



MAY 2012

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT & REFUGEE OFFICE

News

Special Interest

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- World Migration News

The Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations speaks to the ACMRO on Migration



What are the most prevalent ways through which migration is looked upon today?

Migration is a social fact, a given in today's globalized world. With over 214 million people living and working in a country different from the one where they were born, the impact on receiving societies is unavoidable. Most world societies are becoming less homogeneous and visibly pluralistic. Their demographic structure changes. The presence of migrants' bearers of new cultures, religions and lifestyle may create anxiety and even fear. An emotionally critical way of looking at the migration phenomenon tends to see it as a problem; a risk for destabilization of national identity and a threat to security and to accepted ways of life. The first encounter of newcomers with the host society often elicits negative and worried responses with references to

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC
MIGRANT & REFUGEE OFFICE

GPO Box 2720
Canberra ACT 2601

Level 2 Favier House
51 Cooyong Street
Braddon ACT 2612

T: (02) 6201 9848

F: (02) 6247 7466

adminassistant@acmro.catholic.org.au

www.acmro.catholic.org.au



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE



job losses and to the need for strong reforms of migration policies. However, plenty of serious data shows that in the long run migration is a positive factor for the sending and receiving countries as well as for the migrants themselves. Policy makers and the media need to put the accent on the positive contribution of the immigrants to the economy, to development, and to a richer cultural experience. In election campaigns, for example in the on-going one in the USA and in the recent one in France, stereotypes and scapegoating are used to muster votes. Newcomers, however, participate with the native born community in the joint venture of building a common future. The social doctrine of the Church, that gives priority to the unity of the human family before any consideration of geographical and political borders and the divisions they impose, contributes a positive and useful way of looking at migrants: they are persons with equal dignity, same aspirations, bearers of talents that enrich society and of responsibilities for the common good.

At the end of November 2011, Geneva was the place for the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The final document presents a long list of recommendations; how do you foresee these recommendations will impact on migration policies?

For some years now, the international community has been searching for an adequate governance of human mobility. It has developed a series of initiatives of which the GFMD is one. In fact, since 1994 at the UN Cairo Conference on Poverty and Development, internal and international migrations have emerged as a major political issue and I recall the lively discussions we had on that occasion. It became clear that migrations involve countries of departure, transit, and arrival, a process that obviously demand cooperation and some joint planning. At that time, the proposal of a UN Conference on Migration was not accepted then and still now by the immigrant receiving countries. The transnational movement of people, however, called for cooperation to ensure a smooth utilization of needed manpower. In 2003, the UN Secretary General established the Global Commission on international migration that submitted its Report in 2005: it emphasized the links between migration and development, a new global governance, the positive contributions of migrations. In 2006 a High Level Segment on migration was held at the UN General Assembly; it dealt with the Report of the Global Commission and launched the GFMD. In 2006, the Secretary General required the UN agencies involved in some aspects of migration to coordinate among themselves and thus was born the Global Migration Group, a dozen agencies that should share information, avoid duplications, and promote an effective role of migrations. In the meantime, the annual meetings of the GFMD held in Brussels, Manila, Athens, Puerto Vallarta, Geneva, - in 2012 the meeting will be in Mauritius, - will be evaluated in 2013 at a General Assembly UN High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD). This process is not within the UN, but is led by States and it reports to the UN Secretary General through his Special Representative for migration and development. It aims at developing some coherent policy making and institutional building. Regional groups of States on migration seems to me more concrete at present. But the GFMD shows the urgency of dialogue and cooperation, the positive contribution of migration to development - in 2011, remittances to poor countries totaled USD \$372 billion and there is the added cash carried directly by returning migrants estimated by some to be equivalent to fifty percent of the total - and the structural dimension of migration in a globalized world. The GFMD recommendations are not mandatory, but they point the States in the direction of a realistic policy of collaboration. Above all, they recognize the significance of civil society groups in this field and have been progressively including migration in the overall mainstreaming of human rights.

Your Excellency is the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations. In your work, what are the most relevant issues regarding migrants and refugees?

