

# 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.*

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## **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](mailto:eqf@wcc-coe.org))

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## **2. Network News**

The World Council of Churches convened a meeting, "Beyond 11 September: Assessing Global Implications" from 28 November-1 December 2001. The meeting brought together 20 participants from different regions and disciplines, to analyze together with staff, some of the long-term changes resulting from the 11 September attacks and their aftermath. Specific attention was devoted to the potential effects of these events on: global governance, disarmament and security; the economy; human rights; humanitarian response; and inter-faith relations. The report of the consultation is available from [Alexander.freeman@wcc-coe.org](mailto:Alexander.freeman@wcc-coe.org).

In the aftermath of the 11 September attacks and subsequent military response, the WCC has established a special website (<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews>) to provide information on global church statements and actions on developing events, critical analyses, and perspectives which are not generally found in the mainstream media.

The WCC Commission on International Affairs will meet in Switzerland from 4-6 June to review the work of the WCC International Relations team, to analyze critical regional developments and to plan future initiatives. Planning is presently beginning, for example, for a global consultation on the role of churches in international affairs in light of changes in both the international system and within the churches.

The Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People (GEN) will meet in Geneva from 24-26 September, immediately before the UNHCR-NGO Consultations. Representatives of regional ecumenical working groups come together once a year in the GEN meeting to analyze current developments and plan joint action. This year's meeting will focus on reviewing developments in the regions and at the global level, developing global priorities for advocacy for the coming year and focusing particularly on the issues of trafficking and church engagement with advocacy.

The West and Central African Working Groups on Uprooted People met respectively from 10-12 December in Banjul, Gambia and 1-2 February in Nairobi. The Southern Africa group will meet in South Africa from 19-21 March. All of these meetings bring together church representatives working with uprooted people in the region to analyze national and regional situations and develop collective responses.

The religious leaders of the Mano River Basin, namely Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea have agreed on an emergency plan of action to put an immediate end to hostilities in Liberia and engage in a dialogue between the government and the Liberian United for Reconciliation and Democracy. The joint statement notes that once again the innocent population are being killed, dehumanized and uprooted. The religious leaders plan to convene a consultative meeting with civil society leaders and to contact both the government of Liberia and the leadership of LURD to urge an immediate ceasefire and commencement of dialogue.

The joint MECC/WCC working group on refugees, migrants and displaced people will meet in Damascus, Syria from 17-19 September to review developments in the Middle East and to suggest ways of strengthening church engagement with uprooted people. The MECC Gulf Liaison Office plan to hold its second workshop on Migrants' issues in April in Bahrain. Representatives from the different churches in the Gulf as well as resource persons and observers will be invited. Since the Muscat meeting in 2000, several ecumenical groups and networks have begun in different Gulf countries.

The Council of Churches of the Netherlands is planning a seminar on 13 April around the theme "For Human Existence: don't leave refugees in the streets" in response to a new law which cuts social assistance for asylum-seekers who have exhausted their legal possibilities. The seminar will bring together church representatives and Dutch government officials.

The Executive Committee of the Churches Commission on Migrants in Europe (CCME) met in Prague from 15-16 February. In addition to reviewing regional developments affecting refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers in Europe, the Committee met with church and governmental representatives to discuss developments in the Czech Republic. Planning was also carried out for the CCME Assembly to be held in Athens, Greece from 10-14 October 2002. CCME is also organizing a joint meeting of two of its working groups, on European policy and on church engagement with uprooted people in Crete from 19-21 April.

The Latin American Ecumenical Network of Organizations working with Uprooted People will meet in Lima, Peru in early July. This network brings together representatives from both South and Central America.

With the active participation of the CCA Mekong Sub-regional program, the NGO Network on Migrant Workers in Thailand convened a meeting on "Cooperation for Finding Solutions to Problems Concerning the Registration of Migrant Workers 2001" in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The meeting agreed on a long list of recommendations to be addressed to the government of Thailand on such issues as discrimination, registration, and deportations.

The Pacific Conference of Churches is organizing a workshop on migration issues in the Pacific from 10-12 April in Tonga. Among the issues of particular concern is the issue of cultural disorientation of Pacific Island migrants who live in other countries.

