



# Resettlement Newsletter

Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

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CCME has the pleasure to circulate its fifth Resettlement Newsletter!

This issue will follow the steps undertaken by the delegation who participated to the Capacity building visit to North America, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2006, focused on the role of NGOs in resettling refugees in the USA and on the large sponsorship model in Canada.

The delegation met in New York to analyse the common goals of the visit; afterwards it divided itself in two subgroups one stayed in the USA while the other went to Canada. The reason for this unusual study visit is due to the fact that they are the biggest resettlement countries along with Australia and besides, both, Canada and USA, have a particular Resettlement Programme, which is very different one from the other.

Therefore we do encourage you to read carefully the articles and to discover the differences of the two models; this clearly shows that there is no a standard resettlement pattern and it gives an extra hope to Europe in developing its own scheme taking in consideration the differences among the European countries.

Finally, we would like to inform you that from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of June the capacity building visit to Kenya took place, focused on understanding the selection process of resettlement and the role of the various organizations working with refugees. Furthermore the visit gave the opportunity to the delegation's members to see the situation in which most of the Refugees come from and to stress, once they were back, the real need to increase resettlement in Europe, as one of the protection tool for people in need and as one tool of responsibility sharing. There will be space for reporting the study visit to Kenya in the next issue of the Resettlement Newsletter.

The project will end with a Final Conference which will take place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in Brussels.

Thank you very much for your comments and support that are really helpful and more than welcome. Once again, take your time and let the Newsletter speak for itself. Enjoy the reading!

Best regards,

Alessia Passarelli  
Communication Coordinator  
of the Refugee Resettlement Project



*"For I was a stranger,  
and you welcomed me."*

Matthew  
25:35b

## Refugees' Voices: Ramatoulaye (Senegalese refugee resettled to Baltimore)

"Travelling here was hard. In the plane, I felt kind of lost. I didn't know anybody who I could speak with. I was by myself with my son. And when I was coming I spent the night at an Inn in New York. It was very hard. I was out of money and my son was crying. He wanted something to eat, and I didn't know where to get him anything. I went to ask somebody downstairs, but they say, 'There is nothing to eat here.' But I tell him that I cannot stay like that. My son is crying and I don't have any money - because all the money I have is CFA [the currency of Senegal] from my country. It doesn't work anything here. And then somebody gave me a bottle of milk and some other food I don't know. I wasn't able to eat it because it was my first time, but my son took the milk. I went to bed and slept. The next morning I took the plane to Ronald Reagan Airport, and my husband came to pick me up. Then I spent the whole day sleeping because I was so tired. I was so tired."

In <http://www.theirc.org/photoessays/index.cfm?essayID=11&thisstartrow=1>

Resettlement is a transfer of refugees from a country of first asylum where they cannot stay to a third one

# Doing the “extra bit” for refugee protection

Facts and impression from the visit to Canada

by *Torsten Moritz*

The three-person delegation, which studied the Canadian experience during the capacity building visit to North America, returned very impressed with the Canadian model: impressed in different ways.

It was certainly the sheer amount of information received and the number of persons met and organisation visited, which in itself was impressive:

(Coming from the joint starting meeting with the whole North America delegation in New York, ) the delegation on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> had the chance to meet representatives of different departments in the Canadian governments Citizenship and Immigration office in Ottawa. These meetings set a frame for understanding the intention of the Canadian government to maintain and further support resettlement as an important tool of refugee protection (in debates inside Canada and internationally). Meetings with governmental representatives were complemented with meeting UNHCR's and churches' advocacy offices in the Canadian capital, who also underlined the importance of resettlement as one of several different refugee protection tools. Meetings in Toronto on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> helped to look at the practicalities of work, in particular sponsorship of refugees and integration: how different civil society groups – be it churches, ethnic community groups (such as the Afghan Women's group, the Somali “Midaynta” association) or just ad hoc groups of five committed individuals could decide to “sponsor” a refugee. The delegation witnessed that an impressive network of sponsoring organisa-



The delegation in Canada.

tions has developed in which expertise is exchanged internally and with positions discussed with government.

Integration was another issue addressed with a variety of organisations practically working on integration as well as with representatives of the city of Toronto, a city in which according to official statistics 52 % of the current population have been born outside Canada. Meetings here and in the smaller town of Hamilton on the 28th underlined the dynamic development, in which the government provides support to organisations assisting integration and where civil society organisations offer space and support not instead of the government but in addition to what the government does.

