



# CCME Resettlement Newsletter

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## Resettlement and EU member states: waiting for the great leap forward ?

Welcome this year’s summer edition of CCME’s Resettlement Newsletter!!!

...once again we will keep you updated on news regarding resettlement towards the member states of the European Union.

A lot of focus over the last months was of course on this year’s annual tri-partite consultation (ATC) between interested governments and NGOs with UNHCR in Geneva 28th-30th June.

UNHCR used the ATC to have in depth discussions with EU member states on their interest in resettlement : on the one hand there are increasing signs that more EU member states are positively considering the introduction of resettlement as an additional tool of refugee protection, with Portugal (currently holding the Presidency of the EU Council) announcing a national quota for resettlement. On the other hand, most interested EU member states at the moment still seem to be reluctant to commit to annual quota. An argument often used by member states was to say that it would be better to act together as EU and that therefore it was time that the European Commission acted. The European Commission however insists that that EU member states should first commit to quotas nationally: so everyone seems to be hoping for the great leap forward ...coming from elsewhere ?

At the same time the continued situations of refugee crisis around the world make it clear that more commitment to resettlement is needed—the sooner, the better !

CCME and partners will therefore also over the next months continue to advocate for refugee resettlement to the EU with events in Madrid, Rome and Vienna coming up...

Enjoy the reading!

Best regards,

Torsten Moritz  
CCME Project Secretary

### “The reduction of the number of asylum seekers allows room for manoeuvre”

Expert meeting on refugee resettlement in Berlin  
by Katrin Hatzinger (EKD Brussels)

On 14 May 2007 the Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) together with the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) organised an expert meeting on refugee resettlement in Berlin as part of the project funded by the European Commission “Resettlement – broadening the basis in Europe”.

The resettlement of refugees has since the 1960ies been only used on a small scale in the European Union and Germany in particular. While countries such as the US, Canada and Australia are accepting tens of thousands of refugees through resettlement programmes each year, Germany only saw a very small number of refugees being resettled in recent years. Within the European Union only six member states have respective programmes. Therefore the meeting in Berlin brought together participants from governmental institutions and NGOs as well as church representatives to deepen the knowledge about refugee resettlement and to debate options for broadening resettlement programmes in Germany. (cont. on page 2)



Refugee children from the Great Lakes region in Nairobi (copyright CCME)

## The reduction of the number of asylum seekers allows room for manoeuvre" Expert meeting on refugee resettlement in Berlin (cont.)

The meeting was opened by Prelate Reimers, Plenipotentiary of the EKD to the German government and the EU; and Doris Peschke, General Secretary of CCME who focused on the prospects of Germany becoming a resettlement country. Representatives of the ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs gave an input underlining the importance of a global approach to migration and drawing the attention to the pro and cons of resettlement as a durable solution for refugees.

In view of the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq and in the neighbouring countries it was underlined from ministerial side that investing in resettlement would not benefit the refugees. They needed an alternative in the region. Still in some individual cases the option of resettlement required close scrutiny. In fact, the reduction of the number of asylum seekers allowed more room for manoeuvre with regard to the application of resettlement programmes. With regard to people being persecuted for political reasons resettlement was envisaged as a viable perspective.

At the same time it was underlined that the Federal level was dependent on the cooperation with the "Länder" when it comes to sharing the financial burden of receiving refugees. Concerning the willingness of Germany to support the idea of a joint EU resettlement scheme it was made clear that it was firstly up to the European Commission to present a proposal.



The opening panel: Prälat Reimers, Ms Hatzinger, Ms Peschke

UNHCR representative Anne-Christine Eriksson gave a broad overview on the concept of resettlement and explained why UNHCR engages in resettlement. She underlined that resettlement programmes are an expression of global solidarity and enhance political acceptance and sensibility with regard to the refugee issue in the receiving countries. Kevin Finch from the UK Home Office, gave an insight in the more practical elements of setting up a refugee programme taking the UK Gateway pro-

gramme which has been established in 2003 as an example. He touched upon the elements of the selection process as well as on more operational questions as financing and post-arrival support as well as on "what we would have done differently".

