

Uprooted People

A Newsletter of the World Council of Churches in solidarity with people compelled by severe political, economic and social conditions to leave their land and culture.

1. A note from the editor

Uprooted People is a publication of the International Relations team of the World Council of Churches and is intended to provide information on current developments to churches and related organizations in support of their work.

Uprooted People is distributed four times a year by e-mail. If you would like to receive the publication or to contribute news affecting uprooted people in your region, please contact Elizabeth Ferris (eqf@wcc-coe.org)

2. 11 September

Much of the work of WCC's International Relations in the past two months has focused on responding to the 11 September attacks in the United States and the subsequent military actions. A few hours after the horrifying attacks in the USA, WCC immediately sent a message of condolence to US churches, followed a week later by a pastoral letter to the churches expressing continued support as well as concerns about the effects of possible military actions. A letter was also sent to the UN Secretary-General affirming the UN's role in resolving the situation. The day following the beginning of the military campaign, WCC issued a statement calling for an end to military actions. An international ecumenical delegation was organized to visit US churches from 7-14 November to express solidarity and compassion with the US churches, to discern together the way forward, and to discuss long-term consequences in light of the Decade to Overcome Violence.

As an effort to provide more visibility to church voices and to alternative perspectives on the conflict, an initiative known as "Behind the News: Visions of Peace – Voices of Faith" was launched, together with ACT and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. This includes a new website (www.wcc-coe.org/behindthenews) and a weekly bulletin (to subscribe, contact bulletins@wcc-coe.org). The International Relations team is presently organizing an international meeting "Beyond 11 September: Assessing Global Consequences" to be held in Geneva from 29 November – 1 December. This meeting will bring together 20 church policy-makers and other experts to begin to assess the possible long-term impact of these events with particular emphasis on four areas: security and global governance, economy and globalization, human rights and humanitarian response, and the challenges to the churches. A report from that meeting will be available shortly afterwards.

As the reports below indicate, there is particular concern about what the events of 11 September will mean for refugees, migrants and internally displaced people. Concerns about humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people are detailed in a report on humanitarian issues available at the website listed above. As governments

around the world seek to prevent terrorist activity, border and immigration control is high on their agendas. This is particularly troubling in light of the fact that large numbers of people are already prevented from seeking safety in nearby countries by governments anxious to limit refugee arrivals. This is a situation which will require careful monitoring – and action by churches and related organizations – in the months to come.

3. Network News

The annual meeting of the Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People took place from 21-23 September in Geneva. The meeting brought together about 30 representatives of churches and ecumenical organizations working with refugees, migrants and internally displaced people to share information, deepen collective analysis of the causes and consequences of uprooting and develop common strategies. This year's meeting, held 10 days after the 11 September attacks in the United States, was somewhat somber in tone as participants shared concerns and reactions from their regions. A statement was adopted which spelled out some of the possible consequences of governmental 'anti-terrorism measures' for uprooted people. This statement was distributed to diplomats, UNHCR staff and NGOs at the UNHCR meetings which were held immediately after the GEN meeting. Participants in the GEN meeting also adopted a statement on church advocacy with uprooted people which will be commended to the churches and agreed on basic organizing principles for the functioning of the Global Ecumenical Network.

For many participants, the regional reports were the most informative aspect of the meeting in providing timely, firsthand assessments of the situation of uprooted people in all regions. There was particular concern about forthcoming UNHCR budget cuts, particularly in Africa; about policies adopted by the Australian government toward asylum-seekers; about the on-going conflict in Colombia; about the effects of Israeli occupation in the Middle East; about Burmese refugees and migrants and other uprooted people in Asia; and about the consequences of European Union enlargement for Central and Eastern Europe. Participants agreed that the issue of trafficking and the increasing need for churches to engage in advocacy on behalf of uprooted people would remain priorities for the coming year. The scheduling of the GEN meeting enabled many participants to participate in the annual UNHCR-NGO consultations and the UNHCR Global Consultations (see International News below) which increased the presence and the voice of churches in these international fora. A report of the GEN meeting will soon be available from WCC.

On 11 September, 28 years after the coup that toppled President Allende of Chile, a special ceremony was held in Mendoza, Argentina to commemorate the work of the Comité Ecuménico de Acción Social (CEAS). On this occasion, the book *Recepción y protección de refugiados chilenos: una experiencia ecuménica en Mendoza 1973-1992* was launched. The book recounts the efforts of CEAS to receive the many Chilean refugees who came to Argentina over a twenty year period. Coca Juri and Alieda Verhoeven explained that "we are the grateful ones for an experience which made us more human and taught us to serve."

The Churches Commission on Migrants in Europe has held several meetings in recent months, including meetings of the Executive Committee and the three CCME working groups (on European policy, on churches' engagement with uprooted people and on racism/xenophobia.) The work of the working groups will culminate in the CCME Assembly to be held from 10-14 November in Athens. The groups on

European policy and on churches' engagement with uprooted people are preparing a paper for the Assembly which challenges European churches to become more engaged with serving and advocating on behalf of refugees, migrants, and displaced people. In January 2000, the Conference of European Churches (CEC), WCC, and CCME signed an agreement of cooperation to channel work on refugees, migrants and displaced people in Europe through CCME. The agreement also set out the intention of the three organizations to work towards the incorporation of CCME into CEC. A small implementation group, composed of representatives of the three organizations, has been meeting regularly to monitor this cooperative process. In October, the Implementation group agreed to commission an external evaluation of the agreement of cooperation to serve as a basis for deciding about eventual incorporation of CCME into CEC. This evaluation will be completed by mid-April with the implementation group meeting in early May to agree on recommendations for possible future incorporation of CCME into CEC structures. Any decisions will be made by the CCME Assembly in November 2002 and by the CEC Assembly in 2003.

