have escalated under Abiy Ahmed's liberalising reforms. As the EPRDF has slackened its tight control, new opportunities, grievances and discourses have emerged from regional leaders and civil society actors. In November, the UN warned that two million people had been displaced as a result of the climate of inter-community violence that is shaking the country.³

The parts of the country most affected by inter-community violence were the northwest (Amhara region), the northeast and the south-centre (Oromia). The most prominent episodes included the deaths of 200 members of the Gumuz community in the Agi Agew (Amhara) area in early May 2019 in retaliation

for previous attacks in the Benishangul-Gumuz region and assassinations of high-ranking government officials in the Amhara region in June 2019, which were described as an attempted coup there, in which the federal government intervened to control the situation, carrying out repressive actions against the Amhara political opposition. Other notable events included the deaths of 86 people during demonstrations that took place in Addis Ababa and other parts of the state of Oromia in October in protest of the prosecution of an activist, Jawar Mohammed, who had been one of the architects of the protests that helped to bring Abiy to power in 2018 and now accused him of repeating the same mistakes as his predecessors.

As highlighted by International Crisis Group (ICG), there are four main lines of division and conflict.⁴ The first of these affects the Oromia region, Abiy's home state, where his rivals, and even some former allies, believe that he should do more to promote the interests of the region. The second fault line pits Oromo community leaders against those of the state of Amhara, the second most populous in Ethiopia, whose leaders question Oromia's growing influence over the government and the multi-ethnic capital, Addis Ababa, which in turn it is surrounded by the Oromia region. The third line pits the Tigray and Amhara communities against each other, along with their respective states, over two territories (Gichew and Gobe) that the state of Amhara claims that Tigray annexed in the early 1990s. The fourth line involves the leaders of the Tigray community (and its respective state) on one hand and Abiy's federal government on the other. The Tigray community perceives a loss of power and privileges in the breakdown of the political system that both built in 1991. The Tigray community party, the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), resists the loss of power resulting from their refusal to participate in the new party forged

1. See the summary on Eritrea-Ethiopia in chapter 1 (Peace negotiations in Africa) in Escola de Cultura de Pau, *Peace Talks in Focus: Report on Trends and Scenarios*. Barcelona: Icaria, 2020.

2. See Woldemikael, Olivia, "Ethiopia: Beyond ethnic federalism", *African Arguments*, 9 December 2019.

3. See the summary on Ethiopia in chapter 2 (Socio-political crises).

4. See International Crisis Group, *Keeping Ethiopia's Transition on the Rails*, no. 283/Africa, 16 December 2019.

from the ashes of the EPRDF coalition, the Prosperity Party (PP). This party brings together representatives of the other three parties (the Amhara ADP, the Oromo ODP and the multi-ethnic SEPDM) of the old coalition except for the TPLF, which did not want to join the PP because that would involve diluting its power in a new party, in addition to other parties from other regions. The aim to create the party also reflects an attempt to reduce the tension and ethnic divisions that have helped to define the country, seeking to promote national unity and the integration of ethnic groups in a common project.

Furthermore, the increase in attacks on churches and mosques in various parts of the country in 2019 suggests that the growing inter-religious tensions could add another level of complexity to the situation. In this sense, the influential Orthodox Church criticised the prime minister's response to the clashes, stating that he had failed to protect the members of this congregation, because the Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which is linked to the Amhara community, suffered various attacks. Another issue to consider is the exclusion of large swathes of the population from the alleged Ethiopian economic miracle, which helps to exacerbate the situation.

A final problem is the stagnation of the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia during 2019, with many fronts still open.⁵ The border remains one of the most militarised areas in the world with hundreds of thousands of soldiers from both countries and an undetermined number of antipersonnel mines. Rapid regional and international supervision of the demilitarisation of the border is essential to prevent the process from regressing. As a border state in which some decisions regarding the peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia have to be implemented, Tigray has aggravated this situation by blocking federal government decisions.