Among the different experiences, the most impressive however possibly was the overall spirit in which the different initiatives work themselves and also with government.

The enthusiasm felt by previous sponsors as well as the impressive stories how this sponsorship could mobilise community support for

refugees were certainly a strong contrast to the experiences by activist supporting refugees across Europe. The notion of Canada as a country of immigrants was echoed in every meeting and did not seem to be empty rhetoric, but rather the starting point of any debate. Despite the frustration felt among activists that in a number of

cases, the own understanding of protection needs was not shared by Immigration officials and the intended sponsorship not going ahead, a feeling of basically having similar aims was very apparent.

While there is concern about Canadian asylum policies adopting elements such as the “safe third country” concept, it also seemed to be taken for granted that there was no way of seeing resettlement as an alternative to the asylum system. It was equally clear that the private sponsorship of refugees in Canada would in no way constitute an excuse for the Canadian government to reduce its own resettlement quota. All meeting partners underlined that, if the government were to pursue policies of reducing resettlement quotas, it would be asked by parties across parliament why it failed to reach the resettlement target. After our visit, I have started to hope that I will live to see the day where a government in Europe will have to justify itself in parliament for not taking in enough refugees.

**Resettlement is not an alternative to the spontaneous asylum seeking**

# Migrant organizations building Canadian civil society

*By Kati Turtiainen*

The role of the immigrant's organizations in Canada is essential for the resettlement and integration of the newcomers. Those organizations were a great example of society and communities, where Civil Society really functions. In this article I will describe shortly two organizations, Midaynta and SISO, but I will concentrate on Afghan -women's organization, which is a wonderful example of resettling refugees from Islamabad and Nairobi through a refugee sponsorship program. All these organizations are huge compared to Scandinavian community-based or immigrant-based service provider organizations. In my civil servant's eyes those organizations seemed like small miracles compared to practises of a country with a recent immigration history like Finland. In Canadian Civil society, the main responsibility in many communities and towns (as we saw in Hamilton) organizations runs all the activities just collaborating with other local services and NGO's.

## **Midaynta and SISO as an employer and service provider**

Midaynta is considered one of the largest continental African Canadian agencies in Toronto, serving the largest community from the continent of Africa. A starting point was at the peak of Somali influx into Canada in 1993: a working group comprised of stakeholders from the Somali service organizations, official representatives from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, individuals from the legal profession, and Somali community leaders convened to establish a project that provides family reunification services to the refugees from war-torn Somalia. We met brahim Absiye, executive director I of this big organisation, which has 18 different projects, employs 25 workers and has 85 volunteers donate there skills and time to the programs. They have, among all the programs of integration and research, for ex. the very special fam-

ily support programs and services that promotes preventive measures to combat family violence and breakdown. They combine a very creative way the ideas of different ethnic communities, Canadian law and multicultural practices of child welfare. They use really successfully the strength of the ethnic community for the best interest of the child. For example, they support a new family or parents for certain period in taking care of the children while the parents are solving their practical problems. From my point of view, which reflects Scandinavian welfare state, that means taking up the whole responsibility in line with the child protection act.

We visited SISO (Settlement and Integration Services organisation) in Hamilton, near Toronto. Our host was the enthusiastic Executive Director Morteza Jafarpour. SISO is another example of huge organization with over 50 staff and 700 volunteers, where immigrants work successfully in providing services to the newcomers and developing local community. SISO is another community-based organization, which exists to serve immigrant and refugee communities in Hamilton and advocates/asserts/supports the right of all people to fully participate in the social, economic and cultural life of society.

I had an impression that SISO provides all the possible services, which a multicultural community could ever need - from political discussions and employers training to community health buses, mentorship programs and hate crime prevention activities. They pointed out that usually mainstream service providers are focusing on adults or parents in the family. Their assesment was that 80% of all the newcomers are under-aged, i.e. children and as a conclusion the service providers must focus on developing methods for

children and youth.

Marufa Shinwari, a manger of Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), explained us that program, which provides temporary accommodation and essential services to meet the immediate needs of government sponsored refugees and facilitate their settlement and integration. Government sponsored refugees mean that they are fully funded by the Government and the initial reception and orientation support is provided by Resettlement Assistance Provider Organization like SISO.