Geneva is in a certain way the capital or center where the concerns of the international community for human mobility: migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, climate displaced people, are dealt with through specific intergovernmental organizations: the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Human Rights Council. The Holy See is a member state of both IOM and UNHCR. Its role is above all that of being the voice of conscience. The Church "expert in humanity" contributes a specific ethical and fraternal dimension

in confronting the challenges that both host countries and migrants face in the process of mutual acceptance and knowledge. In particular, the Representative of the Holy See articulates issues that may disturb or be left aside by political figures even though they are linked to the dignity of every person: respect and fair treatment of migrants independently of legal status; the prevention of administrative detention; equal salary for equal work; the possibility to integrate into the receiving community; the right to family reunion. Perhaps the best starting point the Catholic perspective offers is a deep sense of solidarity and the overall positive view of migration that in the long run brings benefit to everyone. It provides a counter-cultural approach at this moment in history when the economic crisis and election time manipulations allow communication media and public opinion to portray migrants in a negative light as if they were a cause rather than victims of the current situation. New categories of forcibly displaced people that protracted violence and violation of fundamental rights and that climate change and other disasters compel to abandon their home and seek refuge and a decent living in different places constitute a challenge for the international community to develop adequate instruments of legal protection. We need to be creative in reaching out to these persons and enlarge the horizon even though the current climate makes States reluctant to undertake new legal initiatives of protection. At the same time, I make it a point to remind everyone that the first right and preference for most people is to remain at home and enjoy there a decent life.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first and only Apostolic Constitution on migrant and refugees, *Exsul Familia*. (Pius XII, 1952). Given how much the phenomenon of migration has changed since 1952, is it time for a new Apostolic Constitution or an Apostolic Exhortation which could be the result of a Synod of Bishops on the relevance of Migration for the Church?

In paying attention to migrants, the Church has anticipated States in addressing the phenomenon of migration in a constructive way. *Exsul Familia* is certainly a milestone in this service of the Church and it helped the resettlement of the uprooted masses of people that World War II and its aftermath left unprotected and scattered all over Europe. Today migrations are global and in many ways a structural component of economic development as well as a major political issue because of the pluralism they introduce in every society. Since the post-war period the Church has continued to reflect and refine its pastoral action among migrants. The new Codes of Latin and Oriental Canon Law, the *Motu Proprio* and Instruction On the Pastoral Care of Migrants of Paul VI, and the many messages and speeches on this subject by John Paul II constitute an impressive body of doctrine. It would seem that the moment has arrived when the social and juridical changes that have occurred in the world in the last sixty years together with the insights provided by the Second Vatican Council and its application to the pastoral care of uprooted people should be combined and formulated into a major document that would embody worldwide practical response for today. The practical solution could be an encyclical or an Apostolic Constitution that once again would place the Church in the lead in answering the expectations for an effective governance of migrations and for the imaginative forms of pastoral care and evangelization required by a radically changed missionary imperative. The missions have come to us and the migrant workers witness the Gospel message in completely new milieus.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of mandatory detention for asylum seekers who arrived by boat in Australia. How do you see the role of the Catholic Church in working towards reconciling the sovereignty of nations to control their borders versus the right of people to seek asylum?

Detention of asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants is a particularly complex problem. To deprive a person of liberty and of freedom of movement should be only a last resort measure. Of course, the State has a right to determine who can enter its territory, but the criteria for such decisions have to be framed with fairness and the necessary proportion within the common good not just of a country but of the whole human family. Today a decision taken in Tokyo is felt instantly in London and New York. In our interconnected world, global responsibility is an ethical requirement. Unfortunately, camps for foreigners in Europe and Mediterranean countries are by the dozen. The steps taken in Australia, thanks to the persistent arguing of the Catholic Church and other denominations, of releasing into the community asylum-seekers has proven doable and healthy. Other traditional immigration countries can imitate this good practice and example. The Church's role on the issue of migrations is now consolidated by long experience. It motivates people to act in a just and friendly way toward newcomers and to advocate on their behalf. It provides emergency services and ease the path to integration. It builds bridges and defends the dignity of every person without distinctions of any kind. In many urban neighbourhoods the Church is the real point of reference and encounter for native born and foreigners and its facilities are welcoming to all. Peaceful coexistence is made easier. New demands and



new responses, but the Church's long tradition among the migrants remains steady and effective: religious women combating trafficking of persons, priests delivering specialized pastoral care, lay people advocating fair treatment and solidarity with newcomers, all inspired by the Gospel's mandate to love one's neighbour.

We know you follow closely the development of migration policy in Australia and the response of the Catholic Church. What insights can you share with us from your international experience?

