

# Refugee Week 2007 Resource Kit



## "The Voices of Young Refugees"

Refugee Week 2007 is coordinated by Refugee Council of Australia and supported by Victorian Multicultural Commission, AMES Victoria, NSW Community Relations Commission, Multicultural Arts Victoria, ACL Government Programs, Australian National Maritime Museum and UNHCR

# 1. REFUGEES AND REFUGEE WEEK – STATS AND FACTS

## What is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week has been celebrated in Australia since the 1980s. It is a time:

- ✚ to educate the Australian public about who refugees are and why they come to Australia;
- ✚ to help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- ✚ to celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community;
- ✚ to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- ✚ for community groups and individuals to do something positive for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, be they in our community or scattered around the world; and
- ✚ for service providers to reflect on whether they are providing the best possible service for refugees.

In 2007 the Refugee Council of Australia is encouraging organisations to celebrate a unified Refugee Week. The new date coincides with the celebration of **World Refugee Day on June 20** offering greater opportunities for creating awareness of local, national and international issues affecting refugees. The 2007 Refugee Week will be celebrated from:

***Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June***

## Who are Refugees?

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (and its 1967 Protocol), to which Australia is a signatory, defines a refugee as:

*Any person who owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.*

The important parts of this definition are:

- ✚ that the person has to be outside their country of origin
- ✚ the reason for their flight has to be a fear of persecution
- ✚ this fear of persecution has to be well founded (i.e. they have to have experienced it or be likely to experience it if they return)
- ✚ the persecution has to result from one or more of the five grounds listed in the definition
- ✚ they have to be unwilling or unable to seek the protection of their country

The United Nations body responsible for protecting refugees and overseeing adherence to this Refugee Convention is the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR).

The Refugee Convention definition is used by the Australian Government to determine whether our country has protection obligations towards asylum seekers. If an asylum seeker is found to

be a refugee, Australia is obliged under international law to offer protection and to ensure that the person is not sent back unwillingly to their country of origin.

## Where are the World's Refugees?

The largest groups of refugees identified by UNHCR around the world at the beginning of 2006 were from the following countries

<b>Central Africa and the Great Lakes</b>	<b>1,359,175</b>
<b>East and Horn of Africa</b>	<b>2,105,314</b>
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>1,031,030</b>
<b>The Middle East</b>	<b>2,580,638</b>
<b>South-West Asia</b>	<b>2,974,316</b>
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>1,304,189</b>
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	<b>1,617,214</b>
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>1,798,914</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>2,512,277</b>

## Why Do Refugees Come to Australia?

Refugees flee their country because they would face persecution if they were to remain. The majority of the world's refugees flee into bordering countries, most of which are in the developing world. While some remain in these countries until it is safe for them to return, many find themselves living in difficult conditions in camps for years, some time decades. The average time spent in a refugee camp is now 17 years.

Some refugees are not safe in bordering countries, and they must look further a field for protection. Sometimes they will need to take complex and dangerous routes, to a country where they believe they will be safe and can start a new life.

## What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee?

When someone arrives and seeks asylum in Australia we refer to them as an asylum seeker until their claim has been assessed and they are determined to be a refugees according to the Refugee Convention. Under the Refugee Convention Australia has an obligation to provide protection to asylum seekers once they are determined to be refugees.

## How Do Refugees Come to Australia?

Refugees come to Australia in one of two ways:

- ✚ The majority come under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program. They are granted permanent residency status<sup>1</sup> and have access to a wide range of entitlements and services. We refer to them as **offshore** refugees because their claims were processed while they were in another country.
- ✚ Smaller numbers come as asylum seekers (either by plane or boat) and their claim to be a refugee is assessed in Australia (**onshore**). If they are found to be a refugee, Australia is obliged as a signatory to the Refugee Convention to provide protection. If they arrived with a

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<sup>1</sup> The exception to this is a small number of refugees who had their applications processed in Nauru, Indonesia or elsewhere in our immediate region and were granted temporary visas.

valid passport and visa, they are granted a Permanent Protection Visa (PPV). If they came without authorisation, they are granted a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV).

In 2005-06 a total of 14 144 visas were granted. 2005-06 saw the highest number of visas granted in 10 years. The target for 2006-2007 remains at 13 000 new places. In 2005-06 only 1.8% of the program was made up of onshore refugees<sup>2</sup>.