## **Community based sponsorship program - Afghan -Canadian women**

The Afghan Women's Counselling and Integration Community Support Organization (AWO) is an example a multi-service settlement agency whose mandate is to assist Afghan women and their families, in all aspects of adaptation and integration into Canadian society. The AWO is also mandated to facilitate the resettlement of Afghan and other refugees from overseas through a refugee sponsorship program. Moreover, the AWO provides assistance to Afghan refugees overseas and to vulnerable groups in Afghanistan through lobbying, advocacy, direct assistance, relief, education and income generation programs. AWO originated from the Women's Committee of the Afghan Association of Ontario and was incorporated in



Meeting Midaynta



June 1990. The Afghan-Canadian population, which was very small until the early 1970s, is now estimated to be over 20 000. The organization at present employs 51 workers.

AWO started from the observation, that women's settlement needs were unique and required separate representation from men's needs. They felt that the women of the community could benefit from distinct representation, which would address their unique needs. However, they are also spiritual role models for their families and community and maintain links between mainstream society, their children, family and friends. Thus, the focus of their services is on women, believing that their well-being is important and directly influences and supports the successful adaptation of all other members of their families and communities. Now, in tenth year of operation, the AWO has expanded its services to successfully meet the continuing and rising needs of an ever growing Afghan community in

Metropolitan Toronto and Mississauga.

Their sponsorship program initially started with an agreement with the United Church of Canada in order to sponsor Afghan refugees (families were sponsored and families have successfully arrived in Canada under the above agreement). In 1997 the organization signed a sponsorship agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada; 54 families have been sponsored and one family has arrived. Also, the organization has engaged in 3 joint sponsorships with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Joint assistance sponsorship means that the organizations constituent groups work together with government: for the first 24 months, the government provides financial assistance, while sponsoring groups provide community and emotional support and orientation, and ensure access to appropriate resettlement services. This category could include special needs related to emotional problems - resulting from the refugee experience, physical or mental

disabilities, and unusual family configurations such as families with large numbers of children, elderly parents, separated minors etc.

AWO is also an example of how many associations started to grow wider and later plays a really significant role in the community having big funds from federal, provincial, and municipal governments and other foundations to provide services in the areas of resettlement like counselling, orientation, job search etc.

All the visited organization provide highly professional multicultural programs and services. It was also surprising how conscious all the people we met were of all the levels of migration issues, from the gaps of the policy to effects of war traumas in the practical level. I also was very surprised, how organisations are able to recruit huge amounts of volunteers using their time, skills and care for building civil society, where people not only ask: I sell - You buy (my skills and time).

## What do you think about the capacity building visit to Canada?

1) How would you describe the refugees' resettlement in Canada/ USA?

The refugees' resettlement in Canada comes off in so many ways from the full government supported refugees to the whole responsibility of the private sponsors. The role of the NGO:s and churches was significant. They were able to recruit huge amounts of volunteers of using there material and mental capacity to that work. The Canadian Society seemed to welcome refugees and immigrants to Canada being proud of seeing that as a significant issue of Canadian identity. Government and Civil Society put a lot of effort of building multicultural society.

The problem was unemployment among the educated middle-aged refugees. They could not find the work that is comparable to their education. The costs of living at the area of Toronto was also very problematic,

because people could not afford to resettle there if they were unemployed or had very low paid jobs.

Visa office makes all decisions of request and applications of the eligibility of the refugees; the big number of rejected application was also a big question among the sponsors, who wants special cases.

2) how could you report this experience in your own country?

I will send our report (and discuss) to the coordinators of immigrant work in the municipalities and to the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities that is made up of the towns and municipalities in Finland. I will also discuss with the authorities in the labour ministry, who are responsible of resettling refugees in Finland. I will discuss with Church Council and try to find the best way of lobbying Finnish Government to have more

flexible resettlement practices. Information is going to spread from those palaces to the NGO:s and local level of the churches and municipalities.

## Who went to Canada?

**Torsten Moritz, CCME,  
Belgium**

**Christoph Riedl, Diakonie,  
Austria**

**Kati Turtiainen, Immigration  
Service, Finland**

# Resettlement in the USA: a smooth way to normal life?

By Reyes Castillo

Under the project "*Understanding resettlement in practice: capacity building for action*", a delegation of three representatives from three European countries visited the US from the 22nd to the 30th of April.

