

STATEMENT CALLING FOR SOLUTIONS
TO END THE WAREHOUSING OF REFUGEES

The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees provide that persons fleeing persecution across borders deserve international protection, including freedom from forcible return (*refoulement*) and basic rights necessary for refugees to live a free, dignified, and self-reliant life even while they remain refugees. These rights include the rights to earn a livelihood—to engage in wage-employment, self-employment, the practice of professions, and the ownership of property—freedom of movement and residence, and the issuance of travel documents. These rights are applicable to refugees independently of whether a durable solution, such as voluntary repatriation, third-country resettlement, or naturalization in the country of first asylum, is available. They are part of the protection mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Of the nearly 12 million refugees in the world today, more than 7 million are *warehoused*, confined to camps or segregated settlements or otherwise deprived of these basic rights, in situations lasting 10 years or more. Warehousing refugees not only violates their rights but also often reduces refugees to enforced idleness, dependency, and despair.

In light of the foregoing, the undersigned:

1. denounce the practice of warehousing refugees as a denial of rights in violation of the letter and spirit of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol and call upon the international community, including donor countries, host countries and members of the Executive Committee of UNHCR to do the same;

2. call upon the international community to develop and implement strategies to end the practice of warehousing, including examining how refugee assistance can enable the greater enjoyment of Convention rights;

3. call upon UNHCR to monitor refugee situations more effectively for the realization of all the rights of refugees under the Convention, including those related to freedom of movement and the right to earn a livelihood;

4. call upon those countries that have not yet ratified the Convention or the Protocol to do so;

5. call upon those countries that have ratified the Convention and/or the Protocol but have done so with reservations on key articles pertaining to the right to work and freedom of movement to remove those reservations; and

6. call upon all countries to pass legislation, promulgate policies, and implement programs providing for the full enjoyment of the basic rights of refugees as set forth in the Convention.

Organizations

Action Réfugiés Montréal
Africa Humanitarian Action (Angola)
Africa Internally Displaced Persons Voice
Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (Egypt)
Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Gaza)
Al Sharqiyah Orient House for Forced Migration
(Jordan)
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Jewish World Service
American Refugee Committee International
Amnesty International
Anglicare Refugee and Migrant Services
(Australia)
Arab Program for Human Rights Activists (Egypt)
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
(Thailand)
Asian Research Center for Migration, Chulalongkorn
University (Thailand)
Association for the Defense of Refugee Rights
(Osire Refugee Camp, Namibia)
*Association européenne pour la défense des droits
de l'Homme*
Association of Human Rights Activists Bhutan
Asylum Seekers Project, Hotham Mission
(Australia)
Asylum Welcome (UK)
Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
Boaz Trust (UK)
British Refugee Council
Canadian Council for Refugees
Caritas Sweden
Center for International Policy (U.S.)
*Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome de
las Casas* (Mexico)
*Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustin pro
Juarez* (Mexico)
*Centro de Investigaciones Economicas y Politicas
de Accion Comunitaria* (Mexico)
Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee
Program (U.S.)
Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
Cimade, service oecuménique d'entraide (France)
Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (Spanish
Commission for Refugee Assistance)
Comité Internacional de Rescate (Spain)
*Commission d'Entraide pour les Migrants et les
Réfugiés—International*
Committee in Defence of Democracy and Human
Rights (Israel)
Committee to Defend Democracy (Egypt)
Committee for the Somali Interest, Conservation
and Community Affairs (Yemen)
Concern America
Congoese Refugee Development Association
(Uganda)
Darfur Organization for Human Rights and Devel-
opment
Doctors of the World (U.S.)
Dutch Refugee Council
Egyptian Organization for Human Rights
Eminent Persons Group on Refugee and Migratory
Movements in South Asia (Sri Lanka)
Episcopal Migration Ministries (U.S.)
Ethiopian Community Development Council
Ethiopian Human Rights Council
European Council on Refugees and Exiles
Finnish Red Cross
Freedom House (U.S.)
Frontiers (Lebanon)
Fundación Restrepo Barco (Colombia)
Genocide Watch
Greek Refugee Council
Group 484 (Serbia and Montenegro)
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human
Rights (U.S.)
Hmong National Development
Hodi (Zambia)
Human Rights Council of Bhutan
Human Rights First
Human Rights Network (Uganda)
Human Rights Watch
Ibn Khaldun Center for Development (Egypt)
Institute of Cultural Affairs in the U.S.A.
Institute for Liberty and Democracy
Inter Pares (Canada)
International Catholic Migration Commission
International Journal of Refugee Law
International Refugee Research Institute (U.S.)
International Refugee Rights Initiative
International Rescue Committee (U.S.)
Iranian Refugees' Alliance
Irish Refugee Council
Italian Council for Refugees
Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights
Jesuit Refugee Service
Jubilee Partners (U.S.)
A Just Australia—Australians for Just Refugee
Programs
Kenya Human Rights Commission
Kurdish Human Rights Watch
Legal Resources Foundation Trust (Kenya)

Legal Resources Foundation (Zambia)
 Lexington Institute (U.S.)
 Libyan League for Human Rights
Ligue Française des Droits de l'Homme
 Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (U.S.)
 Lutheran World Federation
 Lutheran World Relief (U.S.)
Maluku Masa Depan (Indonesia)
 Mercy Corps
 “Memorial” Human Rights Center (Russian Federation)
 National Human Rights Society (HAKAM, Malaysia)
 National Society for Human Rights (Namibia)
 Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers
Office Africain pour le développement et la coopération
 (Senegal)
 Organization for Aid to Refugees (Czech
 Republic)
 Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (Gaza)
 Physicians for Human Rights
Pro Asyl—Human Rights Organization for
 Refugees in Germany
Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de
Derechos Humanos “Todos los Derechos
para Todos” (Mexico)
 Refugee Center for Human Rights (Egypt)
 Refugee Consortium of Kenya
 Refugee Council of Australia
 Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre
 (Australia)
 Refugee Law Project, Makerere University
 Refugee Relief Workers International
 Refugees International
Rencontre Africaine Pour la Défense des Droits
de l'Homme (Senegal)
Rencontre pour la Paix et les Droits de l'Homme
 (Congo-Kinshasa)
 Representatives of the Massaleit Community in
 Exile
 RESPECT Refugees Ghana
 Save the Children (Canada)
 Self-help Initiative for Sustainable
 Development (Ghana)
Sin Fronteras (Mexico)
 South Asia Human Rights Documentation Center
 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
 South Center for Human Rights (Egypt)
Stichting Vluchteling (Dutch Refugee Foundation)
 Sudan Emancipation & Preservation Network
 Tanganyika Christian Relief Service
 Thai Catholic Commission for Migrants and Prisoners
 Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office
 UN Association of the Philippines
 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (U.S.)
 U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
 West African Refugees and Internally Displaced
 Persons Network
 Women Empowerment Literacy and Development
 Organization (Pakistan)
 Women’s Commission for Refugee Women
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 Women’s Forum for Research and Training (Yemen)

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 Trinity College Dublin, *The Reader in Refugee Law: Cases, Documents and Materials* (ed.)

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The Age of Migration: International
Population Movements in the Modern World

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Incarnation of the Bodhisattva of Compassion
Ethics for the New Millennium

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The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else

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Rights in Exile: Janus-Faced Humanitarianism

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Reinventing the Melting Pot: The New Immigrants and What it Means to Be American (ed.)

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God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time

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*La nouvelle Europe politique des camps d'exilés:
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