



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGE

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Meeting The Refugee Challenge: Perspectives From the 2000 Summer Course

Introduction

Sharryn Aiken

This is the third year we have dedicated a special issue of *Refuge* for participants and faculty of the Summer Course on Refugee Issues. The Summer Course issue provides a forum for sharing perspectives on the broad themes addressed in the seven day intensive programme. Launched in 1993 with financial assistance from the UNHCR, the Summer Course has hosted remarkably diverse groups of participants and faculty from every corner of the world. This year, in addition to a strong complement of faculty from York University and other Canadian institutions, guest

faculty included Carol Bachelor (UNHCR, Geneva), Dr. Paul Spiegel (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta), Prof. Ogenga Otunnu (DePaul University, Chicago), Prof. Barbara Harrell-Bond (American University, Cairo) and Prof. V. Vijayakumar (National Law School of India University, Bangalore). Participants came from South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States as well as Canada and represented the full spectrum of institutional, academic, legal

and non-governmental sectors. As in previous years, the papers included in this special issue reflect the diversity that is intrinsic to the Summer Course itself.

Maki Katoh provides a critical perspective on refugee assistance, highlighting the need to transcend the dualistic "we versus they" mentality that informs so much of refugee work. Prof. V. Vijayakumar traces the historical antecedents and current dimensions of refugee protection in South Asia with particular reference to India, concluding with an interesting comparison of

Contents

Introduction Sharryn Aiken.....	1
Advocate or Expert: In Search of an Alternative to "We versus They"	
Mentality Maki Katoh.....	3
A Critical Analysis of Refugee Protection in South Asia Veerabhadran Vijayakumar.....	6
The Temporary Safe Haven- An Australian Perspective Jackie King.....	17
Refugees with Disabilities: A Human Rights Perspective Lina Anani.....	23
Meeting the Refugee Challenge: The Dutch Experience Loeky Drogenen.....	31
The New Role of 'Host Countries' Played by Traditional Countries	
of Emigration: The Experience of Italy Grazia Scoppio.....	37
Kosovar Resettlement Assistance Project in Greater Victoria Tomoko Okada.....	43



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Northern and Southern approaches. Jackie King interrogates the concept of temporary protection at the international level as well as its recent application in Australia in response to the 1999 crisis in Kosovo. Citing critical flaws in Australia's new framework legislation, King underscores the tensions inherent in temporary protection schemes that fail to respect basic human rights for refugees. Lina Anani surveys the convergence of disability rights with human rights and the concomitant discrepancies in Canadian refugee resettlement policies with regard to both disability and health impairment. Anani's insightful analysis addresses an issue that has failed to receive much attention in the critical literature and is particularly timely in light of recent signals on the part of the Canadian government to exclude refugee claimants on the basis of positive HIV status. In "Meeting the Refugee Challenge: The Dutch Experience", Loeky Droesen provides an overview of asylum policy in the Netherlands with an emphasis on the evolution of status determination procedures in the last four decades. Elaborating on the experience of governments in both Canada and Italy in addressing the settlement needs of migrants, Grazia Scoppio argues that Canada's multiculturalism policy framework offers the best model for supporting the integration of migrants in their host countries. Finally, with Tomoko Okado's contribution, we return to the question of domestic responses to the Kosovar refugee crisis with an engaging review of the Kosovar Resettlement Assistance Project in Victoria, British Columbia. ■

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REPORTS

• Somali Refugees in Toronto: A Profile

By Edward Opoku-Dapaah, 1995
ISBN 1-55014-278-x, 130 pp., \$12.95.

This is the first comprehensive study of Somali refugees in Toronto. It examines the social, residential, and linguistic characteristics of Somalis, their participation in the local economy, and the activity of Somali community organizations. The report also contains valuable suggestions and recommendations concerning suitable and more efficient service delivery to this community.

• Cambodian Refugees in Ontario: An Evaluation of Resettlement and Adaptation

By Janet McLellan, 1995
ISBN 1-55014-267-4, 142 pp., \$12.95.

This major study of Cambodian refugees in Ontario examines the effects of various forms of sponsorship on Cambodian resettlement. It also focuses on the linguistic, economic, educational, training and social dimensions of the whole process of adaptation. The delivery of services by governmental and NGO agencies as well as the effects of the past traumatic experiences of genocide and mass starvation on Cambodian refugees are fully discussed.

• Refugee Families and Children: A Directory for Service Providers in Metro Toronto

Compiled by
John Morris and Lydia Sawicki, 1995
ISBN 1-55014-285-2, 39 pp., \$6.95.

This directory is designed for service providers who work with refugee families and children in Metro Toronto. Its aim is to improve service provision through networking and the sharing of training opportunities.

Available from: Centre for Refugee
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