The US delegation was supported by the Church World Service (CWS). An intense and comprehensive round of visits were set up to hold interviews with the different stakeholders of the US Resettlement Program, from official administration to NGOs, resettled families and social and legal workers involved in the process. The starting point was in Washington where they did have the opportunity to meet representatives of the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Refugee Council. Afterwards they moved onto the field to see how resettlement programmes are set in place into two different locations with varying experiences and targeted groups of persons to resettle: Atlanta (Georgia) and Columbus (Ohio).

First of all, to be able to understand how the Resettlement Program works in US, we would like to highlight certain basic and particular notions of the US Resettlement Program:

- Who are we talking about?  
**Refugee definition versus asylum concept**

*"Asylum status and refugee status are closely related. They differ only in the place where a person asks for the status. Asylum is asked for in the United States; refugee status is asked for outside of the United States. However, all people who are granted asylum must meet the definition of a refugee"* ([www.immihelp.com/gc/asylum.html#Introduction](http://www.immihelp.com/gc/asylum.html#Introduction)).

Refugee definition: "... someone outside his or her



The delegation meets with CRISS, Church World Service (CWS) affiliate in Columbus

*country of nationality ...who is unable or unwilling to return...because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership to a particular social group or political opinion".*

- What are "Volags"?

They are private voluntary agencies, many of them church-affiliated, which have contracts with the US Department of State to receive refugees and provide for their sponsored resettlements. It's not a closed list; it's decided on a yearly basis by the US Government. The actual ones are: *Church World Service (CWS), World Relief Corporation (WR), Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), Immigration and Refugee Service of America (IRSA), International Rescue Committee (IRC), U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), State of Iowa.*

- Where refugees come from? Who decide who is coming? In 2006 the official figures (ceiling) were distributed as follows: Africa: 20,000 - East Asia: 15,000 - Europe/Central Asia: 15,000 - Latin America: 5,000 - Near East/South Asia: 5,000 - Unallocated Reserve: 10,000 - Totals: 70,000. However, it is very important to mention

that the real estimated number to be resettled is much lower, based on the already approved national budget for the program. And it is decided on a yearly basis through the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program.

- What is their legal status? They are allowed to reside permanently in the States and to apply for citizenship after 5 years.

Taking into account these notions, the findings of the mission could be summarized as follows:

1. All the stakeholders stress the negative influence of the 11 September 2001 attacks for the resettlement program. It provoked serious changes, with the inclusion of very long security clearance processes and the entering into force of the "*material support*" clause. This clause states that new circumstances and categories of activities may provoke an individual to be considered ineligible for admission based upon terrorist grounds.
2. Two ruling concepts drive the US resettlement program: first of all the free movement of the refugee under the resettlement program; secondly, the guiding

principle of the program to define objectives and activities: self-sufficiency and independence of the refugee. Finding a job, almost immediately, has been established as the main objective and almost the only way to be considered integrated within the North American society. This situation is the result of the flexibility of the US labour market and of the stress put on the refugees to consider the unskilled labour or entry-level jobs as a starting point.

3. On several occasions it was emphasized that the individual screening was always required, regardless of the categories for resettlement.
4. It is always very important to be aware of the many differences among different states of the USA, although national general guidelines are used as a framework. These depend on the stakeholders representatives on every State, on the groups of interest to be resettled, on discretionary grants to States and to Non-Profits organisations as well as on the autonomy of the NGOs to use one tool or another to achieve their objectives.
5. The resettlement cases can be divided mainly into three categories or priorities, according to the legal

basis under which they are selected: *Individual referrals*, provided by UNHCR, U.S. embassies or NGOs; *Group referrals*, used for groups of special humanitarian concern to the U.S. which are designated for resettlement processing; *Family Reunification Cases*.

6. In Atlanta, the refugees are welcomed by the RRISA Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta. The organization uses the *Match Grant Program* instead of cash assistance for refugees who want to work but need some financial help first. Those who enrol in this program promise to get a job as soon as possible. In return, they receive increased financial assistance and job counselling and placement services for their first 4 months. They have to choose between "*Employment Fund*", which is provided by the State during a maximum of 8 months, until the day they start to work, and "*Match Grant*", provided by the NGOs, up to 3 months and including 2 months of house renting. Both funds are not compatible.
7. Columbus (Ohio) was visited as an example of an "*Unanticipated arrivals*" phenomenon, caused by more than 10.000 persons of Somali origin

moving and settled down in that city in less than one year, attracted by members of the same community and the chances of finding cheaper housing than in other States.