The East Africa Uprooted Regional Working Group will meet in Nairobi from 19-21 November. The agenda includes prayer and biblical reflection on the AACC's 8th Assembly theme – "Come, let us re-build." The agenda also includes a review of the socio-political situation and its impact on displacement of people; application of international, regional, and national legal instruments related to refugees in the region; the impact of the UNHCR financial problems on the country programmes in the region; review of the mandate of the regional committee and its relationship to the Continental Committee and to the Global ecumenical network; 2000 and 2001 Country Narrative and Financial reports; working relationships with ACT; presentation of 2002 and 2003 country and regional programmes; fund-raising strategies; involvement of churches in the ministry to uprooted people; and inter-country fellowship and solidarity.

The Pacific Conference of Churches together with other Pacific ecumenical organizations issued a joint statement on 26 September expressing concerns about the Australian government's practice of accommodating asylum-seekers on Pacific islands for Australian immigration purposes. The statement, supporting the position of the National Council of Churches of Australia, calls on Australia to uphold its obligations to support and protect those who flee their own countries because of persecution and violation of human rights. The statement also calls on Pacific Island governments to carefully consider the long term impact and consequences of accepting Australian aid deals in connection with the refugees.

The Joint Working Group and Advisory Committee of the Mekong Sub-regional Programme met in September to consider and approve plans for the coming year. Projects to be carried out include: an awareness-raising meeting on migration and international displacement by the Myanmar Council of Churches; reintegration training for church workers and villagers by the Lao Evangelical Church; HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness for church workers in Laos; a consultation on churches' participation in social development and service by the Kampuchea Christian Council. Projects from Vietnam and Thailand will be considered later.

A seminar was organized in Lima, Peru on Tasks of the Truth Commission: Theological and Ethical Fundamentals from 9-11 October 2001 with the participation of the World Council of Churches and FEDEPAZ. The meeting brought together representatives of churches and civil society to deepen analysis and to strengthen the work of the Truth Commission.

A National Encounter of Protestant Churches was held in Buenos Aires from 3-4 August around the theme “Integration of Migrants: a Challenge for our Times.” The consultation brought together representatives of the churches of the Latin American Council of Churches and CAREF. The statement noted that after 18 years of democratic government, the law of migration elaborated by the military dictatorship is still in force. Participants called for changes in the migration law to enable migrants to exercise their full rights. Participants also deplored the increase in violence towards migrants and challenged the myth that migrants take jobs away from Argentine citizens. A follow-up meeting is being planned for 2002.

The National Directors for the Pastoral Care of Migrants from 15 European countries came together in late September at a meeting organized by the Committee for Migrants of the Council of European Bishops Conferences. The theme of the meeting was “International Migration of Women – a Challenge for the Church.” Participants noted that about 50% of migrants to Europe are now women and that women face particular difficulties of integration into European society. Particular concern was expressed about the growing trafficking of women. The meeting called for churches to devote greater attention to the situation of migrant women and particularly to undocumented women who are especially vulnerable.

Representatives of Colombian churches and civil society, together with representatives from international ecumenical organizations and European cooperation agencies met in the Ecumenical Cooperation Forum with Colombia from 25-26 September. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information about the current situation in Colombia and the role of the churches and to strengthen international support for the peace process in Colombia. The Forum was clear in its rejection of the Plan Colombia because it heightens armed conflict in the country. The Forum agreed on strategic areas and priorities, including: at the local level, support for displaced persons; at the national level, support for coordinating efforts; at the regional level, a call to set up an Andean forum; internationally, measures for strengthening international ecumenical presence in Colombia. A small follow-group was named to draft practical proposals and monitor implementation of the identified priorities.

The Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program (USA) through the Border Working Group is supporting a celebration of “Las Posadas” on the US-Mexico border, a re-enactment of the story of Joseph and Mary searching for shelter in Bethlehem. Processions and candlelight vigils will come together at the walls that divide people to reach through the fence in a “touch” of peace. This is intended to highlight the rising number of human rights violations at the border and deaths in the desert. Each year an estimated 400 people die trying to cross the border from Mexico to the USA. For more information, contact Joan Maruskin at jmaruskin@ncccua.org.

4. International News In Brief

UNHCR's Executive Committee met in Geneva from 1-5 October. The 11 September attacks, concerns about a humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan, governments' needs for enhanced border control, and the longer-term implications of the emerging situation were a predominant theme in the meeting. In a statement to Executive Committee, UNHCR Director of International Protection, Erika Feller, urged governments considering new asylum safeguards in the aftermath of the 11 September attacks to strike a careful balance between additional security needs and

existing international refugee protection principles. She noted that the 1951 Refugee Convention already excludes persons who are a danger to national security or who are convicted of a particularly serious crime.