Added to the tensions is another increasingly prominent debate between supporters and opponents of the country's ethnic federalist system, possibly Ethiopia's main political battleground today, as highlighted by the ICG. Introduced in 1991 after the revolutionary government led by Tigray took power, the system delegates authority to ethnolinguistically defined regions, while dividing central power between the ruling parties in those regions. While

support for and opposition to the system is defined in part by who can win or lose from dismantling it, both sides put together strong arguments connected with important academic debates on the issue. Proponents point to the bloody pre-1991 history of the coercive central government and argue that the system protects the rights of different ethnolinguistic communities in a diverse country formed through conquest and assimilation. Detractors argue that because the system structures the state along ethnic lines, it undermines national unity, fuels ethnic conflict and leaves minorities vulnerable in regions dominated by major ethnic groups. This debate was revealed in the referendum held by the Sidama community. On 20 November 2019, a referendum was held in the region to decide if it would become a semi-autonomous federal state. The electoral commission declared that 98.5% of the people who participated in the referendum voted in favour of the creation of the new

state in a process that took place in a climate of freedom and democratic normality. The Sidama community represents 4% of the country's population, as it is the fifth largest national community and the main one in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State (SNNPS), from which it will be separated. Historically, parts of the Sidama community have claimed to have their own state. This has caused tension in the SNNPS region, which is home to 56 ethnic groups. Various analysts pointed out that this step, which will make the Sidama region the tenth state, may stimulate other communities (Wolayta, Hadiya, Gurage, Keffa, among others) to claim to have their own state in ethnic terms.

The electoral cycle that will take place in 2020 can help to strengthen the transition or exacerbate division and conflict, so if the climate of inter-community violence continues to escalate, it may be necessary to postpone the elections. Regardless of the final result, this process must assist the implementation of a national dialogue whose main conditions are the participation of all political and social actors, the absence of violence in defence of different political options and the eradication of hate speech to prevent the polarisation of divergent options. The reforms undertaken by Abiy's government are being threatened by all these issues, which could ultimately derail the transition underway in a country that also plays a determining role regionally and across Africa.

A national dialogue is essential whose main conditions include the participation of all political and social actors, the absence of violence in the defence of different political options and the eradication of hate speech

5. See the summary on Eritrea-Ethiopia in chapter 1 Peace negotiations in Africa) in Escola de Cultura de Pau, *Peace Talks in Focus: Report on Trends and Scenarios*. Barcelona: Icaria, 2020.

5.2. Rising violence in Mozambique and the risks for the new peace agreement

During 2019, Mozambique once again suffered an increase in violence and instability in different provinces that threaten peacebuilding efforts. Although a historic peace agreement was signed in August 2019 between the Mozambican government and the main opposition group, RENAMO, internal divisions and power struggles within the opposition movement seriously threaten the peacebuilding achieved. More disturbing than this, however, is the increase in violence in the northern province of Cabo Delgado caused by insurgent activity, coupled with the appearance of private security contractors, which could produce a domino effect in the area.

Although the Maputo Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed between the ruling party (FRELIMO) and the main opposition group (RENAMO) in August 2019 has put an end to the historical struggle between them, it has also come under serious threat by internal fractures within RENAMO. These fractures have emerged as a result of the struggles for leadership of the organisation that occurred after the death of the historical leader of RENAMO, Afonso Dhlakama, in May 2018. After an internal process rife with tension and confrontation, in January 2019 Ossufo Momade was elected president of RENAMO with around 60% of the votes, though part of the movement refused to recognise him. Just six months after his appointment, Momade signed an initial demilitarisation agreement with President Filipe Nyusi that prompted misgivings and tension among some armed members of the movement, who demanded his resignation, accusing him of betraying the group. Later, these tensions and disagreements focused on the signing of the peace agreement between RENAMO and the government, which was also not recognised by the dissident sector of the group, the self-styled RENAMO Military Junta chaired by Mariano Nhongo. Later, as a consequence of RENAMO's significant defeat in the presidential, provincial and legislative elections in October, in which it obtained only 22% of the vote compared to 73% for the ruling party, the tensions within the organisation's membership increased, further challenging Momade's leadership. FRELIMO not only expanded its votes and support nationwide, but it also prevailed in all the provincial assemblies of the country, including those located in the historical strongholds of support for RENAMO. The dissident RENAMO Military Junta did not recognise the results of the elections and claimed responsibility for various armed attacks in the centre of the country, mainly in the province of Sofala. Since then, armed clashes and attacks on civilians have intensified and the internal dissidents have refused to participate in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of