Despite diverging views on the need and benefit of Germany starting resettlement programmes the debate revealed a lot of interest in the topic and many questions focused on the eligibility criteria set up by UNHCR to identify the most vulnerable refugees, implementation and financing of the programmes. Also the idea of a joint EU resettlement scheme was positively echoed in the discussion.

Participant agreed that the meeting helped a lot to gain more clarity about the whole idea of resettlement and enabled them to lead an informed debate.

Churches' representatives expressed the hope that Germany would join those EU countries already providing for resettlement.



### Upcoming national debates on Refugee resettlement:

Madrid 28th September

Rome 8th November

Vienna 12th November

More info at [info@ccme.be](mailto:info@ccme.be)

## Resettlement and new EU member states CCME initiates regional debate in Prague

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, under the CCME project "Resettlement – broadening the basis in Europe?", took place in Prague a seminar that brought together representatives of UNHCR, CCME, governmental bodies /asylum authorities and NGOs from Czech Republic, Romania and Hungary, those from Slovenia and Slovakia excused for absence.

As suggested by its title, the seminar focused on importance of resettlement as an effective refugee protection tool and on political considerations for new EU member states from the perspective of responsibility sharing. Even that the EU countries have a real potential in receiving and integrating refugees, the number of asylum applications severely decreased in the last five years. Out of 90.000 resettlement places available in 2007, over 90% are covered by US, Canada and Australia. Even though in Europe there are only six EU countries and Norway that are currently running resettlement programmes, there are also countries that assess refugees in need of resettlement on case-by-case basis (e.g. Belgium, Czech Republic, Spain, France, etc.).

Romania already expressed its availability to consider a resettlement programme and, in the meantime, proposed the establishment of an "UNHCR Transit Facility" on its territory, based on the recent experience with Uzbek refugees. Mr Radu Mircea from the National Romanian Refugee Agency explained how a legal basis for resettlement had already been created, but that implementation was only



Lively debate in Prague

foreseen for the next months. Representatives of the Ministry of interior from the Czech Republic shared experiences on resettlement cases in recent years (e.g. 15 Uzbeks from Romania Transit Facility) as well as the lessons learned. One of the main considerations relating to these ad hoc resettlement cases was how family reunification could become a reality for resettled refugees. A number of concerns had emerged, e.g. hoe differences between the perception of resettled

refugees and other refugees would shape opinion. A very practical problem in the reality of a potential resettlement country was the resettlement process that involves intensive efforts and resources).

Hungary was at the time of the event in Prague about to adopt a new asylum law, including provisiosn allowing resettlement. At the same time questioned how the chance of a successful public debate on this issue in Hungary might be hindered by a fake or lack of perceptions in the public opinion of resettlement meaning

as well as by a general climate in which intolerance and xenophobia play an important role. A public debate should preferably be launched when the partners involved in resettlement themselves are fully aware about the issue, when the number might be a matter of concern and when the population is educated towards diversity and tolerance.

This seminar was, for sure, a step forward in encouraging the cooperation among NGOs working on integration issues, asylum authorities, European networks and UNHCR, through sharing experiences, plans and concerns and a good opportunity to remind once more the role that each of us was assumed in protecting refugees.

Ms Peschke, CCME and Ms Fridrichova Czech Ministry of Interior



Luciana Lazarescu (edited version) from ARCA – Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, Romania.

## European Resettlement Network: First training on resettlement in El Escorial

Katrien Ringelé reports

*From the 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Brussels office organised the 'European Resettlement Training' programme in the historical city of El Escorial, Spain. The training is part of the ERF Funded project 'Practical Co-operation for a European Resettlement Network', aimed at increasing NGOs' operational resettlement capacity through training and promoting field experience of NGO and Government staff members in UNHCR resettlement operations in the field.*

The training brought together around 30 trainees carefully selected from among NGOs and government bodies of the project partner countries. Three are experienced resettlement countries: Finland, The Netherlands and Sweden, and three are countries which are considering resettlement: Czech Republic, Italy and Spain. The training candidates had hands on experience working with refugees, expressed interest in overseas employment as part of their career development and were committed to transfer gained knowledge back to their organisations.