A second major concern in the meeting was UNHCR's declining financial resources and the prospects of further reductions. UNHCR currently cares for some 21.7 million people worldwide with a budget of US\$882 million. This amounts to less than US\$40 per year for each person of concern to UNHCR. Due to a shortage of funds, UNHCR is reducing its staff by 16 percent and its budget by roughly 10 percent. Budget cuts are particularly severe in Africa. Budget shortfalls were 22% for West and Central Africa, 20% for Great Lakes; 29% for East Africa and Horn of Africa, and 30% for Southern Africa. In making its budget cuts, UNHCR is seeking to maintain core UNHCR activities (water, health, food, sanitation) and protection sector. NGOs and churches have expressed particular concerns about the impacts of the budget cuts. When UNHCR closes its office in a particular country, for example, refugees often show up on the doorsteps of churches in search of assistance.

Preceding the meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee, the annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations were held from 24-26 September and included addresses by the UN High Commissioner and panel discussions on the role of NGOs in refugee protection; on migration, human smuggling and asylum; and on internally displaced persons. Other presentations focused on strategic management challenges for UNHCR and NGOs; regional refugee topics; capacity-building of national NGOs; staff security; and refugee children. In addition, 9 lunchtime meetings were held on topics ranging from refugee women to resettlement to detention.

In the aftermath of 11 September, UNHCR issued a list of ten refugee protection concerns in light of the fact that many governments are considering new security procedures in their refugee resettlement and asylum systems. UNHCR is concerned that bona fide asylum-seekers may be victimized as a result of public prejudice and unduly restrictive legislation or administrative measures and that carefully-built refugee protection standards may be eroded. Specifically, UNHCR is concerned about: racism and xenophobia; admission and access to refugee status determination; exclusion; treatment of asylum-seekers; withdrawal of refugee status; deportation; extradition; resettlement; UN Security Council Resolution 1373 which calls on states to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts; and the draft comprehensive Convention against Terrorism.

The open-ended Steering Group of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) agreed in September to move toward establishing the IOM Council as a forum for policy dialogue on migration in the 27-29 November Council meeting. There was general agreement that three themes will guide the initial debate: demographic change and migration; labour, trade and migration; and migration managed to the benefit of society as a whole – including combating xenophobia and effective integration. While a number of additional possible topics were identified by delegates – such as looking at the causes of migration, trafficking, human rights of migrants, harmonizing the regional dialogues, examining the legal framework for migration, etc – it was recognized that the November meeting will be a start and cannot cover every significant policy issue in a meaningful way.

The Norwegian Refugee Council organized a meeting on Response Strategies of the Internally Displaced in Oslo in November. Five themes were highlighted in the meeting: the research agenda, the humanitarian response, how to set up structures that really listen to the needs of the displaced, forced migration and livelihoods, and protection. For more information, see www.nrc.org.

A preliminary report of the independent evaluation of UNHCR's work with refugee children finds that although there is some good field work going on with respect to refugee children, efforts to address protection needs are inconsistent and often pursued outside the Office's core activities. The evaluators found this was due to 3 principal factors: lack of accountability, the dilemma of 'mainstreaming,' and understanding and operationalizing the protection of refugee children.

A UN updated questionnaire for allegations of violations of migrants' human rights can be found on <http://www.december18.net/UNreportingform.htm>. The form is presently available in English and Spanish. French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian translations will be added soon. The December 18 team is preparing translations into Italian, Portuguese and Polish.

The Sphere project was launched in mid-1997 by a consortium of humanitarian agencies in order to improve the quality of humanitarian assistance and the accountability of humanitarian agencies to their beneficiaries, their members, and their sponsors. Sphere is presently commissioning an independent assessment of Sphere's work to look at: whether or not Sphere has made a difference to the quality of humanitarian aid and ultimately to the lives of those affected by disasters; if and how Sphere has provided a common framework in the field; the processes by which agencies have incorporated Sphere with emphasis on creative tools and approaches; and a review of the way in which the Sphere project was created, implemented and carried out with a view to learning lessons for future initiatives. The evaluation will begin in January 2002 and take place over a 20 month period. Detailed background information, including reports, newsletters and workshop evaluations can be found on the website: www.sphereproject.org.

5. National News in Brief

In the United States a number of measures are underway to strengthen border controls in light of the 11 September attacks, including new technology to identify arriving foreign visitors, a planned tripling of guards on the Canadian border, measures to track foreign visitors and students, a re-examination by the State Department of 6 countries on the visa waiver program, and new access for immigration inspectors to a state Department database that includes photos of all visa applicants. Refugee resettlement has been suspended, pending a security review of the system and as a result of security concerns with INS officials traveling to conduct the necessary interviews. The virtual moratorium on refugee resettlement has stranded as many as 20,000 refugees who had already been accepted to come to the United States. The delay is due to security concerns and the fact that the US government has so far neglected to set a new annual quota for refugees.