The East Africa ecumenical working group on uprooted people met in January to review developments in the sub-region, to carry out theological reflection, to analyze certain important trends, and to plan future activities. Meanwhile, in Southern Africa, the coordination of the Southern African Network of Churches engaged in ministry to uprooted people has passed from Shirley DeWolf of Christian Care-Zimbabwe to Rev. White Rakuba of the South Africa Council of Churches.

FEDEPAZ, an ecumenical refugee-serving organization in Peru, participated in organizing a Regional Andean Seminar in January on "Protection of Refugees through the organs of the InterAmerican System of Human Rights. In its intervention, FEDEPAZ noted that a conservative estimate is that there are more than a million Peruvian economic migrants and 600,000 internally displaced Peruvians as a result of the political violence. About 750 people have been recognized as refugees in Peru. The long Peruvian-Colombian border (more than 1,300 kilometers) has led to fears that the number of displaced Colombians arriving in Peru could increase in the future.

IOM reports that the IOM office in Bucharest and the Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church signed a Protocol of Cooperation in January to prevent and combat trafficking of women and children in Romania. Under this agreement, the Romanian Orthodox Church has agreed to disseminate counter-trafficking information in religious schools. As part of the agreement the Romanian Orthodox Church has agreed to enlist the support of sister churches in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine so they too can join IOM's efforts to raise awareness in the region. The Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, His Eminence Teocist has consistently taken a firm stand against trafficking. He recently stated that "trafficking undermines the very being of the Romanian nation and remains the greatest challenge to Church and society." (IOM Press briefing notes, 25 January 2002).

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### **3. International News In Brief**

On 12 February the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights joined campaigners around the world to mark the entry into force of a new UN treaty prohibiting the use of children under 18 in armed conflict. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, a group formed in 1908 by 6 leading NGOs has campaigned vigorously to draw attention to the plight of an estimated 300,000 child soldiers currently fighting in more than 35 countries.

In late January, UNHCR accepted the highly critical findings of an independent investigation into allegations of corruption in the refugee resettlement process in its Nairobi, Kenya office. The report on the investigation describes how a "criminal enterprise" allegedly infiltrated the refugee status determination and resettlement processes in Nairobi in the late 1990s to force bribes from people seeking resettlement to third countries. Nine people, including 3 UNHCR staff, are currently facing a total of 78 charges under Kenya's penal code. A number of remedial actions by UNHCR are planned or already under way.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has created a new sub-unit to seek to coordinate the international community's response to internally displaced people. The sub-unit, which began operations in January 2002, is made up of staff seconded from UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, IOM, UNICEF and the NGOs. The sub-unit has identified six areas for priority action, including: advocacy, policy

development, field support, resource mobilization, protection and training/capacity-building.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez, will be visiting Mexico and the US from 25 February until 18 March 2002. She will meet with representatives of both governments, agencies, NGOs and individuals in many of the US-Mexico border towns.

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#### **4. National News in Brief**

- ***Africa***

On 22 January a ceasefire agreement **in the Nuba Mountains region was brokered by the USA in collaboration with the Swiss government and** signed in Switzerland between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and the government of Sudan. As of mid-February both the Sudanese army and the SPLA have respected the ceasefire. The ceasefire has been negotiated for a six month period and will then be open for renewal. **In late February, however, the Government of Sudan renewed bombing of the civilian population in the South, including one site where the WFP was distributing food. In response the USA announced its withdrawal from peace negotiation efforts.** The long running war has provoked a refugee crisis with approximately 4 million internally displaced people and at least 500,000 refugees in neighboring countries.

Discussions have taken place between UNHCR and representatives from Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to discuss the "voluntary repatriation" of refugees from Tanzania. Presently there are some 350,000 Burundian and 24,000 Rwandans in Tanzania. Although a peace agreement has been signed in Burundi, few refugees have indicated a willingness to return. Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa recently urged the international community to assist in the creation of safe zones in countries which generate refugees in the Great Lakes so as to ease Tanzania's "unbearable burden of hosting millions of refugees." (JRS Dispatches, no. 105)

Before relapsing into widespread fighting in 1998, Angola had an estimated 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). The situation has deteriorated to the point where there are now an estimated 3.5 million IDPs, which may make up one-third of the country's population. During the past year, the government has resettled only 170,000 IDPs and another 80,000 IDPs have returned to their places of origin.

