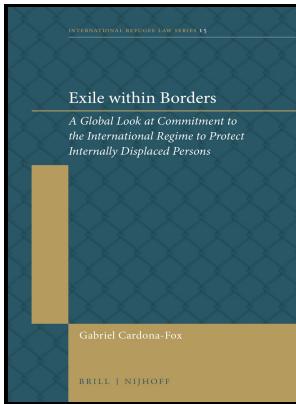


# Caught between borders - response strategies of the internally displaced

**Pluto Press, in association with Norwegian Refugee Council - The Guiding Principles as a Response Strategy for the Internally Displaced**



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In other words, internal refugees become defined as victims and beneficiaries, not as people and actors.

## The Guiding Principles as a Response Strategy for the Internally Displaced

People at risk of persecution who legitimately seek shelter by crossing international borders are protected in theory at least by the 1951 Refugee Convention and its principal guardian agency, the UNHCR.

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When we gave IDPs the chance to talk about what they had done prior to, during and after displacement, rather than what their needs were the standard project needs assessments approach , many of them demonstrated great capacity to analyse their situation and make risk assessments. Employing an anthropological approach has allowed broader, more personal and, perhaps, more in-depth accounts to be voiced. One can see the beginnings of this in Colombia, Sri Lanka, Georgia and Macedonia, where the Principles have been translated into the local languages, and outreach programs are underway.

## Caught Between Borders : Response Strategies of the Internally Displaced

In Indonesia, for example, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA , together with the Brookings-CUNY Project, is having the Handbook translated into Bahasa Indonesia, and an outreach campaign is being developed by OCHA and OXFAM. Hence, the estimate of 20-25 million IDPs frequently cited by commentators may well fall short of the actual total.

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