The training programme was organised in close collaboration with UNHCR Resettlement Service in Geneva which provided two of the training facilitators, Sean Henderson and Peter Stockholder. The other training facilitators were members of Government bodies and NGOs from all over

Europe.

During the five-day training course, the participants were submerged in resettlement issues. The training curriculum was designed to fit a public with a wide range of backgrounds and levels of knowledge of resettlement, providing a comprehensive overview of the whole resettlement process.

The first two days of the training were filled by presentations from UNHCR. They kicked off the training with the basics on international protection, and the principles of durable solutions and resettlement. Thereafter, UNHCR elaborated in more detail on the resettlement field operation: resettlement criteria, identification of resettlement needs and preparation of cases, and the management of the resettlement process with issues such as fraud and Standard Operating Procedures. The second day was finalised with a session by an NGO child protection expert on the complex and multi-layered 'Best Interest of the Child Determination (BID)' assessment, which instigated questions and discussion.

The third day bridged the phases in the resettlement process where UNHCR's job ends and the work of Governments starts. Presentations were provided on several European country resettlement programmes, country selection criteria and selection missions. A certain amount of time was reserved for questions and answers and



Training session in El Escorial

some debate on the presentations of the day.

Among other interesting issues, the disputed topic of the 'integration potential criteria' was brought up along with the degree of involvement of NGOs in the actual selection of refugees (as is the case with the Danish Refugee Council). The Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Programme was presented at the end of this day as 'best practice' from a non-European country.

The fourth day of the training dealt with the integration of resettled refugees. The presentations demonstrated a range of approaches present in Europe with respect to integration. For example, the Dutch centralised reception model whereby resettled refugees are accommodated in a reception centre exclusively for resettled refugees for about six months before they are settled in a community. In contrast, the UK immediately immerses resettled refugees into local community life following a short four-day orientation course.

Topics that were elaborated on during discussions were the role of municipalities and developing a larger role for NGOs and refugees in the resettlement process. In addition, the Swedish Integration Board presented findings from a commissioned research on 'introduction programmes'.  
(continued on page 7)



## Refugee resettlement: a good solution – for whom ?

Some critical remarks on basing resettlement offers on “integration potential”  
by Erol Kekic

When it comes to refugee resettlement, many advocates point out how important it is to properly manage the expectations that refugees bring with them. And it is, as years in the isolated, often desolate and humiliating conditions of a refugee camp tend to create a culture of dependency and over-reliance on minimal humanitarian aid. The years in camps are often years without access to information, (post-primary) education, or adequate health services. Human potential is wasted as the international community debates ways in which it can provide protection and assistance to people at flight.

Rarely, however, do we discuss the receiving community and the level of its readiness to accept the new arrivals and help them integrate.

UNHCR, representing the concerned international community, views resettlement as both a durable solution and as a tool of refugee protection to be used strategically to help resolve protracted refugee situations. And several countries offer resettlement as a solution for a small percentage of the world's refugees. ). The intentions of the destination countries are good: they offer integration programmes, care for child soldiers, counsel women-at-risk, and give special attention to the elderly and other specific groups. But if a refugee belongs to a group that isn't “special” under any of the commonly established criteria and if his or her educational background isn't at the high level, the chance of ever being considered for resettlement is

dramatically reduced. Some would argue that it is only fair to target the groups that need more assistance first, which is true, but that is contrary to most resettlement countries' practices today.