The main conclusion stressed by the mission is the central role played by the NGOs in the development and advocacy of and for the US Resettlement Program, not only within the country but as well as Overseas Processing Entities. NGOs base their acting on the relevance of the Networking and Sponsorship within the community where they work, in order to guarantee a high level of involvement of that community. At the same time, they are acting as a main actor for the creation, capacity-building, sustainability and development of the refugee community organizations as stakeholder of the program. Among all these NGOs, the Church-based organizations play a key role in making understood the US Resettlement Program.



The delegation visited a Meskhetian Turk family resettled to Atlanta, throughout RRISA an affiliate of CWS and EMM.

## A refugee story from Columbus

*By Sharif-Ali Hashim*

I am Sharif-Ali Hashim and have 16 years of formal education. I speak excellent English, Italian, Arabic, Somali and Swahili. Before relocating to the U.S., I worked as a teacher in Mogadishu, Somalia and a salesperson in the Persian Gulf.

In 1991 when the war erupted in Somalia, I escaped with my family and ended up in a refugee camp in Mombassa, Kenya. There were 23,000 refugees in the camp. The Somali Be-

nadir community within the camp elected 19 members among themselves to help organize daily camp activities and to work with the outside world for relocation. I served as vice chairman and chairman of this group. After 4 and half years in the camp, my family was among 3,400 who were granted resettlement in 24 states throughout the U.S.

In 1996, I arrived in the United States and was resettled in Richmond, Virginia. After one

week I began working with the Virginia Council of Churches, an affiliate of Church World Service, as an interpreter with the Somali community resettled in Virginia. I then was promoted to case manager, then to employment specialist.

In July 1996, a conference was held in Washington, D.C. for the Somali Benadir community to determine their needs as they adjust to life in the U.S. At that meeting, I was elected president of the Somali Benadir Community in the U.S.A. In 1999, the Office of



## Refugee

Resettlement held a meeting where the Benadir community came together to evaluate their progress over the past 4-year period. At this meeting, I was re-elected to another 6-year term as president. During my tenure in office, I have been a part of more than 30 conferences covering refugee resettlement issues. Mr. David Derthick, Refugee Training Coordinator for International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Nairobi, Kenya, said, "I have worked with Sharif across a wide variety of important and sensitive issues, and I always found him to be straight forward and willing to take appropriate action no matter how difficult or unpopular."

In 2000, my family and I moved to Columbus, Ohio, where I began work with Church World Service/



Sharif-Ali Hashim at the Samali's Mall in Columbus

CROP Ohio Regional Office as a project professional doing community development and fundraising.

In 2003, I began working with Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), an affiliate of Church World Service. At CRIS I have held numerous positions working with, not only my own Somali community, but refugees from many other countries.

Refugees coming to the U.S. face many challenges. My responsibility is to help each person stand on his own feet. I do this by meeting them upon arrival at the airport, serving as a translator, and giving them orientation about how to adjust to life in the U.S. I also provide transporta-

tion for health screening and to the Department of Family and Job Services to complete paperwork to apply for benefits. I also help them with job interviews and finding employment and locating housing. The biggest challenges refugees face when arriving in the U.S. are the language barrier, transportation and cultural adjustment.

As president of the Somali Benedirs, I am able to help my community with their cultural adjustment by visiting homes, talking by phone, listening to concerns, offering direction and guidance, and keeping the lines of communication open.

I feel very fortunate to have the position that I do with CRIS as I am able to help not only my Benadir Community but people from all over the world as they are able to fulfil their dreams here in America, the land of opportunity.

## Let's talk with Joseph Roberson (CWS)

By Alessia Passarelli

1) *Resettlement in the US seems to work really well (the figures, although after September 11 have been dramatically reduced, are still very high) but does refugees' resettlement affect the asylum procedure in the US?*

Refugee Resettlement in the U.S. does not have a bearing on the asylum procedures. To enter the U.S. as a refugee, this status must be granted while still overseas. Asylum applications are made upon entry into the U.S.

