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CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES  
**REFUGEE**

c/o Refugee Documentation Project, York University  
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## The Refugee Studies Programme, Oxford University

The Refugee Studies Programme was established in 1982 at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University, out of the need for fresh directions and practice. An independent forum has been created where experience is shared by academics, practitioners, refugees, agency workers, and representatives from host governments. Through project design, training, research, public debates, publications and seminars, the RSP seeks to help host countries and refugees break the present cycle of growing dependence on international agencies.

A major objective of RSP is to stimulate the development of parallel programmes in other parts of the world, in particular in countries hosting large populations of refugees. The Refugee Studies Programme at Juba University in the Sudan was established in 1985. Similar initiatives have begun at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, the University of Zambia, Makerere University, Uganda and the Colegio de México. The RSP is also a member of the International Refugee Documentation Network, which aims to widen the availability of information and academic literature in this field. The Refugee Documentation Project at York University and the RSP have been in contact since 1982 and formalized their collaboration in 1985 through the co-

sponsorship of the international symposium, "Twentieth Century Refugees in Europe and the Middle East". Together with Lund University, Sweden, they were the co-founders of the Inter-University Consortium for Refugee Research (ICRR), which was joined by the Center for Migration Studies. The first product of the ICRR is the *Directory of Current Research*, which will be updated annually. The RSP actively encourages links and co-operates with the many other centres in Europe and North America, such as the Department of Sociology, Carleton University, where refugee research is being conducted.

An independent evaluation of the impact of emergency aid policies was undertaken by Barbara E. Harrell-Bond in *Imposing Aid: Emergency Assistance to Refugees* (Oxford University Press, 1986). In a recent study for WFP in the border camps in Thailand, Josephine Reynell pin-pointed some disturbing facts about security and the psychological abuse of children. A study in Uganda was undertaken in October for the EEC by the RSP jointly with a Ugandan academic. *Refugee Issues*, a series of working papers published in conjunction with the British Refugee Council, is now in its third volume.

Since 1985 thirty-one visiting fellows, both academics and practitioners (many refugees), have been attached to the RSP, representing twenty-one nationalities. Fellows have access to all the resources of the University, and are expected to share research and experience and to participate in the RSP seminars and special lectures.

The RSP is committed to contributing to the resolution of conflict through public debate, bringing together as many sides of a dispute as possible. In the past year there has been a conference on the Western Sahara at which both the Sahrawis and Moroccans participated; another, titled "The Dilemma of Incompatible Priorities" concerned resettlement policies in Ethiopia; and more recently a meeting was called in conjunction with the Middle East Centre and Medical Aid to Palestinians to draw attention to the urgent situation in the refugee camps in Lebanon.

Most recently an international symposium was held in Afghanistan which brought together 189 refugees, scholars, government officials from both Pakistan and Iran, representatives of agencies working on the borders, and nationals from within Afghanistan itself.

A highlight in Autumn 1986 was a major speech by the UN High Commissioner on the need for political will to resolve today's refugee problem.

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