Out of approximately 15 “traditional” resettlement countries in the world, only a few do not practice what is called the examination of the “integration potential,” or the ability of a refugee to assimilate and fit in “*our society*.” One could question the humanitarian aspect of such approach – and could almost hear the rhetoric: “We do recognize that resettlement is the only solution available to a group of persons in this camp – but we will only take those who are college-educated, speak our language and are able to go to work, filling the positions that nobody in our society wants to take.” The fact that those individuals may not fit the definition of the “most vulnerable” or most-in-need often takes a back seat to “national interests” and “integration potential criteria.”

What such an approach does to a camp community is devastating.

Take, for example, the nine camps along the Thai-Burma border. They are home to some 150,000 refugees from Burma living there in a protracted refugee situation, which is now being addressed by the international community through resettlement efforts (see report on page 9) . So on the surface all is well: long-term refugees are finally getting a “solution” to their situation through resettlement and the host government is pleased to see the numbers in camp decrease.

The international community has “stepped up to share responsibility.” Well, in reality the situation is all but great: Resettlement is available to those who express interest – and the information about what resettlement is, is scarcely available.

I visited Ban Don Yang camp in Saglaburi in March, the same day the UN refugee agency UNHCR was registering people interested in resettlement to Sweden, prior to the Swedish selection delegation's visit

I walked through the camp and with the help of a colleague asked random camp inhabitants about their intentions and what they knew about the resettlement process or Sweden for that matter. All three answers could be summarized as “nothing”...

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Erol Kekic (Centre) at a CCME event in 2005

**Erol Kekic**  
is Associate Director of the Immigration /Refugee Programmer of Church World Service, USA

## Refugee resettlement : a good solution—for whom ? (cont.)

(continued from page 5)

In camps along this border, the setup was always different as compared to most refugee situations in that UNHCR was denied access to the camps by the Thai authorities, following the Indo-Chinese crisis of the 70s which caused a prolonged refugee resettlement operation that took years to wind down.

It was not until early 1998 that UNHCR was allowed to set up several offices in Thailand to engage in protection with the Burmese refugees. In the meantime, several NGOs assumed the role that UNHCR plays in other parts of the world and organized to provide basic services to Burmese fleeing the notorious regime. Those NGOs rely heavily on the refugee community itself to take over all the work in the camps. Refugees are medics and teachers; they receive, manage, and distribute food; they administer camp justice....

In a recent study by UNHCR, which came as a part of the re-registration process preceding the resettlement efforts, UNHCR examined educational levels of the camp population. Some staggering data surfaced: 41.8% of the number of UNHCR-registered refugees in the camps have had no education or have studied informally, 45.2% received a primary education, 7.8% have studied through middle school, 4.7% completed a secondary education, and only 0.5% have gone on to university or attended vocational training courses. When split from the rest, of the adult population alone - 47.2% have never attended school or have studied informally, 30.2% have studied at primary levels, 12.3%

have reached middle school, 9.2% have a secondary education, and 1.1% went to university or have received some type of vocational training. Basically, a figure close to 87% of the total camp population has at best learned how to read and write in their own language.

When a resettlement country comes into the camps to "recruit" for resettlement, they mostly rely on UNHCR to disseminate the necessary information to refugees about the process and the outcome. UNHCR was not, until recently, allowed to provide much information about resettlement in these Burmese camps, as the host government feared a "magnet effect" -- an increase in the camp population due to the resettlement potential. Refugees are then asked to come forward stating their interest in being resettled to a third country, usually to the one whose selection delegation is about to visit the camp. The educated minority will have more comprehension of what that entails and is more likely to sign up. Add to that the "integration potential" selection criteria and the outcome is such that the educated 13% that currently runs the camp operations and on whom the 87% depends heavily for their daily survival will

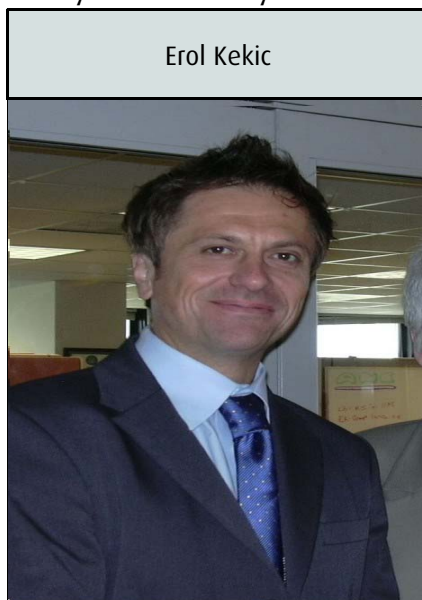
likely depart to third countries and leave the camp structures unstable and possibly unsustainable.