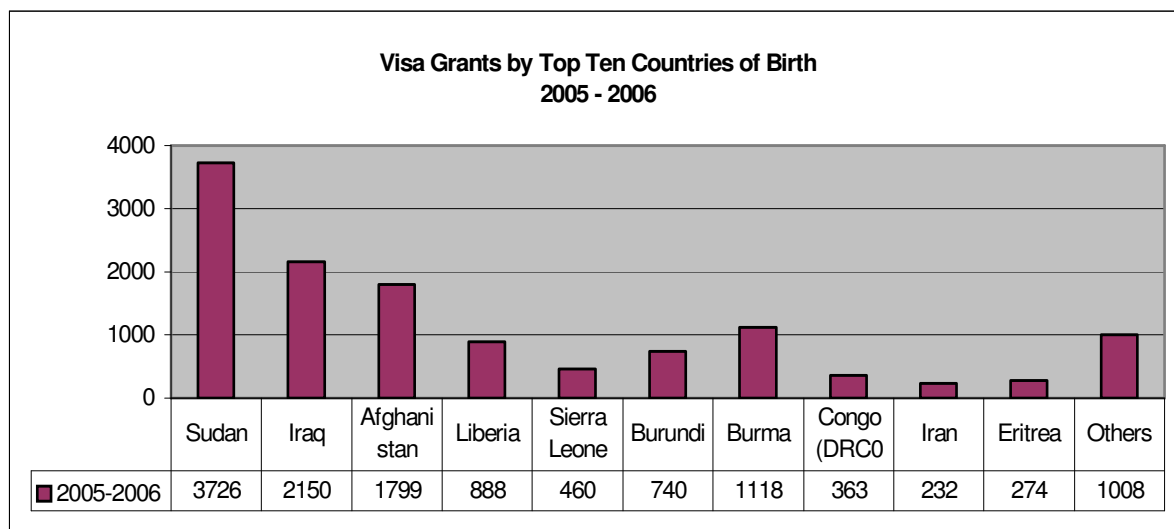
## Where Do “Our” Refugees Come From?

Over the years, Australia has assisted refugees from many parts of the world.

After the Second World War, most came from countries such as Germany, Poland and the Ukraine. In the 1950s we saw refugees coming from Hungary and in the 1960s many came from Czechoslovakia. In the 1970s refugees started coming from Indochina (especially Vietnam) and Latin America (Chile and El Salvador) and these groups continued to come well into the 1980s.

The 1990s were dominated by the Balkan War, with large numbers coming from Bosnia and Croatia. There were also significant numbers of refugees arriving from the Middle East and South Asia during this decade. Many of these people were ethnic and religious minorities or opponents of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan or Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq.

In the 2000s the majority of entrants coming in under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program have come from Africa, in particular Sudan. Refugees have also continued coming from the Middle East and South Asia. The following table provides an example of the diversity of the refugees coming to Australia in 2005-2006:



In the past 60 years, Australia has offered permanent residency to around 700,000 refugees. At least 7% of Australians have been through the experience of being a refugee or have a parent or grandparent who has. Many former refugees are prominent in Australian business, government, education, the arts, sport and community life. Offering a new start for people in peril has proven to be an important nation-building exercise for Australia.

<sup>2</sup> DIAC, 2007

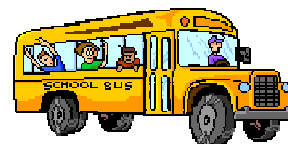
## 2. CELEBRATING REFUGEE WEEK 2007

### What Can I Do During Refugee Week?

There is a vast array of activities, large or small, that you or your community can do to celebrate Refugee Week. Below are a number of suggestions.

#### At your school:

✚ Invite a speaker to come to your school. This could be someone from an agency working with refugees or someone who has been through the refugee experience. Be sure to check out page 6 of the kit for information on refugee speakers.



✚ Hold a celebration or cultural event that acknowledges and welcomes refugee students.

✚ Organise an art competition using this year's Refugee Week theme.



✚ Hold a special assembly

✚ Use "Taking Action: Human Rights and Refugee Issues Teaching Resource" ([www.foundationhouse.org.au/pub\\_takingaction\\_2.htm](http://www.foundationhouse.org.au/pub_takingaction_2.htm)) during Refugee Week to raise awareness in the classroom.

#### In your work place:

✚ Invite a speaker to come to your workplace during lunch time.

✚ Explore how your workplace can help refugees into the workforce. (If in Victoria give the Given the Chance team a call on: (03) 9416 0044)

✚ Arrange a volunteer program in your workplace where employees take turns to volunteer with organisation assisting refugees.

