

Caught in a Gap?
**An Examination and Human Rights Assessment of Immigration Detention
Laws and Practices in South Africa**

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Abstract: This study examines the laws and practices relating to immigration detention in South Africa. It provides an in-depth examination of the legislation, with reference to known state practices and cases where migrants have been subjected to prolonged and repeated periods of immigration detention. The study highlights gaps in South African law that contribute to certain categories of migrants being especially vulnerable to immigration detention. Four categories are identified: (1) asylum seekers; (2) persons with difficulty obtaining travel documents; (3) stateless person; and (4) persons subject to other prohibitions against refoulement. The study offers recommendations for legislative reforms to fill the gaps in the law that contribute to these migrants' vulnerability to immigration detention.

Key Words: Law, human rights, migration, forced migration, refugee, asylum, deportation, detention, immigration detention, South Africa.