- ***Asia & the Pacific***

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has received considerable media attention as large-scale efforts are underway to deliver food and other relief items to people in difficult conditions throughout the country. Provision of humanitarian assistance has been marked by difficulties due to the uncertain security situation throughout the country, by difficult weather conditions and the country's poor logistical infrastructure. During the bombing campaign, almost 150,000 Afghan refugees crossed into Pakistan in spite of the fact that the border was officially closed. Camps for displaced Afghans were established inside Afghanistan near the borders of both Iran and Pakistan. There is concern that these camps set a dangerous precedent for future work with refugees. Since the fall of the Taliban from power, UNHCR reports that some 140,000 refugees have returned to Afghanistan and plans are underway for a large-scale repatriation programme in the coming months. For more information on

the general situation, see <http://www.unhcr.ch> and <http://www.reliefweb.net>. For more information on the churches' response, see <http://www.act-intl.org>.

The Indonesian government on 28 January sharply criticized Malaysia's decision to deport half of the 900,000 registered Indonesians who are working in the country. Kuala Lumpur justified the move – part of a tighter security effort following the 11 September attacks – by saying the workers represented a security risk. Malaysia has also implemented stricter border controls and the deportation of foreigners who pose security risks. Malaysia's government claims that illegal immigrants from Indonesia committed the most crimes by foreigners in the country. This decision will only worsen economic problems for Jakarta, which receives around US\$500 million annually from overseas remittances.

The Indonesian government has decided to stop assisting refugees in West Timor from the end of 2001. The refugees reportedly seem to have accepted this decision, noting that it was expected and that the levels of assistance were very low anyway. Some have said that they may return to E. Timor. (JRS Dispatches, no. 105)

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have expressed concern over plans agreed by the Vietnamese and Cambodian governments and UNHCR to facilitate repatriation of indigenous Montagnard refugees who have fled from Vietnam to Cambodia during the past year. The agreement signed in late January makes no mention of the fact that any return of refugees to Vietnam must be voluntary. Both organizations have documented abuse, imprisonment and beating of dozens of Montagnards deported from Cambodia. In late February, UNHCR reported that the tripartite agreement is under threat due to actions taken by the two governments. UNHCR is particularly concerned about a deadline of 30 April for the returns set by the governments which would undermine the voluntariness of the returns.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has recently adopted a Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. The text can be found at: <http://www.december18.net/traffickingconventions.htm>.

The situation for asylum-seekers in Australia continues to deteriorate in spite of increasing international pressure. A two-week hunger strike by more than 240 inmates at the Woomera Detention Center ended on 30 January. The Uniting and Catholic Churches, together with the Islamic Council of Victoria, wrote to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, asking her to visit Woomera and other detention centers around Australia. A representative from her office plans to visit Australia in March although it is not certain that he will have access to the detention centers. Rev. John Henderson, the new General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia has repeated the call for the release of children detained under Australia's current mandatory and indefinite detention for asylum-seekers and reiterated the need for a royal commission into mandatory detention. The call was endorsed by the heads of all 16 NCCA member churches. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference called for an urgent review of Australia's policy of mandatory detention for refugees and asylum seekers who arrive without going through proper immigration channels. Moreover, Australian sources report that detained asylum-seekers are being charged A\$147.50 per day and some detainees have already incurred debts of \$300,000 to the federal government.

- **Europe**

The European Commission recently adopted a Council Directive for a temporary residence permit for victims of trafficking who cooperate with the authorities in February.

On 27 December, the Council of the European Union adopted 4 acts by “written procedure” on “terrorism. Among the measures is one that requires states to take appropriate measures “before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum-seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts.” This means that additional security measures will be taken for asylum-seekers and fears that a person who had helped raise funds to support the humanitarian needs of, say PKK prisoners in Turkish jails, could be refused refugee status. For more information, see <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2002/jan/27dec69068.pdf>.

The Washington Post (29 January 2002) reports that European governments are increasingly deporting refugees and migrants who are suspected of terrorism to countries that were previously shunned because of records of torture and execution. Thus Sweden, France and Austria have ordered extradition of foreigners to countries such as Egypt and Algeria. Human rights groups have expressed concern that these individuals could be at risk in their home countries.

Churches in Italy are concerned about the government’s recent treatment of asylum-seekers from Turkey who were given very brief asylum interviews (less than 3 minutes) transferred to a closed repatriation centre, and denied the possibility of appealing their negative asylum decisions. At the same time, many migrant homes have been searched by the police and migrants have apparently been returned to their countries of origin without the possibility of appeals.