✚ Hold a food drive to donate to an agency that provides food packages for asylum seekers. Many asylum seekers live in the community and are denied the right to work, Medicare and social security.

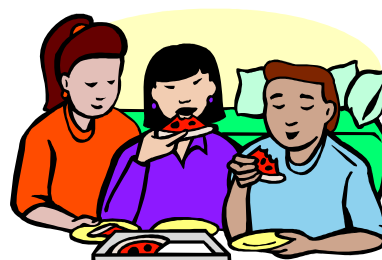
✚ Organise a fundraiser for your favourite refugee support agency – see the list below for key agencies working in Sydney and Melbourne

#### With your social group:

✚ Host a cultural event

✚ Arrange a meal that brings refugees and non-refugees together to share stories.

✚ Organise a fundraiser for your favourite refugee support agency – see the list below for key agencies working in Sydney and Melbourne



✚ Attend any one of the many events during the week – check out the calendar of events on our website closer to the week.

## **The Newspaper Challenge**

If you planning an event, your local newspaper is the media outlet most likely to be interested. Let's see if we can get a positive story for Refugee Week 2007 into every local newspaper. See page 8 for advice on how to make this happen.

## **Don't forget, the Refugee Council would like to know about your activities**

*Why not send us your event details in a PDF via email on what you or your group are planning for Refugee Week. We can then list your event on our online calendar of events. It also helps us form a picture of how successful Refugee Week 2007 was and gives us some great ideas for next year. Also we would love to receive copies of any media coverage that you received for your event.*

### **In Victoria contact:**

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### **For all other states contact:**

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### 3. GUIDE TO WORKING ETHICALLY AND RESPONSIBLY WITH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The following information is designed to be a guide for individuals and organisations planning an event, function or activity for Refugee Week.

#### Involving refugees in your event

It is important that individuals and organisations planning any event which has the active participation of refugees, take account of the good practice measures outlined below. The following information has been compiled with input from a number of organisations who have participated in the organizing committee for Refugee Week, including the Ecumenical Migration Centre, the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, the Adult Multicultural Education Services and the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues.

#### How will refugees be involved?



Organisations need to consider how they will involve refugees in their event. You should make very clear the purpose of the refugees involvement, the way in which they will be involved, what you or your organisation's role will be, practical details of the event such as dates, times, location, getting there and the contact person/s details.

If you are involving speakers or groups with limited English, ensure qualified interpreters or bilingual workers from your organisation are used to convey the information or have the discussion.

#### Refugee speakers

If you plan to have some refugee/asylum seeker speakers at your event, as well as the above, the following points need to be considered:

**Full Preparation** Consider and discuss with them what they will be speaking about – how long, what you want them to cover, who and how many people will be in the audience. A run through beforehand can be very helpful as well as briefing notes to guide them. This will also help determine their confidence and ability to handle public speaking in English.

**Reimbursement** Wherever possible speakers should be paid for their participation, an appropriate amount would be between \$50- \$100. At the very least speakers should be reimbursed for any travel costs. It is important to make it clear whether or not this is the case from the beginning.

**Providing Support** If the person is required to "tell their story" you should consider the potential for re-traumatisation and discuss with them how happy they are to do this, what possible repercussions there are for them or extended family (particularly those still overseas), the possibility of press coverage, whether this person has been asked to do similar events previously and how often, or whether there is potential to negatively impact on their visa process.

Be sensitive to the fact that, as a worker or advocate for refugees, some refugees may be reluctant to say directly to you that they don't want to participate. You may



detect some reticence even though they say they are willing. Wherever this is the case, err on the side of caution.

If a speaker becomes upset, be prepared to interrupt and give them the option of whether to continue or not.

**Follow Up** Following any event where refugees have spoken, make sure that the speaker receives some feedback at the end, spend some time with them and give them the opportunity to discuss any issues that may have arisen for them. If they are distressed make sure that they are aware of local support services and/or the state based torture and trauma service. The follow-up is important to ensure they have ongoing support if they have been re-traumatised by the event. Be sure to give them a call after the event and thank them for their participation.

***For further information or advice on getting a speaker for your event please call either the Refugee Council of Australia in NSW or Victoria or check the list of organizing agencies in your state at the back of this kit.***

## Media Involvement

If you plan to have press coverage of the event and refugee speakers are presenting, make sure they are aware of this and have their consent (preferably in writing) to use photos, names or other details. It is possible to get anonymity agreements with press coverage and this option should be fully discussed with them before obtaining consent. Advise and discuss any potential risks with press exposure beforehand. Speakers should be made aware of the editing process with most newspapers and the fact that the papers usually exercise editorial control on what goes to press. Some local press, however, are happy to show copy before going to press. Wherever possible ensure that this option is explored.