On 26 October, US president Bush signed the USA Patriot Act of 2001 which allows the Attorney General to detain any non-citizen suspected of involvement in terrorism for up to 7 days without charge. After 7 days, if the detainee is not released the government must either bring criminal charges or charges of an immigration status violation. Advocacy by human rights groups and churches resulted in the seven-day limit on detention without charge (rather than unlimited detention), limits on indefinite detention, and judicial review of the attorney general's use of this new power to certify non-citizens as suspected terrorists. (LCHR Newsletter, 8 November 2001)

One of the touching consequences of the 11 September attacks in the USA has been the reaction of refugee and immigrant groups. Tran Dinh Truong, a Vietnamese refugee who came to the USA in 1975 with just the clothes he was wearing, made a US\$2 million contribution to the Red Cross after the attacks. "This is our country too," he said, "I'm very sad about the attack. When I saw the people, I thought I must do something. We want to help the people."(Buffalo News, 15 September 2001)

The Canadian government announced a five-part security strategy as part of its Anti-Terrorism Plan. The government will invest approximately C\$49 million to strengthen its ability to move quickly on: fast-tracking the permanent resident card for new immigrants by June, 2002; front end-security screening of refugee claimants; increased detention capacity; increased deportation activity; and hiring up to one hundred new staff to enforce upgraded security at Ports of Entry.

Canada and the United States are moving to create a joint screening system to keep travelers who pose a security risk from arriving on the continent. Canadian Immigration Minister Elinor Caplin insisted the current Canada-US discussions will stop short of harmonizing all policies and will focus instead on information-sharing. Caplin also signaled she was willing to consider imposing exit controls at Canada's borders to keep track of everyone who leaves Canada, something the country has never done. (Toronto Star, 31 October 2001)

The Canadian government has also tabled immigration levels for 2002. Canada expects to receive 210,000 to 235,000 immigrants in 2002, up slightly from the range of 200,000 to 225,000 in 2001. Minister Caplin affirmed the growing importance of immigration to the Canadian economy by stating that "immigrants now account for more than 70 percent of all labour force growth, a proportion that will grow to 100 percent in the coming years. This gradual increase will enable us to sustain our competitiveness and fuel an economy driven by innovation, and expanding commercial and cultural links to the world." See <http://www.cic.gc.ca>.

The German government announced in November that it intends to introduce a new immigration law which will stipulate that people who are subject to persecution by non-state agents of persecution should be considered as refugees within the framework of the 1951 Refugee Convention. In the mid-1990s, there were 6 countries that excluded victims of non-state agents of persecution from being considered as refugees: Germany, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. While most of these countries have changed their legislation, it still remains on the books in Switzerland and Germany (although that will change with the new immigration law in Germany.)

The European Commission is currently preparing a Communication on Clandestine Immigration, expected to be tabled in the coming weeks. Although the contents are not yet known, the Commission is expected to recommend an EU-wide action plan for dealing with irregular immigration which would refer to border control, possible plans for a pan-European border guard service, and proposal for the return of migrants with irregular status who have no right to remain on EU territory.

The European Commission has issued two proposals for closer cooperation among European states in combating terrorism following the 11 September attacks. These proposals call for a common definition of acts of terrorism, for common penalties and for a system of surrendering people sought between judicial authorities on the basis of a European arrest warrant. The Justice and Home Affairs Council, made up of 15 national ministers, also met on an emergency basis on 21 September and urged member states to strengthen controls at external borders and exercise maximum

rigour in issuing visas. Some ministers, such as German Minister Otto Schily, have warned about “extremists that have come to our country under the protection of the Geneva Convention.” (JRS Dispatches, no. 100)

Six years after the Dayton peace agreement, 1.2 million people remain displaced from the wars in Croatia and in Bosnia & Herzegovina. The number of returns continues to increase in both countries. However, the gap between the number of families who have returned and the level of property reconstruction activity continues to grow, however, with nearly 25,000 families in need of support uncovered by reconstruction programmes at this time. (Anne Willem Bijleveld, Regional session on Europe, September 2001)

The Australian government approved seven new bills on immigration without amendment in late September. These include legislation approved to validate actions taken by the Australian government in refusing to allow the Tampa to land on its shores in August. Other approved measures will limit independent reviews of Department of Immigration decisions regarding asylum-seekers; re-define the definition of a “refugee;” and give only successive temporary protection visas to those who have not come directly from their country of origin. Another measure legislatively removes the country’s island territories from Australia’s migration zone so that its domestic asylum laws do not apply there. The government has recently embarked on what it calls its “Pacific solution” whereby asylum-seekers arriving at Australia’s territories are transported to other Pacific island nations that will host them – in return for Australian financial support – while their refugee claims are being assessed. The Australian Council for Overseas Aid has expressed its deep concern over the seven migration bills, saying that they are explicitly poll-driven and may undermine the object and purpose of the UN Refugee Convention.

On 19 October, Australia turned away a boat carrying asylum-seekers and forced it back into international waters. The boat, with 200 asylum-seekers believed to be from Iraq or Afghanistan, reportedly re-entered Indonesian waters. Critics of Australian policies noted that Indonesia is not a signatory to the Convention. The Howard government said the incident marked the first victory in a campaign begun two months ago to stem the flow of asylum-seekers from arriving in Australia via Indonesia. Shortly thereafter, another boat transporting asylum-seekers from Indonesia to Australia sunk and 350 asylum-seekers were drowned. Some of the individuals had been recognized as refugees by UNHCR in Indonesia but the delays for solutions were so long, they had decided to venture the perilous journey. Forty-four irregular migrants survived the shipwreck.

