



UPROOTED PEOPLE

A Newsletter of the Ecumenical Network of churches in solidarity with people compelled by severe political, economic and social conditions to leave their land and culture

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Human rights for all

The central notion of human rights is "the implicit assertion that certain principles are true and valid for all peoples, in all societies, under all conditions of economic, political, ethnic and cultural life." Human rights are universal – they apply everywhere; indivisible - in the sense that political and civil rights cannot be separated from social and cultural rights; and, inalienable – they cannot be denied to any human being.

This is the basis of the concept of "human rights for all" articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted 50 years ago this month.

Without question, that respect for human rights extends to all uprooted people.

Nonetheless, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons present among the most profound dilemmas for human rights today. Firstly, their very displacement is a direct consequence of violations of human rights in countries of origin. Secondly, migrants and refugees have become the victims of increasingly violent abuses of basic human rights in host countries.

Which path ahead?

As the current "global economic crisis" intensifies, we may be at a crossroads in the future of human rights. Positions taken by some governments at the World Conference on

Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 signalled a challenge to the several decades of progress in expansion and extension of human rights towards full universality, indivisibility and inalienability.

In previous decades, international treaties were elaborated to explicitly ensure application of basic human rights to all, including "vulnerable groups". The conventions regarding women, children and victims of racism and discrimination have been widely ratified. Now, however, a resistance is growing towards the recognition of rights of the two main remaining vulnerable groups, namely migrants and indigenous peoples. The International Convention on migrants rights is not yet in force, and ratifications are slow in coming. Progress on an instrument to recognise the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly their collective rights, has stalled.

At the forefront of dilemmas posed by uprooted people is the fact that many are displaced due to violations of their economic, social and cultural rights, both individual and collective. However, current international law and

(continued)

Uprooted people are those who are forced to leave their communities: those who flee because of persecution and war, those who are forcibly displaced because of environmental devastation, and those who are compelled to seek sustenance in a city or abroad because they cannot survive at home... World Council of Churches policy statement, 1995.



Editorial (continued)

practice has tended to focus only on victims of violations of certain political rights – refugees – as needing protection and assistance. Those facing a denial of economic, social and cultural rights – as communities as well as individuals – have no such protection, which is contrary to the notion of indivisibility.

Unprotected by law

A second key dilemma is the tightening of restrictions on the recognition of human rights of uprooted people, both refugees and migrants. One sharp manifestation of this is the now widespread categorization of persons as “illegal migrants”, rendering them outside the applicability and protection of law, which is contrary to the inalienability of human rights protection.

The risk at this juncture is great. If a major vulnerable group is *de facto* exempted from recognition of basic rights, it leaves open the door to measures restricting or ignoring their rights. And once certain groups are exempted from protection of human rights norms, it becomes much easier to expand and extend restrictions to other vulnerable, “undesirable” or unpopular groups, further undermining the universality of human rights protection. Today, upholding the Convention and Protocol on the Status of Refugees, implementing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and ensuring entry into force of the 1990 International Convention on migrants rights takes on a broader significance. These human rights norms become key tests of whether progress continues towards the achievement of universal human rights.

This issue of *Uprooted People* is dedicated to offering a perspective and tools for action towards achieving human rights for all. mination and to migrants.

Patrick Taran

Refugee and Migration Service
World Council of Churches μ

NETWORK NEWS

Vatican makes migration a priority

In a special audience, the Pope, His Holiness John Paul II, addressed the Fourth World Congress on Migration held in the Vatican, 5-9 October 1998. His extensive declaration emphasized his belief that increasing international migration today was a consequence of the failures to provide for the basic economic and social well-being of many people around the world. He presented a recommendation that governments worldwide should legalize the status of irregular migrants resident in their countries to mark the Jubilee Year 2000.

Four hundred high-level delegates from 108 countries took part in the Congress. Over 80 cardinals and bishops attended, as well as the heads of numerous religious orders and service agencies, and leading academics and specialists in the field. Opening speakers included the Italian minister of social welfare and the deputy director general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The content,

participation and agenda of the Congress indicated an intent to make this area of ministry a very high priority for the whole church.