If your event involves advocacy for refugees, be sure of any facts presented by speakers. Media enjoys sensational news and the editorial control process may result in a negative media report if any speakers present incorrect material. If your speaker/s are to be interviewed by media, ensure there are ground rules beforehand and stipulate the kinds of questions they will not answer. It is always best to have a support person there to intervene if necessary. Remember not all members of the public and media are sympathetic to refugee issues

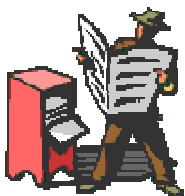
## 4. MEDIA COVERAGE FOR YOUR EVENT

### How Do I Get My Local Paper to do a Story on My Event?

Most local newspapers have a "what's on" section where you can advertise your event for free. This is a good way to get publicity before your event. Make sure that you ring the newspaper well before the event to find out when their deadline is for this section and what the process is to ensure your event is listed. Sometimes local newspapers will also run a story before the event but make sure you give them lots of notice.

It is often easier to get the local media to report on an event that has already occurred, because it provides an opportunity to have photographs of the event. Again make sure that the local paper is given plenty of notice. A media release can be a good way to get them interested in doing a story. If the event is on a weekend, the local paper may have problems sending out a photographer. Discuss with them the option of taking photos prior to the event. Some papers will be open to you taking good quality photos on a digital camera and providing them to the journalist. A good photo can mean the difference between a story getting up or not.

### How do I write a media release?



Working effectively with the media to present your event may mean writing a press release to the local media. There are general procedures to follow when writing a media release.

How can you guarantee your media release will be read? Firstly offer information in the media release that can immediately be put to use. Additionally, make the information easy to digest and absorb and finally, use your media release to motivate the media to want more!

Follow up you're media release with a call to the local paper and offer them more information and an opportunity to come and take photographs.

### Before you begin...

#### Who is your audience?

Firstly, be aware that media releases are often abandoned due to incorrect information. A media release will not be read or opened if it has been forwarded to the wrong person or distributed using the wrong address or contact numbers. It is a good idea to continuously update your media contact listing, accessing the Margaret Gee Australian Media Guide may be helpful. If your target is the local newspaper, give them a call and find out who the most appropriate journalist so you can email/send them directly.

#### Using an active voice

It is important to be direct. Getting your release accurate means being aware of applying an active voice when writing. Also, don't use technical jargon or terminology that is too complex to interpret.

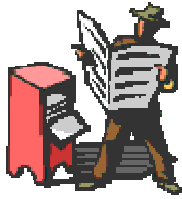
#### Design

If you are from an organisation, use their letterhead. Label your work with "Media Release", and include at least one contact name and telephone number of someone who can provide additional information. Keeping your release limited to one page makes it a concise and simple read.



## How to structure your media release...

Media releases should be structured in the following way:



1. Datelines
2. Headline
3. Lead
4. Body
  - Important things first
  - Quotes and sources
5. End

The **dateline** should be included at the top of the release. If you have to use an embargo, to distribute the advance text of a speech, then it is best to make sure that your release carries clear details on the date, day and time of your intended release.

The **headline** must summarise key points you wish to convey, additionally it must be interesting enough to catch the attention of your target audience. Aiming for a complete but short sentence is best. Avoid using past tense and passive tense, instead use verbs and active words.



The **Lead** paragraphs should contain information concerning the 4Ws and one H *Who? When? Where? Why? and How?*

In the **body**, put the important point first. Using short sentences and short paragraphs are best. Include direct and conclusive quotes to illustrate key points, incorporate name and title or position in the organisation of the person quoted. You may spell out the name of the organisation initially, followed by an abbreviation afterwards.

The **end** paragraph summarises facts and background information regarding the subject matter, include specific dates, purposes and any opinions you may hold. Be sure to back up statements with facts.



## 5. MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCE ABOUT REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

### Check out the following Websites:

#### Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) [www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)

RCOA is the national umbrella advocacy body working on refugee issues in Australia. All information relating to Refugee Week 2007 will be posted on the Council's website as it becomes available and will include a poster to download, a Calendar of Events which will be updated regularly and other information to assist community groups and others in their planning for Refugee Week 2007.

#### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [www.unhcr.org.au](http://www.unhcr.org.au)

##### Australia For UNHCR [www.unrefugees.org.au](http://www.unrefugees.org.au)

UNHCR is the United Nations agency mandated to respond to refugee crises around the world. The UNHCR website provides a wide range of resources including up to date information, news, current statistics relating to refugees and displaced persons worldwide.



It is also a fantastic source of photographs and images of refugees worldwide. As long as these are sourced and acknowledged correctly, these images can be used in presentations or on posters and promotional material for your event or school project. Check the website regularly as these photographs are updated and change frequently.



The Australia for UNHCR website is also a great resource for teachers and students alike, and includes a school curriculum that incorporates refugee and asylum seeker issues into learning. Australia for UNHCR also has ideas and suggestions for interesting events and activities you can organise in support of refugees and to raise awareness about refugee issues.

#### A Just Australia [www.ajustaustralia.com](http://www.ajustaustralia.com)

The core mission of A Just Australia is to campaign for changes to government policy on refugee and asylum seekers. A Just Australia runs a national campaign that incorporates a series of public awareness activities including public events and meetings, advertising, lobbying, research, and letter-writing. The A Just Australia website has information on a range of refugee and asylum issues.



#### Amnesty International Australia [www.amnesty.org.au](http://www.amnesty.org.au)

Amnesty International Australia's website provides detailed information and research relating to human rights issues, refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. In addition to commentary on recent and topical refugee issues in Australia, the Amnesty website also contains specific resources for schools.

[www.amnesty.org.au/resources](http://www.amnesty.org.au/resources)

#### The Australian Red Cross [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

#### The International Committee of the Red Cross [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

The Australian Red Cross assists asylum seekers with health support, counselling, accommodation, material aid, education, legal referrals, and social support. The website has a FAQs section, a News Room page, and a library resource.



The International Committee of the Red Cross website has an extensive photographic library which can be used for school projects and presentations. Please be sure to acknowledge the ICRC if you are using any of their images.

**National Council of Churches of Australia [www.ncca.org.au](http://www.ncca.org.au)**

An education kit and many resources for schools are available for download from this site which has gathered resources for the National Council of Churches Refugee and Migrant Sunday and are also great for Refugee Week.

**SOFweb - Victorian Department of Education & Training - SOFweb  
[www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/lem/esl/refweek.htm](http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/lem/esl/refweek.htm)**

The SofWeb site provides resources and classroom activities on refugee issues. It also has a page dedicated to Refugee Week with great ideas for how schools can get involved in the week.

**ChilOut [www.chilout.org](http://www.chilout.org)**

ChilOut is an organisation dedicated to the rights of asylum seeker children. With the new legislation that now means children will only be kept in Immigration Detention as a last resort, Chillout is now focusing their campaigning on the policy of mandatory detention. The website is great for information on how Australia's asylum policies impact on children.

**Foundation House: The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of  
Torture [www.foundationhouse.org.au](http://www.foundationhouse.org.au)**

This website offers lots of information about the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers as well as having a fantastic schools page with great resources that can be used in the classroom.



**Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) [www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org](http://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org)**

Rural Australians for Refugees is an informal group of citizens working for more humane Immigration policies. The RAR website provides comprehensive up to date information and news, as well as providing ways you can become involved in supporting refugees in rural and regional areas. The website also has fantastic information about books and videos that look at refugee issues.

**Actors for Refugees [www.actorsforrefugees.org.au](http://www.actorsforrefugees.org.au)**

Actors for Refugees is an informal network of actors ready to use their performance skills and public profiles to tell the stories of people fleeing persecution. Actors for Refugees are involved in the launch of Refugee Week 2006. Check out the website for details of this and other performances.

## **Key Agencies Working with Asylum Seekers:**

**Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) Sydney [www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au](http://www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au)**

Since September 2003, the ASC has assisted over 2,700 asylum seekers. It relies on donations and the assistance of volunteers who fill a variety of positions. This site provides details on how to donate or become involved in a volunteer capacity with the Centre.

**Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project (ASP) Melbourne [www.hothammission.org.au](http://www.hothammission.org.au)**

The Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project provides essential care and services to asylum seekers living in Melbourne. The ASP website provides information and resources on community-based asylum seekers and provides ways for the broader community to become involved through volunteering.

**Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) Melbourne [www.asrc.org.au](http://www.asrc.org.au)**

For those wishing to access information about community based asylum seekers in Melbourne, the ASRC website provides a range of resources, including excellent information relating to Temporary Protection Visa holders and also lists volunteer and internship positions available at the Centre. The website also has some fantastic fundraising ideas, perfect for Refugee Week.

