Introduction

Claudia María Vargas

Although it would be wonderful to get to the point where we would not have to consider service provision to refugees, the reality is that there is a continuous and escalating need to do so as conflicts around the world continue to displace thousands of people. While the number of people encountering dislocation swell, countries seem to be responding by restrictive asylum policies and by limiting services, a phenomenon occurring in the first country of entry and in asylum granting countries. (For a thorough discussion on the legal restrictions adopted by Canada, the United States, and the European Union, see Cooper, forthcoming; and the article by the same author in this issue). In spite of these and other obstacles, nonprofit organizations strive to deliver a variety of services to refugees. This challenge has intensified with the shift from a welfare state framework to a market oriented state. Thus, nonprofit organizations have had to step in to fill a void left by a slashing of government services (Welsch 1999; Salamon 1994).

In such a setting, key questions emerge. How do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) deliver much needed services in a time of shrinking budgets and restricted policies? What strategies do NGOs use to meet these obstacles within an ethic of service? In other words, what challenges do service providers encounter in delivering ser-
Summer Course on Refugee Issues
Toronto, June 11 – 18, 2000

The Centre for Refugee Studies’ Summer Course offers postgraduate training in refugee issues for up to fifty practitioners inside and outside government who work on some aspect of refugee protection or assistance. The course includes panel discussions, case studies, a simulation exercise and lectures from international experts. A York University/Centre for Refugee Studies Certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the seven day program. Sessions offered in 2000 include:

- World Movements: Root Causes and Consequences
- “Race”, Labour and Migration
- Role of the UNHCR
- Law and Refugee Status
- Exclusion and Interdiction
- Development and Displacement
- International Humanitarian Law
- Refugee Women and Children
- Human Rights Documentation, REF WORLD and the Internet
- And other international and national issues concerning refugees.

Course Fee: $750  Late registration after March 31, 2000: $850

Fees are in Canadian dollars and include materials. Food and accommodation are extra. Reasonably priced accommodation and food are available on campus. Partial subsidies are available for low-income participants. A limited number of internships, including full course subsidy, are available for York University students. Deadline for subsidy and internship applications is February 1, 2000.

For further information and registration, please contact:

Sharryn Aiken, Academic Director
Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Suite 329, York Lanes, 4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3. Tel.: (416) 736-2100 ext. 55423; Fax: (416) 736-5837
Email: summer@yorku.ca