Human Rights Watch has found that the government of Spain is violating the rights of migrants and asylum seekers who arriving illegally on Spanish shores. In its 35 page report, Human Rights Watch criticized the substandard detention conditions and the inadequate procedural rights afforded migrants and asylum seekers upon their arrival on Spanish shores. The report is available in English at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/Spain> and in Spanish at <http://www.hrw.org/informes/2002/spain.html>.

Human rights groups expressed concern at the UK’s adoption of new anti-terrorism legislation in mid-December. The definition of a terrorist in the new law, for example, has been refined to include those who “support or assist terrorists,” but these terms remain vague and undefined. Concerns have also been expressed about the law’s impact on the right to seek asylum in the UK and the obligation not to return a refugee to a country where his or her life or freedom could be threatened.

In France, the problem of accommodations for asylum-seekers remains acute. With 48,000 applications for asylum in 2001 (which is equal to nearly 57,000 arrivals, including children), France has only 8,000 places to accommodate them. In cities throughout the country, the lack of accommodations means that families and unaccompanied asylum-seekers are in the streets or crowding into inadequate accommodations.

- **Latin America**

Ecuador has deposited its instrument of ratification of the UN Convention for the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families. This brings the total number of ratifications to 19 out of the 20 needed to bring the convention into force. Tajikistan deposited its ratification in early January. An updated list of ratifications can be found at <http://www.december18.net/Unconvention.htm>.

An estimated 2,500 Haitians were forcibly repatriated from the Dominican Republic in early January. Some 900,000 Haitians are currently living in the Dominican Republic, most of whom are considered illegal.

- **Middle East**

UNHCR announced that a national refugee status-granting body began functioning in late January in Israel. There are currently some 200 asylum-seekers in Israel, primarily from Africa and the Middle East. Israel, a signatory to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, last year granted asylum-seekers the right to work.

- **North America**

In the United States, there is growing concern among the voluntary agencies about the future of refugee resettlement. From annual admissions in the 150,000 range in the early 1990s, the number fell to just 70,000 in the proposal submitted for the present fiscal year. Further reductions to only 50,000 are being discussed although in February 2002, INS authorities said that they would do everything possible to reach the ceiling of 70,000 refugees. The refugee programme was the only immigration flow to shut down after 11 September with about 22,000 people, already approved as US refugees, forced to wait as the US governments considered further security measures. The program resumed slowly in late 2001, but only 2,800 refugees arrived between 1 October and 13 February – compared with more than 14,000 who arrived during the same period in 2001.

Amnesty International reports that an international delegation has been given permission to tour 2 detention centers in New Jersey, USA which are believed to house most of the non-US nationals detained for immigration violations in the post-11 September sweeps. Permission to visit the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in New York City where more than 40 INS detainees are reported to be held in harsh conditions, has not yet been granted. There have been alarming reports of conditions in this detention centre. Amnesty International has been deeply concerned at the secrecy surrounding the arrest of more than 1,200 people since the 11 September attacks. Of those arrested, around 100 have been charged with criminal offenses (none directly relating to the 11 September attacks) and 460 persons are reported to remain in INS custody for visa or immigration violations. The report will be available shortly at <http://www.amnesty.org>.

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## **5. Upcoming Meetings**

The UN High Commission on Human Rights will be held from 18 March to 16 April in Geneva. WCC has submitted a written intervention on the lack of freedom of movement for internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka and on detention in Australia. For further information on the Commission meeting, see <http://www.unhchr.ch> or for

information on particular refugee/migration-related issues, see <http://www.december18.net/UN.htm>.

UNHCR's Standing Committee meetings are scheduled for  
5-7 March (to include update on programme and funding, strategic presentations on Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, CASWANAME and Europe, and coordination issues.)  
24-26 June (to include update on programme and funding, global report, the Agenda for Protection, economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries and safety and security issues, UNHCR's inspection and evaluation plans)  
26 September (to include annual programme budget, update on coordination and other financial/administrative matters)

The Working Group on International Refugee Policy in the Netherlands is organizing a one-day meeting on "Reception and Processing in the Region" on 22 February. The meeting will consider political, legal and practical implications of proposals to transfer processing of asylum claims to the regions.

