Editorial Note: Inaugural Issue of the Journal of Migration and Security Studies

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It is with profound enthusiasm that we introduce the inaugural issue of the Journal of Migration and Security Studies (JMSS), a peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary publication devoted to advancing critical scholarship on the intricate and multifaceted relationship between migration and security. In a period characterized by unprecedented global mobility and rapidly evolving security paradigms, the imperative for rigorous, nuanced academic engagement with these interwoven domains has become increasingly urgent—particularly from African perspectives, which have long been marginalized within the broader scholarly discourse.

Published biannually, in June and December, JMSS aspires to serve as a vibrant forum for scholarly debate and intellectual exchange. We warmly invite both theoretical and empirical contributions that deepen our collective understanding of the shifting dynamics between migration and security, both within the African continent and in comparative global contexts. The journal's intentionally expansive scope encompasses strategic studies, legal frameworks, the intersection of security and migration, historical analyses, development challenges, and the complex political forces that underpin these phenomena. By fostering both comparative approaches and focused case studies, JMSS seeks to generate insights of broad significance and to make substantive contributions to the field.

This inaugural issue exemplifies the breadth and analytical rigor for which JMSS stands. Each contribution reflects our commitment to questioning received wisdom, advancing innovative conceptual frameworks, and extending the frontiers of contemporary research. Through the engagement of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, we aim to cultivate a multidisciplinary dialogue that not only advances academic inquiry but also informs the development of effective, contextually appropriate policy responses.

Dr. Mubanga's article interrogates the pivotal role of the Tanzania Immigration Services Department (TISD) in safeguarding national security, protecting economic interests, and governing migration. Operating under the guiding principle of "Migration, Security and Development," TISD manages cross-border movements and counters threats such as terrorism and trafficking. The analysis situates TISD within broader African and international contexts, underscoring opportunities arising from digitalization, enhanced collaboration, and regional integration, while also acknowledging enduring challenges, including porous borders and resource constraints. The study positions immigration management as a strategic endeavor central to the preservation of national sovereignty.

In contrast, Dr. Laurent and colleagues address the pervasive issue of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a focus on the persistent vulnerabilities of women despite the mandate of MONUSCO to protect civilians. Employing a combination of surveys, focus groups, and documentary analysis, their study reveals a marked escalation in physical assaults and sexual violence since MONUSCO's deployment, with reported cases in Masisi reaching alarming levels annually. Women are found to face heightened risks, with contributing factors including marital status, entrenched gender inequalities, and precarious employment. The findings highlight the limitations of international protection mechanisms and underscore the pressing need for targeted, context-sensitive interventions.

Professor Makulilo's article explores the role of religion in perpetuating gender inequality in Tanzania, noting the limited engagement of African feminists due to sensitivities surrounding the critique of religion. Drawing on a decade of classroom observation, Makulilo

articulates a "spiritual puzzle of silence," wherein students demonstrate a reluctance to interrogate the influence of religious doctrine on gender roles. The analysis identifies factors such as the sanctity ascribed to religious knowledge, patriarchal institutional structures, aversion to conflict, and parental authority as reinforcing this silence. Despite notable advances in women's rights, Tanzanian feminist activism has largely eschewed direct engagement with religious critique. Professor Makulilo calls for a more robust and critical dialogue to confront the enduring influence of religion on gender inequality.

Gichan's contribution examines the interplay between democracy and peace in Tanzania in the context of the 2025 general election and its aftermath. The article highlights the historic election of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania's first female head of state, whose landmark victory was, however, overshadowed by widespread violence in several regions—thereby challenging the nation's reputation for peaceful political transitions. Gichan attributes the unrest in part to the proliferation of digital misinformation and the role of social media in exacerbating societal tensions. The article underscores the imperative of safeguarding peace through civic education, constructive dialogue, and the pursuit of justice, and points to President Hassan's calls for unity and responsible citizenship as indicative of the need to reinforce institutional trust and resilience. The events chronicled underscore the ongoing evolution of democracy in Tanzania, highlighting the necessity of sustained vigilance and collective engagement.

We invite readers to engage critically with the research and perspectives presented herein, to contribute to forthcoming issues, and to join us in shaping the evolving discourse on migration and security in Africa and beyond. Together, we may illuminate the complexities and opportunities at the heart of these pressing issues.