In concert with concerns expressed by the Pope, Congress deliberations urged greater attention be given to the protection of the dignity and rights of migrants and refugees. The final declaration recommended wide ratification of the 1990 Convention on migrants rights, and encouraged greater church efforts to promote awareness and ratification of this treaty.

Increased ecumenical cooperation in this ministry was explicitly highlighted in the Congress deliberations and final statement. Patrick Taran made a plenary presentation on WCC's work with uprooted people. Rev. Shirley DeWolf, coordinator of the Southern African Churches (network) in Ministry to Uprooted, described the ecumenical experience and opportunities in her region. μ

UN policy courses begin

Three UN-related bodies have together launched an International Migration Policy and Law Course. The first session was held in November in Budapest, with participants from 15 Eastern European and CIS countries. The two week intensive programme provided some 35 governmental and several NGO officials with knowledge and training in international legal and human rights standards, policy frameworks, and management tools on international migration and immigration.

WCC-RMS participated in both setting up and teaching the course, which is intended to contribute to providing necessary professional training to government policy-makers and others involved in

migration. A particular objective is to facilitate networking and cooperation between officials of governments, inter-governmental bodies and NGOs, including churches, for the welfare of migrants.

The courses are jointly implemented by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Organization for Migration and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The next course will take place in March 1999 in Pretoria, South Africa, with participants from all Southern African states and several other African countries. Further courses are anticipated for the Mediterranean area and for Central Asia. μ



New Year changes at RMS

From 1 January 1999, Beth Ferris, currently Director of the Immigration and Refugee Programme of Church World Service in New York, will join Melaku Kifle, Dawn Ross and a full time administrative assistant (yet to be named) to form the Refugee and Migration Service "core staff". RMS will become part of the International Relations team within Relations and Constituencies, one of four clusters within the restructured World Council of Churches.

"Each core staff member has been selected for their special expertise in the challenge ahead," says Rev. Myra Blyth who will head the Relations and Constituencies cluster. "They have the skills and experience to develop new styles of working which will ensure the possibility of taking things even further forward."

Rev. Blyth praised the achievements of RMS and recognizes the task ahead is challenging. "The current team will be a very hard act to follow," she says. "They have made huge strides, and are loved by the network." But she is convinced that by strategizing together and finding new ways of doing things, there is every chance of success. She says that further decentralization may be possible, and that other members of

the International Relations team will also be involved in tasks relating to refugee and migration issues.

Rev. Blyth does not expect major changes in policy as a result of WCC's Eighth Assembly. "There may be a slight alteration or nuance in the line, but a very clear policy framework has been set by the churches through their worldwide involvement in the WCC's Ecumenical Year in Solidarity with Uprooted People in 1997." She says that she expects the priorities set during that inspiring and collaborative experience to be affirmed at Harare. "With a clear direction already set in the current policy framework of 'the Church of the Stranger'," she says, "the new core group can go a very long way to continuing the commitment of the WCC to the ministry with uprooted people." μ



Refugee and Migration Service team at the World Council of Churches. From left to right: Patrick Taran, Isabel Csopor, Melaku Kifle (seated), Doris Appel, Helene Moussa, Lore Hyatt. Patrick Taran and Helene Moussa will leave WCC at the end of 1998.

Canadian campaign

To promote ratification of the International Convention on migrants' rights, two groups in Canada have produced a four-page campaign brochure. It lists the Canadian government's objections to the Convention and provides a

response to each. Practical suggestions for action are also included. Write to: Inter-Church Committee for Refugees, 129 St Clair Ave, West Toronto, Ontario M4V 1N5. Fax: 416 921 3843. Website: <http://www.web.net/~iccr> μ

Anomie

I leave this land where I was born
this sunny warm May morning.
History has been unkind
to take no note of this bond
between me
and this land of mine.

Misted porthole
I look out, I leave my soul,
I cry my farewell
to home and friends and a life well-
known.
For what? I think with fear.

Yes, I am scared and angry too.
How can I start afresh?
In a country not seen before

what little choice I have.

Your home is not your home, they
said.
Repatriate them! They called.

Ten more minutes to touch down
Is that you my heart that pounds?