Now, the argument made here is not that the resettlement programmes should give the educated people only the second consideration, nor that the educated people should be given less opportunity than everyone else, but rather that if the resettlement countries are honest about their intentions to help the refugees, they must forgo the "integration potential" clause and look at the camp population as a whole. The first consideration should be given to cases that need it the most, not the ones that are voted "most likely to integrate" into Finland, Canada or Sweden. We also must keep in mind the big picture and be aware of others left in the camps, especially when our resettlement quotas are as insignificant as they tend to be. We must ask ourselves the hard questions, like: Are we really helping this refugee community as a whole or are we looking for a way to make us feel good by helping one or two? What will happen to the rest of the population when we take out the three camp committee leaders who are currently playing the cohesive role in those communities and would they be better off in a small town in the north of the U. S., taking a factory job to survive and feed their families?

Has the resettlement regime outlived its practicality?

When given a slot in a resettlement programme, a refugee is provided protection. That protection is legal and physical. The resettlement country takes steps to afford the resettled individual with appropriate documentation allowing her or him to reside and (in some cases) work in their territories. But frequently it takes years

Erol Kekic



## Refugee resettlement : a good solution—for whom ? (cont.)

before the paperwork is complete and people are able to adjust their status, obtain travel documents and/or visit the family members spread across the "resettlement" world. Looking at the situation in Thailand, with many leaving, perhaps grudgingly, wouldn't it be practical to attempt to think outside the box and offer an alternative solution(s) to benefit not just the lucky few that will qualify for resettlement, but the refugee population in camps as a whole?

If the states are serious about their intent to provide protection and share the responsibility of caring for refugees and that is their primary concern, then they may be able to provide refugees with resettlement, and right after that with travel documents allowing those who wish to do so to return to the country of first asylum to help care for the rest. This approach would satisfy everyone: the refugees wishing to stay in the region and help their own population; the host governments who wish to minimize the refugee population but would probably not object to developed country nationals (or a variation of that) coming to work and pay taxes on their territory; the resettlement countries struggling to sell their constituents on the need to intervene in complicated refugee situations and bring foreigners to live amongst them. Such attempt would minimize the trauma on already vulnerable refugee groups, would give NGOs and the UNHCR the workforce they need to run operations in camps for as long as those camps are open, and would give the resettled refugees an opportunity to get paid for the work they are forced to perform for free while in camps. They would still be in the general region, but would be protected by the documents of their new adopted country and would have a period of ad-

justment before having to actually go abroad and "integrate" into their new home communities. This time spent working with their own population could also be used for intensive "cultural orientation" to the new country, its customs and language. In the meantime, the intense cultural orientation would be conducted with the host communities in the receiving countries, examining their "integration potential," conducting education courses and making appropriate adjustments that would lead up to a smoother and easier integration once the resettled refugees arrive. But if the resettlement regime as a whole stays within its current boundaries, it will continue to serve narrow national interests of participating countries before it serves the interests of the resettled refugees.

*In closing, resettlement is a good solution for refugees but it is not a panacea. It will not work for everyone and at every time. It will not serve every group and it will not resolve every protracted refugee situation. But it will continue to be a very useful tool -- if used with refugees' interests in the forefront and in conjunction with other durable solutions. Along with everything else in the world, the factors surrounding refugee resettlement have changed, too, and the sooner the international regime, in particular those parts promoting discriminatory "cherry picking" when it comes to selection of cases for resettlement, acknowledges that, the sooner a new, better set of solutions will be found, benefiting everybody concerned.*

### European Resettlement Network: First training on resettlement in El Escorial

(continued from page 4)

The fifth and final day of the training was devoted to the developments on resettlement at the European level, advocacy for resettlement including a practical group exercise for the participants, and a briefing on the UNHCR-ICMC Resettlement Deployment Scheme.