Returns of East Timorese refugees are increasing. IOM reports that the significant increase can be attributed to the ongoing reconciliation process that has boosted the confidence of refugees since the successful 30 August election. IOM expects thousands of refugees to return before the full onset of the rainy season and the Christmas celebrations. JRS reports that just before the election, an estimated 80,000 refugees remained in West Timor. Most agree that over of half those in camps want to return to East Timor when they feel it is safe to leave and safe to return. (JRS Dispatches, 99)

The Thai government continues efforts to crack down on illegal entries, particularly from Burma. Over 92,097 illegal Burmese aliens were arrested and deported between January and July. Despite tightening security at least 100,000 Burmese managed to enter where Thailand they work in factories and on vegetable plantations. The Thai government has a plan requiring illegal alien workers to register by the end of September or face repatriation. After the deadline, authorities

announced that they would further crack down on illegal labor. In the long run, a government agency would be set up to manage alien labor. (Mekong News, September 2001)

Over 723,000 Sri Lankans are internally displaced or “economically affected” by Sri Lanka’s civil war, according to a report by the Sri Lankan government. According to the statistics, nearly 175,000 people live in welfare centers, while over 520,000 displaced people are living with friends or family. (JRS Dispatches, 99)

The Vietnamese government earned US\$1.25 billion by sending workers overseas, making it one of the country’s key exports. There was a 50 percent increase in the number of workers sent last year, totaling 31,400. Another 50,000 workers are expected to be sent abroad this year. Most of them were sent to South Korea, Japan, Laos and Taiwan. The rise in the deployment of Vietnamese workers is due to the expansion of foreign export markets, the improvement in the quality of Vietnamese labor and the greater willingness of other governments to accept foreign workers. (Mekong News, September 2001)

The joint verification team resumed its work in the camps of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal on 3 September after the 11th round of Joint Ministerial Level Talks in Thimphu. The verification process started on 26 March 2001. As of 14 September, 1,069 families, totaling 6,650 individuals had been verified from Khudunabari camp.

At the invitation of the Indonesian government, Dr. Francis Deng, Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Internally Displaced People visited Indonesia in late September. The number of IDPs in Indonesia is estimated at 1.3 million persons. Dr. Deng encouraged the government to consult with the displaced persons themselves and also stressed the importance of addressing the situation of IDPS in a comprehensive and well-coordinated manner. The findings of this visit will be presented to the UN Human Rights Commission in early 2002. See also <http://www.unhchr.ch>

Repatriation from Ethiopia to Djibouti began in late October. After the peace agreement was signed in Djibouti and a general amnesty declared in February 2001, UNHCR negotiated a voluntary repatriation agreement with the two countries. Some 600 Djiboutians of Afar ethnic origin, are mainly nomads will return to the Dikhil and Tajourah areas of Djibouti.

Following the peace agreement in Macedonia, many displaced people are still reluctant to return to their villages of origin. The Macedonian Red Cross estimates the number of displaced at 70,000, 60% of whom are ethnic Macedonians. However, the Red Cross has decided to strike 23,000 internally displaced people off its lists on the grounds that these people were displaced from areas now considered “safe.” More than 55,000 refugees have returned to Macedonia since June while 27,000 still remain in Kosovo. The Macedonian government also announced that it will no longer give humanitarian assistance to ‘old’ refugees from Kosovo.

6. Upcoming Meetings

UNHCR is convening a Ministerial Level Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol from 12-13 December in Geneva as part of the Global Consultations on International Protection. The purpose of the meeting is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the convention; to reflect the collective

commitment of states to upholding the convention; to encourage States which have already ratified the convention to remove any reservations they may have and to encourage states which have not yet ratified the convention to do so; and to exchange views on both the implementation of the convention and on addressing gaps in refugee protection. The preparatory committee for the meeting, under the leadership of the Swiss government, has developed an agenda which includes plenary discussion as well as more focused discussion in three round tables on the themes of 1) strengthening implementation of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, 2) international cooperation to protect masses in flight; and 3) upholding refugee protection in the face of contemporary challenges involving mixed flows. NGOs will participate in the meeting as observers. The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is planning an international meeting on 11 December to formulate ideas and strategies on the issues to be discussed at the Ministerial Level meeting, with particular emphasis on the question of a supervisory mechanism for the convention. Some NGOs have suggested that the 1951 Convention should establish such a mechanism to provide greater accountability of governments in their implementation of the Convention.

An International Conference on the Baltic Sea as an Escape Route will be held from 16-18 November at the Protestant Academy Nordelbien in Bad Segeberg, Germany. The conference, organized by 8 German organizations with support from UNHCR and ECRE, will provide an overview of refugees in the Baltic states, Poland and the Nordic countries, with additional sessions on the cooperation of security forces in the Baltic Sea region and working groups on a number of specific issues. For more information, contact Flüchtlingsrat Schleswig Holstein, e-mail: baltic.net@frsh.de.

The Industrial Mission Association, Europe Group is organizing a conference "Enlargement: is bigger better..and for whom?" to consider European Union Enlargement and Labour Mobility. The meeting will be held in St. Omer, France from 11-13 June 2002. For further information, contact Adrian Thomas at Adrian.t@virgin.net.