I wait at the airport, clutching my
suitcase
and struggle with tears.
No job, no work permit, what do I
do?

Where will I go?
No home.
No place to hide.
How do I heal my wounds?

Head held high I remember
the *Syria*
Through my veins flows
girmitya blood.
If they could do it
so will I.
Do your damndest
I will survive
in this new land
New Zealand.

Nikhat Shameen

Poem taken from "With Heart and Nerve and Sineio - Post-coup writing from Fiji", compiled and edited by Arlene Griffen, 1997, Suva, Fiji Christmas Club. μ



ADVOCACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Interview: Protecting human rights: a key to the solution

José Luis Díaz, Media and Information Officer for the Office of the High Commissioner answered our questions to Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Uprooted People: Given reported increases in anti-foreigner sentiment in countries worldwide, do you see protection of human rights of refugees and migrants emerging as a central issue for your office?

The protection of the rights of refugees and migrants is already a central issue for the Office of the High Commissioner. The High Commissioner has repeatedly underlined the strong links between refugee flows and human rights. Human rights are deeply connected to the problem of refugees: first and foremost because human rights violations often represent the root-causes of refugee flows and, secondly, because the problem of refugees can be properly managed and effectively solved only through an improvement in the standards of protection of human rights. The situation of migrants has also long been high on the agenda of the United Nations – and in particular the Office of the High Commissioner. In 1990, the UN General Assembly adopted the

Young girl in a Namibian reception centre waits to return home.



Don Eakins/WCC

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The main UN human rights body, the Commission on Human Rights, reviews in-depth the question of migrant workers at its yearly sessions, and in 1997 established a working group of five intergovernmental experts to elaborate recommendations to strengthen the promotion, protection and implementation of the human rights of migrants. The Office of the High Commissioner provides substantive support to that working group, which will meet here in Geneva later this month.

The work of the Office of the High Commissioner in this area is part of a broader UN system response to problems connected to refugee flows and migration. There is a continuing need to strengthen and operationalize the linkages between this Office and that of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for example, and, in so doing, tackle together the root causes of refugees flows and more generally of displacement. Making these links stronger is crucial not only for the solution of displacement crises, but also for their prevention. Forced migration is intrinsically a human rights issue and the UN machinery has focused more and more on different aspects of this phenomenon, addressing related questions including human rights and mass exoduses, internally displaced persons, the right to return, population transfers, and so on.

UP: Do existing human rights' charters adequately cover the needs of the uprooted?

The term "uprooted" encapsulates a variety of complex issues and populations. People move, or are

moved, for many reasons, some of which are only now beginning to be understood. Therefore it is not surprising that international law does not adequately cover all the problems related to the "uprooted". The adoption of the Convention on the rights of migrant workers was a major step forward, but much remains to be done, not least in the area of implementation of this and other existing standards. Francis Deng, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN on internally displaced persons, recalled in his last report to the Commission on Human Rights (UN document E/CN.4/1998/53) that no specific instrument on the internally displaced exists to guide intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in providing protection and assistance to the internally displaced. These groups have therefore to base their activities upon a myriad of provisions in human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee law by analogy. A normative framework specifically tailored to the needs of the internally displaced, then, is an important component of improving efforts for their protection and assistance. Mr Deng, in collaboration with a team of international legal experts, has prepared two studies analysing existing legal standards pertaining to internal displacement and, on the basis of these studies, developed a set of Guiding Principles for comprehensively addressing the needs of the internally displaced. (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2). One of the findings of the Representative was that although there exist many international legal standards which, if respected, would reduce arbitrary displacement, the legal basis for providing protection against displacement could be strengthened



significantly by articulating a right not to be arbitrarily displaced.

UP: How important do you consider the concept of "collective" human rights to be in relation to forced population movements?

"Collective" human rights are inextricably linked to the question of forced population movements insofar as their denial, or non-realization, is often a major cause for such displacement. For example, when people do not enjoy the right to food they are forced to move to find food. Mass displacement and forced population movements are caused by a wide range of factors, among which violations of human rights and of humanitarian law are predominant. Mass displacement frequently occurs in the context of armed conflict and regularly results from deliberate acts and policies, often associated with clear patterns of discrimination. Furthermore, the displaced in many cases receive insufficient or inadequate humanitarian assistance, sometimes resulting in life-threatening problems of nutrition and health. Many also experience problems of insecurity threatening their lives, personal liberty and physical integrity.