The PICUM General Assembly will be held from 8-9 March in Oirschot, Netherlands. The Assembly includes an update on developments in migration policy on the European level and presentation of a draft ethical code for social workers confronted with undocumented migrants as well as discussion of a number of specific projects and policies.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for migration affairs will be held in Helsinki, Finland from 16-17 September. The theme of the Conference is "Evaluation of the situation in the field of migration" with sub-themes on integration of immigrants and trends in migration strategies. For further information, see: <http://www.cm.coe.int/dec/2001/1759/15.htm>.

United for Intercultural Action has planned a European-wide Action Week against Racism from 16-24 March 2002. Posters, postcards and stickers have been prepared to support this campaign. To order materials or for more information, contact [info@unitedagainstracism.org](mailto:info@unitedagainstracism.org).

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law has a full range of courses, seminars, and conferences planned for 2002, including Refugee Law courses (4-8 June, 11-15 June, 5-9 November, 12-16 November), a summer course on International Humanitarian Law (8-20 July), a meeting of international experts on terrorism and international humanitarian law (6-8 June), a Round Table on "Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, 1977-2002" (5-7 September) and a research project to adopt the manual "Humanitarian protection in non-International Armed Conflicts (September). For more information on these and other meetings, see <http://www.iihl.org>

The Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford will hold its annual three-week residential summer school from 8-26 July 2002. The programme is designed for upper and middle managers of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and government organizations and researchers involved with assistance and policy-making for refugees and other forced migrants. Through group work, simulations, debates, individual study and discussion, participants will

*World Council of Churches, Uprooted People, issue no. 18, February 2002.*



examine contemporary responses to displacement at institutional and field levels. The course is held at Wadham College, University of Oxford. Contact Sally Lane, Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford Ox1 3LA UK. [Summer.school@geh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Summer.school@geh.ox.ac.uk).

The Center for Migration Studies will organize its 25<sup>th</sup> National Legal Conference on Immigration and Refugee Policy in Washington, DC from 21-22 March. The meeting will include presentations on immigration and terrorism, legal immigration, reorganization and management of immigration to the United States. For more information, see <http://www.cmsny.org>.

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## **6. Past Meetings**

On 13 December, representatives of 156 countries gathered in Geneva for the Ministerial Level meeting of states parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention. The meeting reaffirmed the “relevance and resilience” and “enduring importance” of the 1951 treaty. Signatory states pledged their “commitment to implement our obligations...fully and effectively.” The ministerial meeting was the first-ever gathering of signatories to the 1951 Convention. It was convened as part of a process of Global Consultations, launched by UNHCR in 2001 to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Convention.

UNHCR's Global Consultations on International Protection will continue through mid-2002 including discussion of the Agenda for Protection. The Agenda for Protection is expected to cover 5 main objectives: strengthening the implementation of the 1951 instrument and its 1967 Protocol; ensuring better protection of refugees within broader migrations; sharing the burden and responsibilities for refugees and asylum-seekers more equitably among states; handling security-related concerns more effectively and increasing efforts to find long-lasting solutions for refugees.

The third International Conference on North Korean Human Rights & Refugees was held in Tokyo from 9-10 February 2002. The meeting included sessions on human rights in North Korea, the situation of North Korean refugees in China, and the human rights situations of kidnapes, detainees, and returnees from Japan. For more information, see: <http://www.nkhumanrights.or.kr>

In January UNHCR organized a regional conference and peace design workshop which brought together refugees, NGOs and UN agency representatives, with most of the participants coming from the Horn of Africa and West Africa. Most of the workshop was devoted to the issue of education of refugees. The meeting recognized that the concept of education has expanded to include topics such as life skills, tolerance, care of the environment and peace education. The UNHCR Guidelines for Education Assistance to Refugees (1995) have been revised and are now being discussed in Geneva.

The World Evangelical Fellowship organized a global consultation on Christian ministry to refugees with the participation of 185 leaders from 43 countries. The “Refugee Highway” consultation identified seven strategic and crucial areas of focus: ministry to refugee children, emergency response, sensitive and effective witness, the unique needs of refugee women, missiological foundations, public advocacy and equipping churches in their refugee ministry. A key outcome of the consultation was the development on an international information clearinghouse to allow for more effective communication among agencies working in many countries. A “Code of

Best Practice for Christian Ministry to Refugees” was drafted and will be circulated for further reflection. For more information, contact [globalroundtable@shaw.ca](mailto:globalroundtable@shaw.ca)

The first IOM-organized training course for the newly-formed Albanian Police CounterTrafficking Task Force took place in January at the police academy and was attended by the 12 police chiefs covering all regions of the country. The training was aimed at providing participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle the complex crimes involved in the trafficking of human beings.

