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**POST-TRAUMATIC DISORDER AND UNACCOMPANIED
UNDERAGE REFUGEES**

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ABSTRACT

The following research examines the mental health of underage refugees and focuses on the development of mental trauma and more specifically the development of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to the facing of extreme circumstances. Moreover, the goal is to define the most crucial factor for the development of post traumatic stress disorder and to which level a rigid family is a factor of resilience. The literature review confirmed that underage refugees face numerous difficulties and hard circumstances while on road, as they are often being exploited (sexually, financially) while they are also witnesses of unspeakable incidents such as their homes destruction, the loss of a family member, their abuse and many more. The results proved that the greatest PTSD rates are linked to the loss of a beloved one, especially their father's or mother's death. In addition, it was proven that a rigid and mentally balanced family plays an incremental role in the reduction or even the elimination of PTSD symptoms, as it creates a safe environment for the children. Finally, there is a reference to the impact of PTSD in the children when they reach adulthood.

KEY-WORDS: Mental trauma, PTSD, Unaccompanied Underage Refuges, Underage Refuges, Sexual Abuse, Aerial Bombing, Natural Disasters

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