The newest continent, Australia has been formed by immigrants and it continues to welcome them and being changed and developed by their contribution. In this dynamic process, it becomes clear that migrants are not just functional to the economy or a burden for society. If the initial moment of settlement of newcomers demands comprehension and assistance for them on the part of Australian society, the end result is quite positive. The Church keeps this positive view present in the formulation of policies. Then, the conviction that none is a stranger in the Church can extend both to the world as globalization increasingly affects every country through information and communication technology, trade and travel, and brings us closer together and to society at large to make possible living together in mutual enrichment and conviviality. With persisting crises and renewed flows of forcibly displaced people, Australia can play a leading role within the international community by its generous acceptance of people in need of a new home, an example that I hope will be contagious.

Smt/9 May 2012

Orientale Lumen Conference

Orientale Lumen: Australasia and Oceania IV

Churches East and West
Questioning the Modern Context

Melbourne, Australia
4-7 July 2012



The Most Rev. Bruno Forte
Archbishop of Chieti-Vasto

Mgr. Peter Fleetwood
Archdiocese of Liverpool

Prof. Pavel Gavriluk
University of St Thomas, Minnesota

Prof. Michael A. Gillespie
Faculty of Philosophy, Arts and Sciences, Duke University

Prof. David Bentley Hart
Eastern Orthodox Scholar and Theologian

Rev. Prof. Anthony Kelly CSsR
Australian Catholic University

The Most Rev. Porfirije Perić
Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Belgrade

Rev. Prof. Robert Gribben (Moderator)
Co-Secretary, International Methodist-Orthodox Theological Dialogue

www.orientalelumen.com.au



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Act Justly

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

*"For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share"*

Australian National Anthem

How true is that in Australia today?

Join us for a day of insightful speakers and lively discussion as we work together to find a way forward on the issue of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Join the Conversation

WHEN: 10.30am – 3.30pm, Sunday 24th June 2012

WHERE: De La Salle College Hall, Bland Street, Ashfield

COST: \$20 per person, \$10 concession

KEY NOTE SPEAKER



Paul Power – CEO of the Refugee Council of Australia
*The situation in Australia
for Refugees and Asylum Seekers – THE FACTS.*

COMMUNITY EXPO

Find out what opportunities are available for you
to support Refugees and Asylum Seekers

AFTERNOON DISCUSSION

Sharing from Refugees and Asylum Seekers about their journey

To register

Please complete the registration attached below or visit
www.vincentswyd.org.au or contact Lisa Bright for more information at:
wyd@cmaustralia.org or 0419 418 547.

This
venue is
wheelchair
accessible

Participants
under 18
must be
accompanied
by a parent or
guardian

JOIN US ON
**Sunday
24 June
2012**

The day will include:

- Keynote speakers
- Personal stories
- Community Expo
- Meals

**Only \$20 per person
\$10 concession**

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Act Justly

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Registration Form

Registration is due by COB 15 JUNE, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

The registration fee is payable via cheque, money order, direct deposit or a cash payment on the day.

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to FAMVIN Australia and can be sent to: PO Box 1114, ASHFIELD NSW 1800

Direct Deposits can be made to FAMVIN Australia via:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Acc Name: FAMVIN Australia
BSB: 064000
Acc Number: 00325284

Please note: cash payments on the day still require a registration form to be completed by 15 June for catering and admin purposes.

Registration forms can be submitted via email or regular mail to:
wyd@cmaustralia.org OR PO Box 1114, ASHFIELD NSW 1800

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 24th June 2012.

For more info

Please contact Lisa Bright at: wyd@cmaustralia.org or 0419 418 547

This venue is wheelchair accessible

Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

JOIN US ON
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The day will include:

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World Refugee Day Art Competition: One refugee without hope is too many

CANBERRA, Australia, May 4 - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has today launched an Art Contest for Australian and New Zealand school children to promote education about refugee issues and promote a culture of respect and tolerance.

School children of all ages are invited to create works of art illustrating the theme of World Refugee Day 2012, which is "One refugee without hope is too many".

The twelve winning entries will be announced in the lead up to World Refugee Day on 20 June 2012 and will be included in UNHCR's 2013 calendar.

UNHCR Regional Representative Richard Towle said today that the lead up to World Refugee Day is an appropriate time to reflect on what communities can do to help UNHCR to help refugees rebuild their lives.