The centre also runs a catering service – fantastic if you're organizing an event – click here for the menu: [www.asrc.org.au/uploads/File/ASRC\\_Menu\\_July\\_2006.pdf](http://www.asrc.org.au/uploads/File/ASRC_Menu_July_2006.pdf)

**Refugee Claimants Support Centre, Brisbane <http://www.refugees.org.au/index.htm>**

Established in 1995 with a grant from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the Refugee Claimants Support Centre (located in Brisbane, Queensland) provides critical support to refugee claimants (or, asylum seekers) in the often extended period before their applications for protection are finally determined by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

**The Coalition Assisting Asylum Seekers, Refugees And Detainees (CARAD), Perth <http://www.carad-wa.org/index.php>**

Since January 2000 CARAD, has provided settlement services for over 2000 refugees who are sent to Perth from detention centres. CARAD is made up of hundreds of volunteers, supporters and donors. The members and supporters of CARAD have widely varying backgrounds (age, culture, faith, work, geography, politics, etc.). CARAD campaigns for alternative models for the assessment of claims for refugee status as well as changes to legislation. CARAD also believes that a new and different voice for refugees is needed.

**Australian Refugee Association, Adelaide <http://www.ausref.net/index.php>**

ARA, located in Adelaide, South Australia, provides assistance to refugees and migrants of similar backgrounds by helping them to settle and fully establish themselves in Australia with independence and dignity. ARA's many services are broadly in the areas of: settlement, employment, migration, public education and policy.

**Check out the Following Refugee Related Movies and Documentaries:**

**Live and Become (2005)**

*Live and Become* follows the life of an Ethiopian boy who is passed off as a Jew to escape his ravaged country. In 1984 in a Sudanese refugee camp sheltering Ethiopians displaced by civil war and famine, the Israeli army has begun "Operation Moses", airlifting thousands of African Jews to Israel. A Christian mother persuades a Jewish woman whose own son has just died from starvation, to allow her son to assume his identity.

**Unveiled (Fremde Haut) (2005) by Angelina Maccarone**

A stunningly beautiful portrait of an Iranian refugee struggling between survival in small-town Germany and her love for a local woman.

**The Art of Flight (2005) by Davin Anders Hutchins**

*The Art of Flight* is a guerrilla documentary that was shot illegally in Egypt on camcorders and a laptop. This feature-length film tells the story of three people - a refugee from southern Sudan, a human rights activist from northern Sudan and an American journalist in self-imposed exile - all living in Cairo.

**Anthem: An Act of Sedition (2005)**

Tahir Cambis (*Exile in Sarajevo*) and Helen Newman's powerful award-winning documentary, chronicles the human rights struggles of our times. In the age of the 'War on Terror', *Anthem*

bears dramatic, intimate witness to the last five years of history, which saw the emergence of a more militaristic and racist Australia, following America in its footsteps. An epic journey of the heart and mind, *Anthem* is a provocative meditation on our ideals of freedom in a country still unsure of its identity or vision for the future. (DOCUMENTARY)

### **In the Shadow of the Palms (2004)**

Life in Iraq before and during the most controversial war of the 21st Century - A multi-award winning production. (DOCUMENTARY)

### **Molly and Mobarak (2004)**

A humanising portrait of Afghan asylum seekers in the small New South Wales town of Young. (DOCUMENTARY)

### **Cargo (2004)** by Clive Gordon

Based upon a series of true stories, *Cargo* is the intense tale of four refugees escaping from Croatia to the UK in the back of a lorry in the early 1990's, at the height of the Balkan wars. But are they genuine refugees, persecuted by likes of Milosevic or are they impulsive opportunists?

### **God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of Lost Boys of Sudan (2004)** by Christopher Dillon

Four boys from Sudan embark on a journey to America after years of wandering Sub-Saharan Africa in search of safety. (DOCUMENTARY)

### **Turtles Can Fly (2004)** by Bahmjan Ghobadi

Near the Iraqi-Turkish border on the eve of an American invasion, refugee children like 13-year-old Kak (Ebrahim), gauge and await their fate.

### **Letters To Ali (2004)** directed by Clara Law

It's the story of a 15-year old Afghan boy who's seeking asylum in Australia, and about the Australian family who befriend him. (DOCUMENTARY)

### **Hotel Rwanda (2004)**

Don Cheadle stars in the true-life story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who housed over a thousand Tutsi refugees during their struggle against the Hutu militia in Rwanda.