2) *How important is the advocacy work that NGOs do together?*

The advocacy work that NGOs do on behalf of refugees and immigrants is crucial in order to keep America a welcoming place for newcomers. Efforts by the NGO's alert members of Congress and the public to the contributing role newcomers play in our society. Additionally, advocacy has protected the program from the de-

structive efforts of anti-immigrant groups.

3) *Are the NGOs involved in the "selection" process? If yes, which is the role of CWS?*

For the U.S. Refugee Program, NGO's are not involved in the selection process, this is the purview of the U.S. government. NGO's can make referrals to the program and NGO's, like CWS, are involved in the processing of refugees for U.S. resettlement---but the U.S. Department of Homeland Security selects who will be resettled.

4) *As you know that in June there will be the last CCME capacity building visit, a delegation will go to Kenya, which advice would you give to them?*

When visiting the refugee camps, talk with the service providers, the NGO's about the need for resettlement of many of the camp residents. Some of these residents have been in these camps for 10 or more years.



Joseph Roberson, Director of Immigration and Refugee Program at Church World Service (CWS) and Richard Parkins, Director of the Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). Both organisations are members of the Refugee Council USA.

## Who went to the USA?

**Reyes Castillo, ACCEM, Spain**

**Flavio Di Giacomo, CIR/FCEI, Italy**

**Alessia Passarelli, CCME, Belgium**



**Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe**

Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe

Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

## Amended proposal for the ERF to strengthen solidarity between Member States on asylum policies

"The Commission adopted an amended proposal for the European Refugee Fund (ERF). The proposal aims to ensure strong financial support for the efforts made by Member States to address particular pressures situations, to resettle to their territories persons in need of international protection, to enhance their practical cooperation and to implement burden-sharing operations. The funds will be made available in 2008." in <http://europa.eu/rapid/searchResultAction.do?search=OK&query=justice&username=PROF&advanced=0&guiLanguage=en>



Picture taken by the delegation during their visit to Dadaab Refugees' Camp in Kenya the 12th of June 2006. The camp hosts 130.000 refugees .

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**Final Conference  
of the project**  
"Understanding resettlement in practice: capacity building for action!"

**3rd—5th July 2006  
Brussels**

### 1) What is CCME?

CCME is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. The aim of CCME is to develop in the churches throughout Europe a due sense of responsibility towards the situation of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people.

Founded in 1964, CCME is an organization of churches and ecumenical councils as well as churches related agencies; its members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches, diocesan agencies and Councils of Churches in presently 16 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

CCME is active in the Platform of NGOs on Migration and Asylum hosted by UNHCR in Brussels.

CCME promotes awareness-raising on issue of racism and xenophobia within the churches and in society, it conducts studies of the situation of migrants, refugees and minority ethnic people at local, national and international level.

### 2) What is "Resettlement in practice"?

The project "Resettlement in practice" takes up the conclusions of the study process and consultation "Make Resettlement Work" which CCME organized in 2003-2004 and enhances/improves the network created between governmental institutions, UNHCR, Churches and NGOs. Reactions and discussions during that study process indicated that among many relevant actors in the field of refugee protection there was no clear understanding of what resettlement should entail.

### 3) What is Refugee Resettlement?

It's one of the 3 traditional durable solutions for refugees, along with the local integration in the country of asylum and repatriation. Basically, it's a transfer of refugees from their country of first asylum to a third country that has agreed to admit them with a long term or permanent resident status. Resettlement provides protection for refugees whose safety is immediately at risk and it is a tool of international protection in a context of burden sharing among states.

### 4) What Resettlement is not...

Resettlement is not the same as seeking refugee status through the asylum system, nor is it a more legal process for accessing asylum rights and can never substitute a spontaneous request of asylum.

Resettlement is not synonymous with "Temporary protection" classifications.

Resettlement cannot become a system of profiling refugees in accordance to their nationality or religion in order to create more or less valuable categories of refugees. Resettlement is based exclusively on the protection needs of the refugees.

### 5) Which are the Resettlement countries?

The countries that actually host resettlement programs are the following: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and USA. Those countries are called the "traditional ones", but next to them there are also new partners such as Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Island, Ireland, Spain and UK.

The project "Understanding Resettlement in practice: capacity building for action!" is funded by the European Refugee Fund of the European Commission.

The views expressed and information provided by the project and partners involved do not necessarily reflect the point of view of and do in no way fall under the responsibility of the European Commission.