"I hope as many students as possible take part in this Contest and in some informed, fact-based discussions on the challenges facing refugees and asylum-seekers around the world," said Mr Towle.

"We hope people in communities all around Australia and New Zealand will reflect on the simple statement, 'one refugee without hope is too many', and think about what causes conflict and displacement and what we can do to help those who are forced to flee to find safety, regain hope, and rebuild their lives."

UNHCR has a range of materials and information that teachers and students can access to stimulate discussion on these issues which can be accessed, along with more information about the Contest and World Refugee Day, at www.unhcr.org.au or by contacting aulcapi@unhcr.org or +61 2 6281 9108.

Entries close on 30 May 2012.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

20 JUNE 2012

World Refugee Day Bulletin No. 2
21 May 2012

1 refugee without hope
is too many.

WRD 2012 Posters

You can now order your free World Refugee Day 2012 posters, as well as brochures and other materials designed for schools, community groups and NGOs for education and promotion about refugees.

The 2012 World Refugee Day poster reflects our continued promotion of the theme One Refugee Without Hope is Too Many.

Our second Poster for 2012 highlights the Dilemmas faced by refugees and asylum-seekers everyday, asking people what would you do if you were in the same situation.

In the lead up to World Refugee Day on 20 June 2012, we hope you'll reflect on these ideas and think about what you can do in your local community to raise awareness of the plight of people who are forced to flee to find safety.

You can start by downloading your free resource order form at www.unhcr.org.au and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates and information on World Refugee Day.

Art Contest Update

UNHCR would like to thank the contestants who have already sent in their entries. The Art works have set a high standard and we are looking forward to the rest.

For those who haven't entered you can still get involved and support UNHCR to rebuild the lives of those forced from their homes.

Entries for the '1 refugee without hope is too many' Art Contest for schools in Australia and New Zealand close on **30 May 2012**.

Find out more about the Art Contest on our website.

Why do refugees need protection?

States are responsible for protecting the fundamental human rights of their citizens. When they are unable or unwilling to do so - often for political reasons or based on discrimination - individuals may suffer such serious violations of their human rights that they have to leave their homes, their families and their communities to find sanctuary in another country. Since, by definition, refugees are not protected by their own governments, the international community steps in to ensure they are safe and protected.



Each year key national institutions in Canberra participate in World Refugee Day celebrations by lighting their buildings in UN blue to coincide with the lighting of the Jet d'eau in Geneva where UNHCR headquarters is based.

This is one of the activities that provides important celebratory gestures in the nation's capital honouring the courage and resilience of refugees. Some of the participating buildings this year will be:

National Archives of Australia
National Library of Australia
Old Parliament House
National Gallery of Australia
Questacon

Keep an eye out at night from mid-June!

 **UNHCR**
The UN Refugee Agency



WEDNESDAY, 23 May 2012

MEDIA RELEASE - POLITICIANS UNITE ACROSS PARTY LINES TO INVITE AUSTRALIANS TO 'WALK TOGETHER' WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES AND OTHER NEW ARRIVALS ON JUNE 23

Minister Kate Lundy, Greens Leader Senator Christine Milne and Liberal MP Judi Moylan, with Welcome to Australia founder and director Brad Chilcott and ambassadors for the organisation Mr Steve Georganas MP and Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, today invited Australians to join 'Walk Together' events across the nation in June.

Welcome to Australia founder and director Brad Chilcott today said "Australians have grown weary of the rhetoric of fear and division and know that the health of their community relies on an atmosphere of welcome and an real opportunity for all people to belong. Australians are by nature inclusive and compassionate people. Aboriginal Australians, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants old and new - we have many and varied stories, but we are one community. And for the sake of our future health and prosperity we must learn to Walk Together. On June 23, thousands of Australians will visibly demonstrate the future we believe is possible this by walking together in cities across our nation." Joining Mr Chilcott today in Canberra, parliamentarians from all three major parties encouraged Australians to join the nation-wide walks in celebration of diversity and in solidarity with asylum seekers, refugees and other new arrivals.

"I am deeply touched by the new generations of Australians who are participating in this great program to help refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to settle and feel welcome in their new home."

Labor Minister Kate Lundy said, "Our community is enhanced by our diversity and among countries around the world we are unique in the breadth and balance of cultures. For the most part, we are a nation comprised of people who have consciously chosen to be Australians."