fighters (DDR) stipulated in the peace agreement. The RENAMO Military Junta has threatened to intensify the war if Nyusi's government refuses to agree to negotiate better conditions for the reintegration of its combatants than those agreed in the August 2019 peace agreement.

On the other open front in the country, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, there was a significant rise in violence in 2019. Since the violence began in 2017, when 119 killings were reported, the deaths caused by the conflict between the government forces and the jihadist insurgency have risen to around 700 and have displaced around 115,000 people. Attacks against civilians, government troops, natural gas infrastructure and mining companies have also increased. Similarly, violence has shifted from concentrating in rural areas to spreading to urban centres in early 2020 with incidents also reported on the Tanzanian side of the border. The wave of violence is allegedly orchestrated by armed jihadist groups linked to the Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jamo (ASWJ) organisation. Since June 2019, however, Islamic State (ISIS) has also publicly announced its presence in the area, claiming responsibility since then for different attacks in the province. Although ISIS' presence is doubted by various analysts, as well as

by the Mozambican security forces, which have systematically denied any evidence of its activity in the region,⁶ attacks are constantly conducted in its name.

The increase in instability in Cabo Delgado province, an area of special strategic importance due to its significant gas and ruby reserves that are exploited by national and foreign extractive industries, has led the Mozambican government to militarise to defend its economic interests. As part of this strategy, during 2019 President Felipe

Nyusi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin signed an energy and security agreement that included deploying Russian private security contractors to the area. According to different media reports, this included around 200 Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group, who had joined the Mozambican security forces to fight the insurgency in Cabo Delgado. The presence of Russian mercenaries is not new in Africa, as there are also indications of their participation in the armed conflicts in Libya, the Central African Republic and Sudan. Although the Russian government has denied the presence of these private actors, there have been different reports about their participation in armed actions in Cabo Delgado since August. However, in early 2020, according to media reports, the Wagner Group had withdrawn from the country due to its shortcomings in fighting the insurgency and was replaced by a Zimbabwe-based private contracting company called the Dyck Advisory

The deterioration of the open crises in Mozambique with the RENAMO dissidents in the heart of the country and jihadist armed groups in Cabo Delgado threatens peacebuilding efforts

6. ISS, "Is Islamic State taking charge of Mozambique's jihadist insurgency?", 10 January 2020.

Group.⁷ These and other steps taken by the government of Mozambique in Cabo Delgado to reduce the insurgents, which it classifies as criminals, have increased violence and produced a knock-on effect in the area to combat foreign forces.

The establishment of the long-awaited peace in the country, which has gone through different scenarios of instability since the end of the civil war in 1992, has

been put in doubt with the rising tension and violence in the central and northern regions. The government of Mozambique and the countries of the region connected to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) face the challenge of seeking peacebuilding measures that might end the instability that threatens to provoke a domino effect in the area. Furthermore, the international community faces the challenge of supporting local civil society actors working to build peace in the country.

7. Daily Maverick, "SA private military contractors' and Mozambican airforce conduct major air attacks on Islamist extremists", 9 April 2020.