### **Osama (2004)**

Inspired by a true story, a tale which centres on three generations of women, deeply affected by the advent of the Taliban's rule in their land, Afghanistan.

### **Beyond Borders (2003)**

Wealthy society woman who is transformed into a humanitarian aid worker (UNHCR), starring Angelina Jolie.

### **The Lost Boys of Sudan (2003)** by Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk

*The Lost Boys of Sudan* is a feature-length documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America (DOCUMENTARY)

### **Olympics in Camp (2003)** by Majid Majidi

Some kids in a refugee camp in Afghanistan gather the bullet-shells and change the battle field into a playing field for eternal friendship in the hope of a future with no war and no violence.

### **In This World (2002)** by Michael Winterbottom

Follows two young Afghan refugees on their journey to London. Based on true events and using refugees themselves as the actors.

**Jenin Jenin (2002)** by Mohammad Bakri

This is the story of the 8 day bombardment by the Israeli Defence Forces of the autonomous Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin (Palestine) during April 2000. A film of despair, human tragedy, hatred, cynicism and last but not least, of hope.

**Woomera (2002)**

Woomera was a notorious mandatory detention centre in South Australia, a particularly arid and inhospitable part of the desert. In 2002, about one thousand people gathered at Woomera to protest about the Government's policy of mandatory detention for asylum seekers. This locally made work is a telling document about a particularly contentious chapter in Australian history that continues to divide opinions about this policy. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Dirty Pretty Things (2002)** by Stephan Frears

An illegal Nigerian immigrant discovers the unpalatable side of London life.

**Australia's Refugee Dilemma (2002)**

This film investigates what is a refugee, why people become refugees, people smuggling and what happens to people who come to Australia, claiming to be refugees. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Tampa and Beyond (2002)**

Covers Tampa incident, the establishment of off-shore detention centres, explains relevant laws. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Australia's Pacific Solution (2002)** by Kate Durham and Sarah McDonald

Explores Australia's Pacific Solution and the involvement of Nauru. (DOCUMENTARY)

**The Cage House (2002)** by Angela van Boxtel's

Award winning short movie inspired by the drawings of 6 year old Shayan Badraie in Villawood Detention Centre.

**Frontiers of Dreams and Fears (2001)** by Mai Masri

Powerful, passionate and often disturbing *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* tells the heart-breaking story of two young Palestinian girls growing up in refugee camps in Beirut and Bethlehem. The film focuses on these two young girls, their daily life, their dreams, hopes and aspirations and their friendship.

**Baran (2001)** by Majid Majidi

In a building site in present-day Tehran, Lateef, a 17-year-old Kurdish worker is irresistibly drawn to Rahmat, a young Afghan worker. The revelation of Rahmat's secret changes both their lives.

**Last Resort (2000)** by Pawel Pawlikowski

When Tanya steps off the plane in London, she might think she's never left Moscow. The pretty single mom can't get past immigration with her \$85, her son, and her story about meeting her British fiance, so she comes up with a spur-of-the-moment plan: demand political asylum in order to buy time, call her fiance, and live happily ever after. She has no idea what a big mistake this will turn out to be.

**A Time For Drunken Horses (Zamani Baraye Masti Ashba) (2000)** by Bahman Ghobadi

A movie about a group of orphaned Kurdish children who live on the poverty line in a village near the Iran-Iraq border.

**Blackboards (1999)** by Samira Makhmalbaf

A group of male teachers cross the mountainous paths of the remote Iranian Kurdistan region. They wander from village to village in search of students, carrying large blackboards on their backs, sometimes using them as shelter, camouflage and as shields for gunfire.

**The Plight of Tibet and the Dalai Lama: Interviews with Tibetan Refugees (1999)**

This film consists of interviews with Tibetan refugees (predominantly Buddhists persecuted for their religion), including the current Dalai Lama, as well as those people who operate the services in India which assist the arriving refugees. They describe both their treatment at the hands of the country's rulers as well as the general socio-economic climate brought about by the policies of the government of Tibet. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Australia Has No Winter (1999)**

Stevan Arbutina, a Serb, is married to Georgia, a Croatian. They are forced to immigrate to Australia after the devastating civil war in Yugoslavia makes it impossible for them to find peace and security in their old country. This compelling film traces the family's journey from Belgrade to Melbourne. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Children of Shantila (1998)** by Mai Masri