UP: What do you hope that your office will be able to achieve during the first decade of the 21st century?

The Secretary-General has called on nations to make the next century one of prevention of conflicts and human rights violations. Perhaps the greatest role the Office could make towards that goal, in the context of the uprooted, is to participate fully in developing, and then implementing, preventive mechanisms. The Office is seeking to enhance collaboration with a number of partners at the bilateral level, notably with the UNHCR, so as to be alerted to situations warranting its direct involvement, and to provide its expertise to partners operating in the field. Over the last several years, legislative bodies of the United Nations have repeatedly called for the establishment of an efficient early warning and response system. "Early

warning" has been recognized as an essential tool for undertaking preventive action and mobilizing a response at the earliest stage possible, so that the factors which force people to flee their homes can be mitigated or avoided altogether. Several initiatives have been taken to this end, both within individual United Nations bodies and at the system-wide level, including the Humanitarian Early Warning System and the interdepartmental Framework for Coordination, as well as the inter-agency consultations on early warning of new mass flows of refugees and displaced persons. The High Commissioner participated actively in the establishment of these processes.

The multiplicity of causes and problems associated with mass exoduses calls for corresponding multifaceted and comprehensive responses. Since human rights violations occur in all stages of displacement, the protection and promotion of human rights is relevant in all its phases, whether such activities have been designed specifically to address problems of mass exoduses or not. Thus, the strengthening of domestic legislation and national institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, and the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for the rule of law are fundamental elements of local capacity-building, both for preventive purposes and in post-conflict situations. This Office has a particular responsibility for ensuring that protection, and promotion of human rights forms an integral part of the approaches taken. The High Commissioner participates in the UN's Inter-Agency Standing Committee and in its four Executive Committees, which should help ensure that the human rights perspective is adequately reflected in the formulation of programmes and allocation of operational responsibilities. This should also promote a sharpened focus on strategies to avert displacement.

UP: What do you see as the most important role of church-related and other non-governmental



Mrs Mary Robinson told the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group meeting in late 1997: "Human rights are indeed deeply connected to the problem of refugees." This year, she committed herself to helping to obtain the additional ratifications needed to bring the migrants rights convention into force.

organizations in the promotion of the rights of refugees, migrants and internally-displaced people?

It is difficult to point to any single element of the work of non-governmental organizations and call it their most important role. NGOs are essential to the promotion and protection of the rights of refugees, migrants and the internally displaced in a number of ways: they alert the international community to emerging problems; they provide day-to-day assistance to the uprooted; they lobby governments and international organizations on behalf of the often voiceless victims of displacement, and they provide invaluable information to UN experts and groups, including the Commission's working group of intergovernmental experts on the human rights of migrants and the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the internally displaced. The High Commissioner shares the Secretary-General's view that the UN and its human rights programme must work for greater involvement of NGOs, and of civil society in general. μ



Towards “an ethic of inclusion”



In this article, Gabriela Rodriguez of El Productor in Costa Rica argues that people who have been forced to move in order to survive have human rights like anyone else. In putting the case, she represents the view of many members of the Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People.

During the 1980s, hundreds of thousands of people were uprooted in Central America. War and unrest in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua forced huge numbers of people to leave their homes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the international community became actively involved leading to the opening camps for those arriving in Honduras, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Many of these uprooted people arriving in neighbouring countries were not given the status as refugees, which would have accorded them international protection. They were instead classified as “the refugee diaspora” in Mexico, as “economic migrants” in Belize, and as “displaced aliens” in Costa Rica. The treatment they received tended to depend upon the category in which they found themselves.

As time went on, various cease-fires and peace agreements were signed but many of these uprooted people in Central America were omitted from the terms of the accords. After that they became classified as “illegal” or undocumented aliens.