The European Resettlement Network training was a useful and interesting experience for many participants not only due to the knowledge it delivered but also by providing a forum for exchange of best practices and group twinning between experienced and emerging resettlement countries, and between NGOs and Government officials. It is hoped that the training brought about networking opportunities which will foster communication afterwards. As a follow-up on the training, the project partners are in the process of organising an evaluation session of the training on a national level with all the training candidates.

The next steps are to facilitate sending a portion of the training participants as ICMC Deployees in UNHCR resettlement operations in the field. We are currently working on the drafting and publication of a 'European Guide to Resettlement' based on the training. The final project workshop is planned for 23 October, 2007 to discuss widening and maintaining the network and the identification of future training needs

**Katrien Ringelé ICMC Brussels office**

## Portugal announces beginning of resettlement programme

Portugal first engaged in ad hoc group resettlement in January 2006, with 12 sub-Saharan refugees being resettled to Portugal from Morocco under the auspices of UNHCR. Since then, two additional groups have arrived in the country with the support of UNHCR. In May 2006, four Eritreans and one Ethiopian were accepted by the Portuguese Government and granted refugee status after being stranded in a Spanish fishing boat in the Mediterranean.

Last July, four Indians from Kashmir Province arrived in Portugal from Mauritania, following a resettlement submission from UNHCR routed in an eminent risk of refoulement.

Resettlement has meanwhile taken a significant step forward towards sustainability last June, following the visit of High Commissioner Guterres to Portugal in advance of Portugal's EU Presidency in the second half of 2007.

The Council of Ministers has since adopted a Resolution on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July on the subject that, according to the information made public by the Government "(...) *intends to create the conditions to grant asylum to, at least, 30 persons per year, and namely to respond to resettlement submissions of refugees, pursuing proactive policies of reception and support of refugees, developed in coordination with UNHCR. This measure promotes a common EU asylum policy based on solidarity among Member States and on existing mechanisms aimed at insuring a balanced distribution of efforts carried out by Member States while receiving refugees and other displaced individuals*" (available in Portuguese at: <http://www.portugal.gov.pt/Portal/PT/Governos/>

*Governos\_Constitucionais/GC17/Conselho\_de\_Ministros/Comunicacao\_dos\_e\_Conferencias\_de\_Imprensa/20070712.htm).*

This resolution by the Council of Ministers is yet to be published in the Portuguese Official Journal ("Diário da República").

New group arrivals of resettled refugees in the last year and a half have generated additional challenges in refugee protection for Government authorities and also to partner organisations such as the Portuguese Refugee Council (PRC), called upon by the Govern-



ment to assist in their reception and integration.

Following last month announcement, a meeting is expected to take place at the inter-ministerial level, involving UNHCR and partner NGOs dedicated to the reception and integration of the resettled refugees, such as the PRC, aiming at exploring the concrete modalities of implementation of the Portuguese resettlement programme.

**João Vasconcelos, Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR)**



### Why should Europe settle more refugees ?

- 1) Resettlement can provide protection to those in greatest need: the most vulnerable and those in protracted refugee situations.
- 2) Resettlement is a way for Europe to demonstrate its solidarity and take its share of its responsibility in the provision of this durable solution to the world's refugees.
- 3) Resettlement provides access to Europe for refugees.
- 4) Resettlement provides the opportunity for good, coordinated and quality reception and integration programmes to be developed.
- 5) Resettlement is an important means of facilitating public understanding of all refugees, their plight and the situations they flee.