A Forum on Asylum Policies 2001: perspectives on asylum rights in Germany and Europe will be held at the Protestant Academy of Mülheim an der Ruhr from 7-9 December 2001. For more information, contact wolf-dieter.just@ev-akademie-muelheim.de.

The Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University) and the Asian Research Centre for Migration are organizing a Southeast Asia Regional School in Forced Migration from 3-13 December 2001 in Bangkok. The School will consider the nature of forced migration, causes, patterns and consequences of forced migration; responses and will include evening sessions and social events. For further information, contact Ms. Ratchada Jayagupta (ratchada.j@chula.ac.th) or the SEA Regional School Coordinator at the Refugee Studies Centre (sea.school@geh.ox.ac.uk).

Wilton Park is organizing a conference on "Migration to Europe: What needs to change?" from 19-22 November to examine current trends in migration to Europe. The conference will discuss the implications of the changing age profile of European societies for labour markets and migration as well as irregular migration and development in EU immigration policy. For more information, see <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk>.

7. Past Meetings

During this time period, UNHCR's Global Consultations on Refugee Protection advanced on all three "tracks." Track 1 of the Consultations, re-affirming the Convention, included planning for the Ministerial Level Meeting to be held in Geneva from 12-13 December. Track 2, which focuses on implementation of the convention, held a roundtable from 8-9 November on two issues: family unity and illegal entry. The background documents for that roundtable are on the UNHCR website (www.unhcr.ch) which will soon include the report from the Roundtable. Track 3 which focuses on gaps in refugee protection met from 27-28 September and focused particularly on the issue of building national capacity for protection. (The report of those consultations is also available on the website.) The Consultation process will continue through mid-2002 with an additional meeting of Track 3 to focus on durable solutions and on the particular needs of refugee women and children. Although it is still early to evaluate the impact of the Global Consultations, they have provided a wealth of new information and legal thought on implementation of the Convention. Many papers have been prepared for the various roundtables and meetings and are available on the UNHCR website.

From 15-16 October in Berlin, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE/ODIHR organized the first OSCE conference focusing exclusively on responses to trafficking in human beings in countries of destinations. The report of the meeting contains a number of recommendations, from calling on participating states to ratify relevant international agreements to appointing an individual or agency to coordinate anti-trafficking activities, to information campaigns targeting at-risk groups in countries of origin to adoption of minimum penalties in national legislation which criminalizes trafficking in human beings.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat highlighted the issues of HIV/AIDS and people smuggling at its meeting in late October in Vanuatu. The Secretary General, Mr. Noel Levi said with respect to smuggling "We can only do so much – a significant population influx places extreme pressure on already limited resources, exposing our small and vulnerable economies to further social, economic and cultural problems which we can ill afford."

The Council of Europe organized a conference on "the irregular migration and dignity of migrants: cooperation in the Mediterranean region" in Athens from 3-4 October. The background paper focuses on the causes of irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking, the Mediterranean countries (which are transit as well as destination countries), illegal employment, new slavery, and criminality.

UNHCR organized a refugee forum which gathered 65 refugees from 16 different countries of asylum in Europe in order to inject a refugee perspective into the Global Consultations on 3 broad topics: asylum processes, refugee integration, and voluntary repatriation.

The Europewide Consultation of Organizations of Filipinos (ECOFIL), meeting in the Hague from 14-16 September, identified a number of trends in migration of Filipinos to Europe. There is a discernible increase in the number of Filipinos coming to Europe to live and work in the last 10 years and a significant number of undocumented Filipinos. The majority of Filipinos working in Europe are women and a significant number of Filipinas are married to European nationals. The overwhelming number of Filipinos in Europe remain unorganized and Filipinos in Europe experience racism and discrimination in varying degrees. The consultation made a number of recommendations including a decision to launch a global

campaign for Filipinos in Europe and elsewhere who are victims of abuse and neglect and those affected by the “fortress-like” EU policies.

A seminar on Internal Displacement in Indonesia held in June focused on the large number of internally displaced people in that country. Organized by the Brookings-Cuny Project on Internal Displacement, participants in the consultation expressed strong support for the establishment of a National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons and Community Recovery, an independent body that would complement governmental efforts, called for the creation of an effective information system on IDPs, and urged international humanitarian organizations and NGOs to expand their presence in affected areas and increase their advocacy efforts for IDPs.

The Report on the Dialogue with Refugee Women: Respect our Rights, Partnership for Equality is now available from UNHCR. Like the meeting, the report focuses on the two themes of safety and security and of livelihoods and makes concrete recommendations for building partnerships for equality.

The report of the Inter-Agency Lessons Learned Conference on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Refugee Situations (March 2001) is now available. The report focuses on lessons learned by sector: refugee community, community services, health, protection, security and cross-cutting issues. Available on the UNHCR website: www.unhcr.ch.

8. Resources

Caught Between Borders: Response Strategies of the Internally Displaced, edited by Marc Vincent and Birgitte Sorensen, examines the methods and networks that internally displaced people have developed for coping with their situations. Case studies include Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Burma, Colombia, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Serbia, Sudan and Uganda. The concluding chapter draws out similarities and differences in these strategies, in areas such as preparing for displacement, the central role of family, community and other networks, and the importance of education. The drastic restructuring and reconfiguration of society and pressures for rural-urban migration are important long-term changes affected by the displacement of people. Published by Pluto Press in London and USA in association with the Norwegian Refugee Council. For more information, see: www.nrc.no.