As NGOs working with people who have no legal status, we know the dilemmas these unrecognized migrants face. I would like to touch on some of the very concrete, work-related problems and, more importantly, the psychological and social problems of people contending with this situation in their daily lives.

Personal testimony

I have been accompanying forced migrants for more than 20 years. It has meant sharing the dreams they bring with them and the losses they have endured. It has meant hearing about the hopes they have for the education of their children, and

learning about the secret birthday parties and time-limited telephone calls home. Those with whom I work sustain hope and the dream of returning home one day. It is these which make bearable their suffering from everyday humiliations, xenophobia and racism.

The debates surrounding the situation of these uprooted people have been highly ideological in Central America. Sometimes I feel that the abstraction has been taken to the point where the suffering and hopes of the individuals – and the need for a reconstruction of their lives – have been forgotten.

The numbers of people without legal status in Central America and elsewhere is growing. Although the shooting in Central America has now stopped, hundreds of thousands more people have become forced migrants fleeing from utter poverty. They too fall outside the official categories and are excluded by official organizations.

The concept “migrant” is one that magically removes protection and basic human rights from groups that decide to move in order to survive. We are not speaking here of fortune seekers, but of people whose lives are a constant crisis – entire families, groups which, when classified as illegal immigrants, come to be seen as a threat, as transgressors in the societies to which they migrate.

Ethical challenges

One of the major ethical challenges today is that of direct work with uprooted people. We need to create the space for these people to regenerate roots. Working with this population is difficult. It means being with people who are “invisible” to those around them. Unrecognized, forced migrants are systematically excluded from all official records. They have no legal identity and therefore no rights. Working with these men, women and children means struggling to create a visibility so that they can work, attend school or visit a

A child at play in a refugee camp in Central America





hospital. Fighting for these basic rights which allow dignity in life is much more difficult than it was a decade ago. Today, there is no public sympathy for those who do not have the documents that make them “legal”.

Perhaps the biggest ethical challenge is how to make visible the migrants who are today invisible. We need to make clear our message that it pains us that large numbers of people are being left out – excluded from social systems and programmes, denied recognition and even a legal existence.

Uprooted people need solidarity from the nationals of a host country in order to survive. They need spaces to organize themselves. Being included in organizational activities is key to their being able to strengthen themselves as individuals. Community organizing provides a sense that they are raising money not only for themselves and their family, but also as part of a group. They need support to join trade union or a self-help association because this is an extra difficult task for undocumented migrants.

Those of us in the church-related and non-governmental field need to ask ourselves whether we are developing the right kind of professionals. Are our institutions training pastors, social workers, psychologists and counsellors who

are ready and able to respond to the devastating realities faced by people without documents? We have a responsibility to build networks of solidarity among our respective institutions, professions, churches and NGOs, and indeed across civil society in general. Uprooted people have shown us that the strength of their hope is immense. Working together with them, we can put our strengths to the service of creating more dignified life and work for all.

Addressing causes

Whether and how to take action to address the causes of today’s migration has become a question of ethics. In Central America and the Caribbean today, we see that the exclusion of thousands of people from the mainstream creates perilous situations and presents us with a new reality. Cease-fires and peace accords are real and positive, but grinding poverty means hundreds of thousands of people are being bypassed by sustainable human development plans. They are victims of a new, economic emergency that forces them to cross



UNHCR helped establish many refugee camps during crises in Central America in the 1980s.

borders in an attempt to survive. While borders are opening for material goods, they are closing for the working poor. We need a new ethic that will leave out no one.

In our struggle for solidarity with uprooted people, we need an ethic of inclusion. This means advocating for human rights for all women and men rather than only for the categories of people created according to the needs of the few. If we do not build an ethic of inclusion, the crises produced by uprooting and invisibility will be self-perpetuating. Growing numbers of people will fall outside the mandates of institutions, and more and more people will be denied their basic human rights. μ

A checklist for advocacy

Churches in South Africa say their experience shows that successful advocacy depends on the following six key principles.

- The first principle is that advocacy begins where there is a strong conviction that something is wrong – and that it must be put right.
- Second, advocacy involves sitting down with uprooted people, or with those who are threatened with uprooting, or with those

who are attempting to “re-root” themselves, to discuss concerns and to ask them how they think we can be of help.