CCME



## Thailand- resettlement numbers pass 10.000 milestone

More than 10.000 refugees – mostly from Myanmar – have now left their temporary homes in Thailand to start new lives in third countries, as the world's largest resettlement programme picks up steam.

"After many years of living in closed camps with limited opportunities for education and no opportunities to work, finally refugees have hope for a new life filled with exciting opportunities in a new country," said Jeffrey Savage, Resettlement Officer in the UN refugee agency's regional office in Bangkok.

Since the UNHCR programme to resolve one of Asia's most protracted refugee problems began in January, 2005, 10.078 refugees have left Thailand, mainly from the nine refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border.

The 10.000th refugee departed last Tuesday. The camps are home to 140.000 refugees – ethnic minorities who fled fighting and oppression in Myanmar (Burma) over the past 11 years. The largest numbers of refugees are departing for the United States, which made an open-ended offer in 2005 to take ethnic Karen refugees from the camps in Thailand. So far, 4.876 have gone to the United States, settling in places like Syracuse, New York; Phoenix, Arizona; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Fort Wayne, Indiana and Dallas, Texas.

Departures for Australia since January 2005 total 1.774 refugees, and another 1.269 have left for Canada.

Other resettlement countries for Myanmar refugees are Finland, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden.

"We are very grateful to the U.S. and other countries for offering these opportunities and for their commitment to durable solutions for these refugees, who do not have the option of settling in Thailand," said Savage.

"Obviously, most refugees would prefer to go home, but for those from Myanmar, this is unfortunately not a possibility either. So resettlement is their one durable so-



lution."

Savage said UNHCR is making good progress in extending the resettlement opportunity to more of the refugees in the nine camps.

In July, the UN refugee agency completed its initial mass registration of applicants for resettlement from Nupo and Umpium camps, the third and fourth camps to be

included in the U.S. offer. Departures for the United States from Tham Hin camp began last year, and departures from Mae La camp began in May this year.

Departures are picking up, with additional refugees leaving Thailand every week. More than 3,800 Myanmar refugees are scheduled to depart Thailand before the beginning of October, and the number is expected to rise even further.

"What's really gratifying is to see the change that hope of resettlement has made in the camps," said Savage. "An air of excitement has replaced resignation and hopelessness. You see lots of smiles on the refugees' faces these days."

In addition to the large-scale departures under the U.S. programme, small numbers of refugees from as far afield as Africa, who had been stranded in Bangkok and other Thai cities, have also left to start new lives in third countries.

*By Kitty McKinsey  
in Bangkok, 27th July 2007  
(from UNHCR News Service)*

*More info at:* <http://www.unhcr.org/country/tha.html>

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

**Matthew  
25:35b**



**Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe**

Commission des Eglises auprès des Migrants en Europe

Kommission der Kirchen für Migranten in Europa

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CCME office (red building on the left) in front of European Commission Headquarters (Berlaymont)

## FAQ—frequently asked questions....

### 1) What is CCME?

CCME is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and against racism and discrimination in Europe, CCME members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches, diaconal agencies and Councils of Churches in presently 16 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

### 2) What is "Resettlement - broadening the basis in Europe"?

The CCME project "Resettlement - broadening the basis in Europe" enhances knowledge and political debate in EU member states to engage in refugee resettlement - as an additional instrument of refugee protection.

It includes activities to

- broaden policy debates on resettlement in EU member states
- broaden information on it and provide it in accessible format
- broaden public-NGO part-

### 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 traditionally host resettlement programs are : Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and USA. Those countries are called the "traditional ones", Countries such as Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Island, Ireland, and UK have in recent years started programmes. Others, among them several EU member states, are currently considering them...

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### General info on resettlement

<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/3bb2eadd6.html>

### On the CCME project

<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/CCMERR2006The%20projectshortpublic.pdf>

### On the ICMC project :

[http://www.icmc.net/e/programmes\\_operations/europ\\_network.htm](http://www.icmc.net/e/programmes_operations/europ_network.htm)

The project "Resettlement - broadening the basis in Europe" is co-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.