5.3. Yemen in the abyss: five years of escalating violence and fragile peace initiatives

In recent years, analysts have repeatedly warned of the worrying development of the Yemeni armed conflict. A scenario of various pockets of conflict in the recent past (an armed rebellion since 2004 led by the insurgent group known as the Houthis in the north, the persistent activity of an al-Qaeda branch, a growing secessionist movement in the south and defiance of Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime amidst the Arab revolts in 2011), violence in the country has intensified, especially since 2015. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia decided to intervene militarily in support of the government of Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi, deposed months earlier by the Houthis, who Riyadh considers "proxies" of Iran, taking advantage of the uncertain transition in the country after Saleh's departure. Since then, the armed conflict has become more complex due to the involvement of many actors and the projection of regional and international interests there. Additionally, the violence of the conflict has led the country to the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, according to the UN. The negative trend of the conflict has been determined by various factors that could lead Yemen to an even deeper crisis if they continue.

First, the conflict has been characterised by intense violence that has resulted in high levels of lethality and a very high number of civilian victims. Since 2015, the Yemeni armed conflict has been identified as one of the most serious worldwide. According to ACLED data, in the last five years, the hostilities have killed some 100,000 people, including 12,000 civilians.⁸ Between March 2015 and June 2019, the UN Human Rights Office had documented a lower, but still high, civilian body count: 7,292 fatalities as a direct consequence of acts of violence. This dramatic toll is the result of continuous indiscriminate and/or deliberate attacks against the population and civilian targets (markets, mosques, schools, weddings, funerals and other civilian targets) by the different actors involved in the war. Various sources have denounced the special responsibility of the Saudi-led military coalition, whose air strikes have caused most of the civilian deaths (67% of all victims reported between 2015 and 2019, according to ACLED) and most children's deaths in the conflict between 2015 and 2018, according to data from the UN Group of Experts on Yemen.⁹ Despite the warnings about war crimes committed due to a failure to respect basic principles of international humanitarian law (IHL), such

as the distinction between civilians and combatants, these practices have persisted in an atmosphere of impunity.

Second, the necessary measures have not been taken to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country in recent years, which has worsened enormously. On the contrary, the conflict has included repeated attacks on health infrastructure, sieges and blockades to the access of humanitarian aid. This has seriously affected the population, favouring the spread of diseases such as cholera and raising levels of malnutrition in a country highly dependent on food imports that was already the poorest in the Arab world before the escalation of violence in 2015. It is estimated that 80% of the country's population (30 million inhabitants) are in need of some form of humanitarian aid. A study by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures predicted that there would be around 102,000 fatalities from direct violence by the end of 2019 (an estimate coinciding with ACLED's) and that another 131,000 could lose their lives due to other impacts from the conflict, such as a lack of food or access to health services.¹⁰ At the same time, abuse, corruption and discretionary distributions linked to the delivery of humanitarian aid have been reported as part of the war economy.

A third factor that explains the persistence of the dynamics of violence in Yemen is the continuous flow of arms and military logistical support to the contending parties. The provision of stockpiles has continued despite multiple indications that they violate human rights and IHL and break national and regional regulations and the International Arms Trade Treaty (2014), which requires states to guarantee that their exports will not be used to perpetrate human rights abuses, violate IHL or commit acts of terrorism, among other actions. Thus, the UN Group of Experts on Yemen has explicitly warned countries such as Iran, denounced for providing weapons to the Houthis, the US (the main supplier of arms to Saudi Arabia) and other European countries such as the United Kingdom and France (which also supply weapons to Riyadh and other countries of the coalition) that they risk being considered complicit in committing abuse. Spain has also continued to export weapons to Saudi Arabia, as it has become one of the main clients of the Spanish military industry and

The armed conflict in Yemen has been aggravated and complicated by the projection of regional and international interests there and has plunged it into the worst humanitarian crisis in the world

8. ACLED, *Press release: over 100,000 reported killed in Yemen war*, ACLED, 31 October 2019.

9. Human Rights Council, *Situation of human rights in Yemen, including violations and abuses since September 2014*, Report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts as submitted to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/42/17, 9 August 2019.