- Third, successful advocacy depends upon identifying a group of concerned people who are willing to work together towards righting the wrongs.
- Fourth, success requires building a strategy for advocacy. This implies defining activities in lobbying, education,

rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as making plans for monitoring and networking.

- Fifth comes the implementation of the strategy.
- Finally, the sixth principle of successful advocacy is “sharing what we learn as we go along”. Since each person or group is only one step in front or one step behind another, effective advocacy requires that everyone helps to pull everyone else along! μ



USEFUL MATERIALS

50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

An Ecumenical Invitation includes lectionaries, prayers and background materials uprooted peoples' rights, racism. Produced by WCC/WARC/LWF in ecumenical commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Available free of charge from RMS/WCC.

High Commissioner for Human Rights, basic information kit no. 1 highlights plans, priorities and ideas for commemorating the 50th Anniversary. Available from High Commissioner for Human Rights Centre for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 917 02 13. E-mail: secr.t.hchr@unog.ch

Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women - A synopsis of the UNHCR guidelines are available from Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, 122 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10168-1289, USA. Fax: +1 212 551 3180. E-mail: wcrwc@intrescom.org

A one-page **UNHCR mission statement** is available from RMS/WCC.

Refugee Rights: Report on a comparative survey and Legitimate and illegitimate discrimination: New issues in Migration are two new titles available from Centre for Refugee Studies. The first title is intended to provoke debate on the adequacy of the international refugee rights regime. The latter examines freedom of movement and immigration control in the context of a democratic state. Both are available from: Centre for Refugee Studies, Fax: +416 736 5837. E-mail: refuge@yorku.ca

Implementation handbook for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a substantial but practical tool for all those involved in implementing the principles and provisions of the Convention and realizing the human rights of children. ISBN 92-806-3337-6, 704 pages, US\$45.00. Orders to Distribution Unit, Division of Communication, UNICEF H-9F, Three United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: 1 212 326 7375. E-mail: pubdoc@unicef.org

I have in my arms both ways writes Valeti Finau about living as a Tongan in New Zealand. This book tells of the experiences of 10 migrant women. Published by Scorpio Books, New Zealand. ISBN 0 908912 86 2

LETTERS

Household workers

I work with household, or domestic, workers who have been joined together in the Confederation of Latin American and Caribbean Household Workers. It has 17 affiliates in 11 countries. Many household workers are migrants -- both within their own countries and abroad. It is estimated for example, that about one-quarter of household workers in Guatemala are migrants from Nicaragua. The Confederation presently is sponsoring studies in seven countries on the situation of household workers, including migration histories.

Else M Chaney
University of Iowa
Iowa, USA

(We hope to include an article from Ms Chaney in a future issue of Uprooted People - Ed.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"On the Record" is back with a newsletter from the Executive Committee Meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Seven issues covering internally displaced people; UNHCR's role in Kosovo; attacks on refugee camps and war crimes committed in camps; asylum and detention; repatriation; burden sharing; UNHCR administration and costs, and allies in civil society. To subscribe, please send a message to majordomo@lists.advocacy.net.org with the text: subscribe excom in the body.

STOP PRESS

UN General Assembly Welcomes Global Campaign!!!

In a resolution on the International Convention on protection of migrant workers rights adopted in November, the General Assembly of the United Nations, "welcomes the launching of the global campaign for entry into force of the Convention, and invites the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the convention." The resolution, adopted by consensus, reiterated the call to "all member states to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority." The WCC is a member and co-founder of the Campaign Steering Committee.

Uprooted People provides coverage of information and action relating to refugees, migrants and internally displaced people. It is published every two months by the Refugee and Migration Service, World Council of Churches, 150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 791 6111. Fax: 41 22 788 0067. E-mail: pt@wcc-coe.org or dianasmith@compuserve.com Website: <http://www.wcc-coe.org>

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The World Council of Churches (WCC) serves as the global forum for 334 member national Protestant and Orthodox churches in over 100 countries. The Roman Catholic Church is not a member, though it works cooperatively with the WCC.

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