The Protestant Academy Arnoldshain, the Intercultural Commissioner of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau, in cooperation with CCME, the Intercultural Council in Germany, the Community of Islam Hesse and the Central committee of Muslims in Germany organized a conference in early February on “Islam in Rural Areas.” Increasing numbers of Muslims have settled in small European villages and the organizers were concerned that in the aftermath of 11 September, they may be suffering increased difficulties. The conference reviewed the situation of Islam in rural areas in various European countries and then discussed strategies for cross cultural life in Europe. For more information, see <http://www.evangelische-akademie.de>.

UNHCR organized a meeting on Protracted Refugee Situations in Africa on 14 December. In a summary of the meeting, representatives from some 50 African nations reiterated their commitment to helping the uprooted, but urged more international help in tackling the root causes of displacement. The summary also expressed concern over the emerging culture of impunity among some “refugee-exporting” nations in Africa and said more attention should be given to conflict-prevention. A number of delegations expressed fears that if emphasis was placed on local integration, particularly in protracted situations, refugees would have little incentive to return home from countries of asylum. Several delegations expressed support for UNHCR’s proposal for the eventual adoption of an Organization of African Unity resolution on the separation of armed elements from civilian refugee populations but they expressed concern that it was still unclear who should then care for armed groups once they had been separated out. UNHCR replied that it was the responsibility of host governments as UNHCR’s mandate was limited to civilians.

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## **7. Resources**

The US State Department’s Trafficking Office is presently collecting information for its annual report on the status of anti-trafficking work by governments worldwide. Last year’s report is available at [www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/tiprpt/2001/](http://www.state.gov/g/inl/rls/tiprpt/2001/).

The Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research has recently updated its policy briefs on critical issues concerning Afghanistan. The policy briefs “Key Challenges for Recovery in Afghanistan;” “The Role of Islam in Shaping the Future of Afghanistan;” and “Internal Displacement in Afghanistan: New Challenges” are available at <http://www.preventconflict.org/portal/centralasia>.

Human Rights Watch has just published World Report 2002 which is a useful survey of human rights developments during 2001 in specific countries. The volume also includes overviews of particular thematic issues, including refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers. Available from <http://www.hrw.org>.

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia has produced Diversity and Equality for Europe: Annual Report 2000. The report reviews acts of racism and discrimination in the EU, the development of EU policy on combating racism and a review of activities carried out by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. Available on the website at: <http://eumc.eu.int> or to request a hard copy, contact [information@eumc.eu.int](mailto:information@eumc.eu.int).

The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children has produced Against All Odds: Surviving the War on Adolescents which is the result of a participatory research study with adolescents in Northern Uganda. This research is the second in a series of 4 participatory studies with adolescents conducted by the Women's Commission (Kosovo, Sierra Leone and an Asian country to be determined.) In this study, more than 2,000 Ugandan and Sudanese adolescents and adults were interviewed. They reveal that the insecurity of armed conflict, where adolescents are principal targets for murder, abduction, forced recruitment and sexual enslavement, is their top concern. Available from <http://www.womenscommission.org>.

The minutes of the meeting on "Round Table on Carriers' Liability Related to Illegal Immigration" held in Brussels on 30 November 2001, is now available. The meeting included presentations by transport carriers (airlines, railroads, trucking, ferries), government regulators and humanitarian organizations. The meeting revealed the opposition of the transport sector to sanctions for failure to adequately check immigration documents of passengers. For more information, contact the International Road Transport Union, <http://www.iru.org>.

The Immigration Law Practitioners' Association and the Migration Policy Group have published Borders and Discrimination in the European Union which spells out EU rules and practices on borders and visas examined, the Community non-discrimination principle and its potential application to the EU rules on borders and visas, the international human rights framework and conclusions and recommendations. Available from <http://www.ilpa.org.uk>.

The Global IDP database (<http://www.idpproject.org>) run by the Norwegian Refugee Council has been redesigned and now offers coverage of all 47 ongoing situations of conflict-induced internal displacement. The database has access to more than 4000 documents and 240 maps, from over 700 sources.