10. Jonathan D. Moyer et al. *Assessing the impact of war on development in Yemen*, UNDP – Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures, April 2019.

the world's largest buyer of weapons in recent years. Although various countries have approved some restrictions on arms sales, especially after the scandal over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi embassy in Istanbul in 2018, which exposed Riyadh's abusive practices internationally, they are still far from a total embargo on all parties, as some demand. In a context in which geopolitical interests and regional power struggles are at stake, weapons have continued to circulate, thereby encouraging Yemeni armed actors to continue their commitment to resolving the conflict by violent means.

Finally, the fourth factor that has shaped the development of the Yemeni conflict in the last five years has been the fragility of the peace initiatives. After years of impasse and disagreements in negotiating attempts, the signing of the Stockholm Agreement between the Houthis and the Hadi government at the urging of the UN in late 2018 encouraged certain positive expectations. However, the difficulties in implementing the agreement were evident throughout 2019. Considered a first step between the parties, the agreement has the potential to open negotiations on substantive aspects of the conflict in the future and focuses on three very specific issues: the creation of a committee to de-escalate tension in the city of Taiz, the implementation of prisoner exchanges and action to guarantee the ceasefire in the port of Al Hudaydah, which is key for the entry of supplies into the country. During 2019 there was no progress in the first, only limited progress in the second and many

obstacles to establish the truce in Al Hudaydah, partly due to differences in interpretation that some analysts blamed on the vague wording of the agreement. Also in 2019, the Yemeni conflict was affected by divisions within the anti-Houthi camp, which led to open fighting in Aden between Hadi government forces and southern secessionist groups supported by the United Arab Emirates, which is part of the Saudi-led coalition but has its own agenda of interests in Yemen. Although Saudi Arabia managed to get the parties to sign a pact to prevent a new war within the Yemeni armed conflict, by late 2019 the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement was uncertain due to the tightness of its schedule and the persistence of the fighting. Meanwhile, Oman attempted to facilitate informal contacts between Riyadh and the Houthis as analysts highlighted Saudi Arabia's interest in ending its costly military incursion into Yemen.

A change of trend in the armed conflict in Yemen therefore requires reversing the dynamics outlined above (stopping violence, addressing the humanitarian crisis, halting arms supplies and reinforcing peace initiatives) and a greater commitment from the international community to promote a solution to the conflict and attend to the urgent needs of the population. Paving the way to peace in Yemen also involves acknowledging the complexity of the situation there and accommodating the many voices that have been demanding that civil society, and especially women's organisations, play a substantive role in defining the future of the country.

5.4. Forced displacement in the global context: specific risks for the LGBTI population

Violence, persecution, conflict and human rights violations continue to forcibly displace civilian populations at levels unprecedented since the Second World War. According to data published by the UNHCR in 2019, by the end of 2018, the world's forcibly displaced population amounted to 70.8 million people, including 25.9 million refugees, 41.3 million internally displaced persons and 3.5 million asylum seekers. A sector of the population specifically vulnerable to human rights violations, both in the countries of origin –forcing them to displace– as well as during transit and in the host countries, are lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual and intersex (LGBTI) people, who are exposed to violence on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics. Despite some strengthening of the international regulatory framework and the mobilisation of civil society and human rights organisations, more action is required by a greater number of actors to avoid the perpetuation of violence against LGBTI people in situations of forced displacement.

Traditionally, most States have not recognised forms of persecution that are not explicitly set out in the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951). This Convention includes some of the forms of persecution that constitute grounds for asylum applications –such as persecution on ethnic, religious, political or nationality grounds– and more generally refers to any persons belonging to a certain social group. The Yogyakarta Principles (2007, extended in 2017) clarify that States are obliged to ensure through legislation that a person's fear of persecution on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sexual characteristics are accepted as grounds for granting refugee status.¹¹ However, in 2019, both the UNHCR and the Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity warned that only some 37 States grant asylum on such grounds and that the majority of States providing asylum do not recognise such persecution as a basis for recognition of refugee status. Despite the existence of the international regulatory framework, therefore, there is a clear risk that

persons persecuted on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity may not be able to exercise their right to asylum. And even when they do, they continue to be exposed to specific risks of violence and discrimination.

