

JOURNAL OF HUMANISTIC COUNSELING CALL FOR AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS

SPECIAL ISSUE: Counseling Services for Civilian Survivors and Refugees of War

The *Journal of Humanistic Counseling (JHC)* invites submissions for a special issue dedicated to work with survivors and refugees of war, reflecting the urgent need for specialized counseling services amid ongoing global conflicts. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (2024), there are more than 1.476 million registered wartime refugees in Gaza alone – approximately 70% of their entire population. In the Sudan and Sahel regions, as many as 4.6 million people have been internally displaced due to indiscriminate attacks by armed groups and widespread human rights violations, with another 1.1 million Sudanese refugees seeking asylum abroad (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2024). In Yemen, there are more than 4.5 million people displaced because of military conflicts, with another 21.6 million in need of humanitarian assistance (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2023).

This special edition of JHC seeks to delve into how humanistic practices can support civilians affected by warfare, with a focus on the ongoing humanitarian crises in various locations such as Gaza, Sudan, the Sahel, Syria, Yemen, Ukraine, and beyond.

Humanistic counseling champions individual growth, self-awareness, and the intrinsic value of all persons. It emphasizes the whole person (Rogers, 1975) by valuing experiences, emotions, and quests for meaning in life (Frankl, 1959). Humanistic counseling and research are uniquely positioned to offer a compassionate, client-centered environment that encourages individuals to examine, navigate, and understand their own narratives and aspirations with client-empowerment at the forefront. Humanistic counseling is particularly relevant for civilian survivors of war and refugees, as it not only honors their unique stories and resilience but also supports their profound search for meaning amidst adversity and displacement.

Towards these ends, we are seeking manuscript submissions in the following categories:

- 1. Practice:** We are seeking detailed examinations of humanistic counseling strategies, interventions, and processes tailored to civilian survivors and refugees of war. Articles should highlight practical applications, reflecting on counseling experiences, and include implications for future research efforts within humanistic frameworks.
- 2. Conceptual:** Submissions should offer innovative models or integrate theoretical, conceptual, or experiential humanistic perspectives, providing new insights into working with war survivors and refugees. Papers should be granular in detail, focusing on the integration of humanistic principles in the context of working with civilian survivors and refugees of war.
- 3. Position Papers:** We invite well-argued stances on the application and relevance of humanistic counseling with populations affected by conflict. Submissions should foster constructive dialogue on humanistic approaches to counseling work with civilian survivors and refugees of war. Papers should address current issues, offer a thorough literature review, and propose future directions.

4. **Case Studies:** Submissions should provide rich, detailed accounts of humanistic counseling experiences with civilian war survivors and refugees, including clinical approaches, author reflexivity, and transcribed session excerpts. Case studies should contribute to a deeper understanding of the therapeutic process in such contexts.
5. **Cultural Competence:** Articles should explore how humanistic counseling practices integrate cultural sensitivity when working with civilian survivors and refugees of war, addressing the unique needs and experiences of diverse populations in conflict-affected regions.
6. **Research Related to Working with Survivors and Refugees of War:** We are looking for qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods studies that examine the effectiveness of Humanistic counseling approaches, focusing on the impact of war on individuals' pursuit of meaning and connection.

Submission Guidelines:

Interested authors should submit a manuscript proposal including a statement of intent, detailed summary, and rationale of contributions. Following initial endorsement, submitted manuscripts will undergo a peer review process.

Timeline:

- April 5th, 2024: Call for Papers Distributed
- July 5th, 2024: Manuscript Proposals Due
- August 5th, 2024: Manuscript Proposal Decisions Sent Out
- October 31st, 2024: Manuscript First Drafts Due
- December 31st, 2024: Manuscript First Drafts Edited
- February 29th, 2025: Second Drafts are Due
- July 1st, 2025: Special Issue Published

For additional details, submission guidelines, and deadlines, please contact one of the Special Issue Editors, Dr. Aaron Smith, at aaron.smith@wwu.edu or Dr. Tanupreet Suri, at tanupreet.suri@lehman.cuny.edu.

We look forward to your contributions to this critical and timely issue.

With gratitude,

Aaron Smith, PhD, LMHC, NCC, CCATP &
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Special Issue Editors, Journal of Humanistic Counseling