The Shatila Camp in Beirut has become home to more than 15,000 Palestinians and Lebanese who share a common experience of displacement, unemployment and poverty. This is the story of two Palestinian children born and raised in the Shatila Camp - Farah aged 11 and Issa aged 12. It is the intent of documentary filmmaker Mai Masri to present the children's stories of the realities of life in Shatila through their own eyes and words, providing each child with a video camera. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Eternity and a Day (Mia Eonio tita ke mia mira) (1998)** by Theo Angelopoulos

A famous author, reaching the end of his life, encounters a young Albanian refugee boy who is one of the thousands of illegal immigrants from Eastern Europe coming into Greece. Alexander begins a quest to return the boy home, and when that proves impossible, attempts to give the young orphan the security and opportunities unavailable on the streets. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Exile in Sarajevo (1997)** by Tahir Cambis and Alma Sahbaz

A passionate and personal account of the siege of Sarajevo, from the viewpoint of Bosnian-Australian Tahir Cambis and Sarajevean Alma Sahbaz. Nirvan, a talented young dancer, dies after a shelling attack. Her family, unable to come to terms with their loss, is forced to leave Sarajevo as refugees bound for America. Eight year old Amira's illustrated diary is poignant testimony of the murder of family and friends. Both stories are set within the context of NATO bombing missions, UN Press Conferences and the liberation and reunification of parts of the city under Bosnian-Serb control.

**Mohamed Ali's Happy Day Feast (1997)** by Nicky Tyndale-Biscoe

Having survived war in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, but suffering the loss of home and family, Mohamed and his wife Halima arrive in Australia with a renewed optimism, and set about establishing their dream cafe.

**La Promesse (1997)** by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne

Igor and his father, Roger, are making a decent living renting apartments to illegal immigrants and sometimes working them illegally (among other scams). But when the building inspector pays a surprise visit and Amidou falls off a scaffold in his hurry to hide, things start to unravel, particularly when Igor makes a promise to the injured Amidou that ultimately exposes the different values of Igor and Roger, and of Amidou's wife, Assita.

**Tale of the Three Jewels (Conte des trios diamants) (1994)** by Michel Khleifi

A beautiful film of young adolescent love, of dreams and fantasies, which sadly takes place in a world of conflict, hate and violence in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.

**Dreams and Silence (Reves et silences) (1991)** by Omar Al Qattan

It is the autumn of 1990 in Jordan. The Islamic movement has declared a Holy War against the West and the Gulf War is at its height. Haifa Samhoury is a middle-aged Palestinian refugee living in Jordan. Haifa talks of her life as a refugee. (DOCUMENTARY)

**El Norte (1984)**

Mayan Indian peasants, tired of being thought of as nothing more than "brazos fuertes" ("strong arms", i.e., manual laborers) and organizing in an effort to improve their lot in life, are discovered by the Guatemalan army. After the army destroys their village and family, a brother and sister, teenagers who just barely escaped the massacre, decide they must flee to "El Norte" ("the North", i.e., the USA).

**Well Founded Fear**

Tells the stories of oppression that brought political refugees to America — but even more interestingly, it looks at the people and the system that decide who gets to stay and who gets sent back, perhaps to prison or death. (DOCUMENTARY)

**Barefoot to Herat** by Majid Majidi

This film was shot during two trips that Majid Majidi took in Western Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002. In the first trip in November 2001, Majidi visited the refugee camp of MAKAKI in a Taliban controlled area and MILE 46, another small camp situated in a Northern Alliance held area. The second trip took place in February 2002 in the city of Herat now freed from the Taliban and in the hunger stricken camp of MASLAKH, one of the largest in the world.

**Spare Parts** by Damjan Kozole

The director is a veteran punk rocker from Slovenia whose film focuses on drunk, corrupt and depressed smugglers who reminisce about their former lives as racing car drivers as they ferry terrified human cargo across the Croatian border to Italy.

**Distant Lights** by Hans-Christian Schmid

Oder River between Frankfurt, Germany and Sublice, Poland is the featured border, the division between the prosperous west and the impoverished east. As in *Spare Parts*, the ferrymen here are unscrupulous, charging inordinate sums for tremendous danger and no guarantees that refugees will arrive safely.

**The Refugee Claimants Support Centre Choir**

The 'Scattered People' CD is a collection of songs written and inspired by Refugee Claimants in Brisbane. The 'Scattered People' is the story of ongoing struggles and journey from country of origin to resettlement in Australia.

## 6. CONTACT DETAILS FOR REFUGEE WEEK

### General Inquires and NSW specific events:

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