The International Movement against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism has published Durban and Beyond which provides an overview of the World Conference against Racism. Particular attention is given to issues of migration. Available from <http://www.imadr.org>.

Respect our Rights: Partnership for Equality is now available as the report on the Dialogue with Refugee Women organized by UNHCR and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children in Geneva in June 2001. The report, which is also available on CD-ROM includes issues of concern to refugee women: safety and security and livelihoods as well as sections on building partnerships for equality and UNHCR commitments. Available from UNHCR, Senior Co-ordinator for Refugee Women and Gender Equality Unit, case postale 2500, 1211 Geneva 2 Dépôt, Switzerland.

Oxfam Community Aid Abroad has released Adrift in the Pacific: The Implications of Australia's Pacific Refugee Solution which provides an overview of asylum-seekers in the Pacific, an analysis of Pacific development priorities, issues arising from the Australian program of detention in the Pacific and regional opposition to Australian

*World Council of Churches, Uprooted People, issue no. 18, February 2002.*

policy on asylum-seekers in the Pacific. It provides a useful overview of the regional consequences of Australian policies. Available from Oxfam, 156 George Street, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065.

The Humanitarian Practice Network provides a number of publications in English and French, including "Good Practice Reviews," Network papers, Humanitarian Exchange magazine. The HPN's website offers a wealth of materials for humanitarian practitioners (<http://www.odihpn.org>)

The Brookings-CUNY Project on Internal Displacement has published a Selected Bibliography on the Global Crisis of Internal Displacement which compiles and catalogues some 800 items on the plight of internally displaced persons. In addition to geographic categories, the bibliography includes various thematic categories. Available on the website at <http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/idp.htm>.

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles has published a Study on the availability of free and low-cost legal assistance for asylum-seekers in European states. The study includes information on 25 European countries. The report notes that the availability of legal assistance for asylum-seekers varies widely between EU states and that the gap is still wider when the applicant states of central Europe are considered. The country-by-country report includes information on the availability of legal assistance. For more information, see <http://www.ecre.org>.

UNITED for Intercultural Action (a European network against nationalism, racism, fascism, and in support of migrants and refugees) is running a refugee campaign in 2002 called "The Fatal Realities of 'Fortress Europe.'" Details of the campaign and materials available can be accessed from: <http://www.united.non-profit.nl/pages/refcamp.htm>.

Fordham University and the Center for International Health and Cooperation have announced the creation of the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs. The Institute will coordinate with the University of Geneva and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and will produce the International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance programme. The IDHA is a month-long intensive post-graduate course for professional humanitarian aid workers; it examines the humanitarian crises through lectures, workshops and the exchange of field experiences. The next IDHA will take place in New York in June 2002.

Tony Waters has written Bureaucratizing the Good Samaritan: The Limitations of Humanitarian Relief Operations (Westview Press). The book is about the sociology of humanitarian relief operations worldwide and uses the Rwandan relief operation (1994-96) as a case study.

UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit at UNHCR regularly publishes working papers from its New Issues in Refugee Research series. Among the recent papers published are: citizenship and statelessness in South Asia, Mobility, territoriality and sovereignty in post-colonial Tanzania, the state of asylum: democratization, judicialization, and evolution of refugee policy in Europe, global governance and the evolution of the international refugee regime. Available from <http://www.unhcr.ch> (then click on research/evaluation, then evaluation and policy analysis, and then new issues in refugee research.)

UNHCR has published a new book, entitled Learning for a future: Refugee Education in Developing Countries, ed. By Jeff Crisp, Christopher Talbot and Daiana B. Cipollone. The book examines a wide range of issues relating to refugee

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education and is aimed primarily at field practitioners and refugee programme managers. Available for US\$25.00 from [unpubli@unog.ch](mailto:unpubli@unog.ch). The book is also available online at <http://www.unhcr.ch/pubs/epau/learningfuture/learningtoc.htm>.

The US Committee for Refugees has issued a new report, Sea Change: Australia's New Approach to Asylum Seekers which details the dramatic policy changes initiated by Australia last year. The report details the legislative changes which have taken place in Australia as well as the Pacific solution which Australia is implementing. The report can be downloaded from the USCR website: <http://www.refugees.org>.