Human Rights Watch has published Uprooting the Rural Poor in Rwanda which details the impact of governmental policies to require rural populations to move to government-designated resettlement sites called *imidugudu*. The report notes that since 1997 hundreds of thousands of people have been uprooted, many against their will. Families headed by women, children and the elderly have suffered the most from the enforced resettlement. Available from Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org.

Sans-papiers mais pas sans droits explains that while undocumented migrants in France are often seen as vulnerable, they also have a number of basic rights which are spelled out in this publication by GISTI. A second new GISTI publication is Accord franco-algérien which details the provisions of an agreement between Algeria and France which will largely align the status of Algerians in the country with those of other foreigners. The agreement, signed in July 2001, still remains to be ratified. Both available in French from GISTI 3, villa Marcès, 75011 Paris or www.gisti.org.

Refuge, Canada's Periodical on Refugees has as the theme of its August 2001 issue Xeno-Racism and International Migration with feature articles exploring the relationship between refugees and racism in South Africa, Canada, and New Zealand as well as the multiple discrimination faced by refugee women. For further information or to subscribe, see www.yorku.ca/crs/crs.htm.

The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children has published Refugee and Internally Displaced Women and Children in Serbia and Montenegro. The report notes that there are still some 630,000 refugees and internally displaced people in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – the largest number in Europe. Many of these refugees will remain in Yugoslavia. The overall economic situation is difficult and women face particular difficulties, including domestic violence, and continued psychological and social support is needed. "Those without the resources or the will to integrate into Serbian society remain psychologically fragile and socially isolated. Adolescents face particular needs, as girls, especially Roma girls, are at risk of early marriage and have less access to education, vocational training and employment opportunities than any other group." Available from the Women's Commission (www.womenscommission.org)

The Advocacy Project announces the opening of a website of its partner organization: the Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace in Croatia. The site can be visited at <http://www.cwwpp.org>. A recent addition to the website is "Healing Vukovar's wounds" which traces work to foster the emotional healing of both Croats and Serbs who were displaced, tortured, or otherwise affected by the war. To contact the Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace directly, write info@cwwpp.org.

The European Network 'On Line/More Colour in the Media' is carrying out a survey of migrants' organizations in Europe and good practices. On <http://www.december18.net/Stoa.htm> you will find a checklist by which the Network wants to collect the necessary information. For more information, contact eslube@stoa.nl.

Global Migrants, Global Refugees – Problems and Solutions, edited by Aristide Zolberg and Peter Benda, brings together academic articles on migration and refugees. icmec@newschool.edu.

A new website has been created by the International Committee of the Red Cross on women and war. The website is intended to be platform of debate around key issues on the subject of women in armed conflicts. <http://www.womenandwar.org>.

A new issue of Forced Migration Review has just been published which focuses on "Return to Peace: post-conflict realities" and includes articles on recent experiences in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation. The Arabic and Spanish versions are free for all readers. The English language edition is free for students, refugees, internally displaced people, agencies based in the South and Northern agencies working with refugees. To subscribe or to see online editions of back issues of Forced Migration Review, visit the website at: <http://www.fmreview.org/> or e-mail fmr@geh.ox.ac.uk.

A new e-mail newsletter has been launched by the Kosova Women's Network. A major concern of the network is the trafficking of women from Kosova and curbing violence against women in the province. To subscribe, send an e-mail to kwn-news-request@alb-net.com with only the word 'subscribe' in the body of the message or visit: <http://www.alb-net.com/mailman/listinfo/kwn-news>.

A new home page has been created for the Nansen Refugee Award, located on UNHCR's website (www.unhcr.ch). The home page aims at stimulating the public's interest in refugee issues.

Away from Azerbaijan, destination Europe, a report prepared by IOM Azerbaijan, provides a comprehensive analysis of irregular migration motives, routes and methods. According to the report, predominantly ethnic Azeris, both men and women, between 20 and 40 years old, of different professional and educational backgrounds are driven from the country mainly for economic reasons. Smugglers are often the only available sources of information about migration possibilities and much of the travel is through Turkey and Russia. See: www.un-az.org/iom.

Traumatisierungen von Flüchtlingen and Asyl Suchenden looks at the political, social and medical contexts of traumatized refugees and asylum-seekers. Available in German (CHF28) from Seismo Verlag, Postfach 303, CH 8025 Zurich, Switzerland.

A Practical Guide to Empowerment, a collection of UNHCR good practices on gender equality mainstreaming, includes summaries of the Kosovo Women's Economic Empowerment Project, the Burundian Peace Process, Impact Assessment in Guatemalan Returnee Communities, Peace communities in Colombia, Emergency response teams in Guinea, institutionalizing gender equality in UNHCR and Western Saharan Refugee Women and Community Empowerment. Available from UNHCR, office of the Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women and Gender Equality (PO Box 2500, Geneva, Switzerland).

The Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium has posted a comprehensive bibliography on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) at www.rhrc.org/tech/sgbv/bib. The bibliography, which includes annotations for some references, is meant to serve as a resource for reference information related to SGBV issues in refugee, internally displaced and post-conflict settings.