"In fact since the first citizenship ceremony in 1949 we have welcomed 4.5 million people to the Australian family.

Greens Leader Senator Christine Milne echoed these sentiments saying, "Despite all the divisive language from politicians and sections of the media, I truly believe that Australians are a generous and welcoming people. Events like Walk Together give us the chance to have that compassionate voice heard and speak loudly and clearly for a positive vision of Australia, confident of our place in the world."

Liberal MP Judi Moylan sent a written statement, "Supporting Walk Together was an easy decision for me. Growing up in a rural Australia, I was in awe of those brave and courageous people who fled their homelands in Europe following the war, to come to a safe haven in Australia. Many could not speak English, had to take labouring jobs and start their lives over again without the support of families and friends. These refugees were welcome guests at our family home. My parents set a fine example of the spirit of Australia in accepting and welcoming newcomers."

Walk Together takes place at 1pm on Saturday the 23rd of June in nine cities, including Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Darwin, Newcastle, Rockhampton, Fremantle, Hobart and on Friday June 8 in Brisbane. The initiative is supported by a raft of celebrities, politicians for all major parties, sports stars, activists and music industry identities. As part of national Refugee Week, Walk Together is also supported by Amnesty Australia, Mission Australia, Anglicare, the Oaktree Foundation, the Refugee Council of Australia, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia and many other organisations.

Brad Chilcott, founder of the national volunteer movement Welcome to Australia, said, "Walk Together will be a public demonstration of the Australia that is possible when we begin to see the humanity and common hope of all people regardless of their nationality, background or method of arrival to Australia. Thousands of Australians will Walk Together as a visible expression of the welcoming, inclusive and compassionate nation we must become if we are to thrive and prosper in coming years."

For more information or for interviews call Brad Chilcott (Welcome to Australia National Director) 0410 548 637

brad@welcometoaustralia.org.au

<http://www.welcometoaustralia.org.au>

World Migration News May 2012

Democratic Republic of Congo, 22 May

Recent fighting between armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo and supporters of former rebel commander Bosco Ntaganda has seen a new influx of displaced people into south-west Uganda. In the latest influx, a further 13,000-15,000 people crossed the border from the North Kivu province.

In the border town of Bunagana, around 6,000-7,000 Congolese have been camping in the area by using local shelter and open space. The UNHCR has transported about 1,000 people from Bunagana to a transit centre at Nyakabande, while just over 6,000 others made their own way.

Due to Nyakabande becoming overcrowded, the UNHCR has provided transportation to those who are willing to travel to the Rwamwanja settlement, which is about an eight hour's drive to the north. Despite the efforts of the UNHCR there are many who wish to stay close to the border as they are hopeful that the on-off fighting will come to an end so that they can return to their homes.

Since 29 April 2012, there have been at least 20,000 people who have fled their homes for Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu, and a further 3,500 have crossed the border into Rwanda. According to JRS Great Lakes Director, Tony Calleja, there is "good reason to believe that at least 30,000 people are seeking refuge in other areas of the Congolese province".

People in Goma have found refuge with friends and family, as well as in a Protestant church and a nearby school. The humanitarian needs of these people is demanding, in particular, access to drinking water, suitable sanitary facilities, food, and other basic necessities.

In Mugunga, which is just outside Goma, humanitarian assistance is severely lacking, especially with the distribution of food. One lady reported that it had been more than 24 hours since she'd last eaten. Friends of hers gave her some food, but she had to share it with her seven children.

In response to impromptu population movements in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the JRS has set up an emergency assistance project, which focuses on providing education services to primary school children, and the distribution of food and other necessities.

Mayotte, May 22

The UNHCR reported that at least five people, including three children, drowned off the French territory of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean when a small boat hit coral reefs. There were 19 rescued survivors, however another 15 people are missing and feared drowned.

Mayotte authorities reported that some survivors were left clinging to the half-sunken boat overnight, and were rescued the next morning by a group of divers from a local club.

According to an UNHCR spokesman, "the seas around Mayotte are the scene of irregular movements of migrants and refugees searching for a better life or protection from persecution and war". Many of these movements occur without the documentation and pose as a significant risk to those attempting them. Asylum seekers are accountable for a small percentage of these movements and over the last two years their numbers have risen.

The UNHCR provides assistance to the local authorities and civil society both in France and its overseas territories in dealing with the problems faced by mixed flows of irregular migrants and asylum seekers.