LGBTI activists and organisations, as well as human rights groups and bodies, point out that the LGBTI population is exposed to disproportionate levels of human rights violations around the world, which can include acts of violence such as murder, beatings, kidnapping, sexual assault, threats, coercion, arbitrary detention, “conversion therapies” and forced sterilisations, among others. Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sexual characteristics intersect with multiple issues that shape the features of a country's population (age, class, ethnicity, religion, place of residence, body, among others). Inequalities along these

Internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, migrants and refugees may be more vulnerable and face specific risks of violence, exploitation and discrimination from multiple actors at all stages of their journey

lines can result in very specific degrees of violence and discrimination which lead to further exacerbation. Internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, migrants and refugees may be more vulnerable and face specific risks of violence, exploitation and discrimination from multiple actors at all stages of their journey, including host societies, officials, armed actors and criminal groups and other refugees, among others.¹² The risk of violence and extortion can lead them to conceal their gender identity and sexual orientation. In the absence of accommodation and other facilities (sanitation, service provision) to adequately guarantee the protection of LGBTI people, they may suffer harassment and violence and their specific needs may be neglected. Among them, access to health and reproductive rights services that are sensitive to sexual and gender diversity can be particularly difficult.¹³ When crossing borders, LGBTI people may be subjected to invasive physical examinations.

There are various contexts in which violence, abuse and exploitation against displaced LGBTI people, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have been reported. Among these, in Lebanon it has been reported that LGBTI people who are also refugees in the country face a specific risk of detention, alongside Lebanese trans women and Lebanese gay, bisexual

11. The so-called Yogyakarta Principles (YP) are a compendium of principles that reflect the current state of international human rights law as it relates to sexual orientation and gender identity. They draw on existing international legislation from international treaties, the case-law of human rights treaty organisations, specialist courts and commissions, as well as interpretations by authority figures such as UN special rapporteurs and working groups, expert opinions and country practices. They were drafted in 2006 (published in 2007), and revised and expanded in 2017 (YP+10), as a result of an international process in which the International Commission of Jurists and the International Service for Human Rights, on behalf of a coalition of human rights organisations, took on the drafting of these principles, in order to provide greater clarity on the obligations of States in this area.

12. Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, *Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity*. A/74/181, 17 July 2019.

13. Ibid.

and queer men of low income.¹⁴ In several cases, LGBTI migrants held in detention facilities have been identified as being at risk of social isolation and violence, including sexual violence.¹⁵ Civil society organisations providing support to LGBTI refugees in the UK, such as UKLGIG, have also reported inappropriate treatment by Home Office officials. Against the backdrop of the Central American migrant caravans who travelled to the USA in 2018 to seek asylum, dozens of LGBTI people formed their own group, complaining of verbal abuse and other specific difficulties along the way. In Kenya, LGBTI refugees from Uganda, DRC, Ethiopia and Burundi have been repeatedly attacked by local people and other refugees.

The allegations of violence against displaced LGBTI people in various settings around the world, which have resurfaced in recent years due to the greater visibility and mobilisation of LGBTI organisations, highlights the need for greater efforts to include an intersectional approach in conflict prevention and transformation and in global and State responses to internal and external forced displacement. States are under obligation to enforce international human rights law, including with respect to their LGBTI population. Members of civil society, especially in transit and host countries, have an opportunity to contribute to demanding accountability from their home States, including through international mechanisms and multiple avenues of social participation and protest.

14. OutRight Action International y Arab Foundation for Freedom & Equality, Activism and Resilience: LGBTQ progress in the Middle East and North Africa. Case studies from Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. 2018.

15. Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, op. cit.; UNHCR, *Protecting Persons with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities: A Global Report on UNHCR's Efforts to Protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Asylum-Seekers and Refugees*, 2015.