The following information is now available on the ECRE website: press releases from members responding to the tragic events in the US; a new proposal on refugee status and complementary forms of protection in the US; ECRE comments on proposed minimum standards for the reception of asylum-seekers in the EU; ECRE information note regarding the new Council Directive on temporary protection; updated research papers section, containing papers on detention, social and economic rights and refugee integration; and ECRE's annual report 2000. A new website area focuses on good practice in the reception and integration of refugees. See <http://www.ecre.org> or <http://www.ecre.org/latest/shtml>.

The United Nations Publication Department has published a new Migration Catalogue which includes studies from many different UN agencies on migration-related issues. Available from <http://www.un.org/publications>.

The International Council on Human Rights has released a new report on Racial and Economic Exclusion: Policy Implications which examines the nature and mechanisms of the economic factors that contribute to the perpetuation and exacerbation of racial discriminations. It identifies a combination of policies to remedy the exclusion that occurs when racism and economic disempowerment combine. Available in English, French and Spanish from iichrp@international-council.org.

Voices from the Shadows, edited by Lena Barrett, is a collection of stories of men and women living with irregular migration status in Europe. The stories illustrate the reasons why people leave, the journey, how people drift into irregularity, exploitation, a rightless existence, and regularizing migration status. Available from Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, <http://www.jesref.org>.

Engendering the Peace Process in Burundi is the story of the efforts of Burundian women to be a part of the peace negotiations in their country. This process included enabling women to come together to develop common concerns and intensive lobbying to be admitted to the peace negotiations. In 1999, women were granted permanent observer status. All 19 political parties involved in the negotiations agreed that women should participate in the process. The 2000 peace accord included 23 of the recommendations made by the women during the All-Party Women's Peace Congress. Published by UNDP and Femmes Africa Solidarité. See <http://www.fasngo.org>.

The Center for Health and Gender Equality is currently undertaking a major "mapping" effort to identify and examine programmes from around the world that address gender-based violence within reproductive health programs. The Center asks those who are working in this field to complete the Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Health Inquiry, a brief survey accessible on their homepage: <http://www.genderhealth.org>.

UNHCR has prepared *10 Steps towards a Refugee Law Clinic* as a practical guide to setting up such a clinic. The guide provides practical suggestions for a range of tasks, including overview and stock-taking, developing a refugee law course curriculum, budgeting, recruitment and assessment and quality control. Available from UNHCR Department of International Protection (PO Box 2500, Geneva, Switzerland.)

Declaration of Cooperation: Mental Health of Refugees, Displaced and Other Populations Affected by Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations by the World Health Organization sets out standards and guidelines for responding to mental health needs of uprooted people. This is the culmination of a long consultative process in which some 700 conclusions and recommendations were condensed into 20 articles on issues such as prevention and response, repatriation, children and adolescents, and others. The Declaration is intended to serve as a working instrument and provides a framework to achieve increased consensus and cooperation on operational models for meeting mental health needs. Available from Mary Petevi at petevim@who.ch.

UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit has posted a large number of reports and research papers available on its website www.unhcr.ch. Hard copies can be ordered by sending an e-mail to hqep00@unhcr.ch. Reports include such subjects as evaluation of the Dadaab firewood project, UNHCR's policy on urban refugees in New Delhi, global migration trends and asylum, the repatriation predicament of Burmese refugees in Thailand.

The Refugee Women's Resource Project has published Refuge Women and Domestic Violence: Country Studies by Helen Smith and Clare Palmer. The publication presents the arguments for recognizing domestic violence as grounds for protection under the Refugee Convention and looks at the situation for women in five countries of origin from which asylum-seekers come: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, China, Iran and Pakistan. The full report is available at www.asylumaid.org.uk (click on Refugee Women's Resource Project.)

Separated Children in the UK is a new report by Louise Williamson and Wendy Ayotte which provides an overview of the current problems faced by new arrivals (2,734 unaccompanied children applied for asylum in the UK in 2000.) The report reveals a lack of coordination in the treatment of refugee children who are being placed in unsuitable accommodation and lack of access to services. The report is available on the following websites: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk or www.scfuk.org.uk.

Kluwer Law International has introduced a new publications series on Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy in Europe for academics, policy-makers, law practitioners and others to find detailed analysis of this field. Topics include Security of Residence and Expulsion by Elspeth Guild and Paul Minderboud, Immigration Law in the European Community by Elspeth Guild, and Negotiating Europe's Immigration Frontiers by Barbara Melis. For a copy of the catalogue contact Kluwer Law International at sales@kli.wkap.nl or Kluwer@wkap.com (for Americas)

The Lutheran World Federation's Office for International Affairs and Human Rights has set up interactive discussion forums on matters related to its mandate and activities. Three topics have already been posted: 'Human rights and the churches,' 'Justice and peace in the Middle East,' and 'Economic globalization and human rights.' To participate in the discussion forums you must register first; to do this, click on 'Not Registered? To register, click here.')

http://193.73.242.107/international_affairs.htm.

A new e-mail newsletter has been initiated by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. The newsletter is for people who are interested in asylum and refugee protection in the United States. To receive the newsletter, contact Susan Benesch at: beneschs@ichr.org.