

# Sanctuary

A bi-monthly newsletter on asylum, refugee and migrant matters from a religious perspective  
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## OVERVIEW

**Asylum Applications** for the two months, May (229) and June (244) 2009, totalled 473.

**First Instance:** Of 644 applications processed in May/June '09, some 10 applicants were recognized as refugees at *first instance*, some 566 were refused and some 68 applicants were returned to the EU country to which they first arrived, to have their case processed there. (cf. *Dublin Convention/Regulation*).

**Appeal Stage:** Of 424 *Substantive Appeals* processed in May/June 2009, some 43 appellants were recognized as refugees (that is, on appeal, some 26 *First Instance* negative decisions were overturned).

**Top Countries of Origin of new asylum applicants** in 2009 up to 30 June: Nigeria: 23%; Pakistan: 10%; China: 7%; DR Congo: 4% and Zimbabwe: 4%.

**Backlog** of unprocessed asylum applications at 30 June '09: 4,010 (*First Instance*: 872; *Appeals*: 3,138).

**Family Reunification (FR):** New applications in May/June '09 totalled 69 (involving 167 dependants).

Some 61 applications (108 dependants) were processed to completion (ie. report sent to Min. Justice).

*FR applicants-top countries of origin in '09:* Sudan: 16%; Somalia: 11%; Iraq: 11%; Nigeria: 9%; DR Congo: 7%.

**Leave to Remain (LTR)** - from 1 Jan to 30 June 2009, some 365 people were granted *LTR* in Ireland.

**Removals** (deportations) - in the 6 months up to 30 June 2009, *Deportation Orders Signed* numbered 556, with 143 *Orders effected* (i.e. 143 people were removed/deported from Ireland). Of the 122 *Dublin II* orders signed, some 81 were effected (i.e. some 81 people were returned to the EU country where they first arrived).

**Voluntary Returns** of non-EEA nationals (including refused asylum seekers and irregular migrants) from Ireland in the first 6 months of 2009 numbered 281.

**Separated Children** (Unaccompanied Minors) - In May/June '09, of 40 separated children referred to the HSE, some 8 were re-united with family and 29 placed in care. Of the 40 children referred, some 10 [9 Chinese, 1 Somali (4 F/6M: aged 15-17)] are classified as *Missing from Care*.

**Direct Provision** at 19.7.'09 - Centres: 50; Residents: 6,173 in 19 counties; 769 in Mosney; c.200-300 in 11 centres (Athlone, Ballyhaunis, Clondalkin, Cork, Galway, Knockalishen, Monaghan, Sligo, Portlaoise) and c. 90-150 in 9 centres.

**Self-Catering:** Centres (4) - Dublin, Ballaghaderreen, Dundalk, Mallow). Cap. (reduced): 462 people; Residents: 316.

**Reception Centres** (2) - (Stillorgan, Baleskin). Capacity: 459; Residents: 308.

(Statistics: Dept of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and HSE Separated Children's Unit)

## CHURCH

**Conference on Human Trafficking** - Pope Benedict XVI affirmed his support for this international conference held in Rome in mid-June and organized by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The Pope highlighted the need for 'an ever more courageous commitment to the defense of human rights and the overcoming of every type of abuse.' Cf [cisa@wananchi.com](mailto:cisa@wananchi.com)

**Irish Bishops' Conference** - included in the Press Release, following the June '09 meeting of Conference -

- **UK Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill** - *Bishops support the concerns raised by the N. Ireland Human Rights Commission at UK Government plans to reintroduce legislation allowing wide powers to carry out document checks on people crossing the land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. There are concerns that such powers may lead to discrimination resulting from racial profiling.*
- **New rules on work permits for non-EEA workers including those already living and working in the State** - *Bishops share the unease of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) for the serious consequences of the new rules on work permits for non-EEA workers in Ireland. For those workers already in Ireland who are made redundant it will be almost impossible to get another job, regardless of how long they have lived and worked here. The Conference supports the efforts of the MRCI in seeking the assistance of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment to repeal aspects of the new work permit policy.*  
cf. [www.irishbishops.ie](http://www.irishbishops.ie)

## INTERNATIONAL, EU and NATIONAL ISSUES

The **Global Inter-faith Alliance against Human Trafficking (GIFAAHT)**, a multi-faith organization based in Kenya, has called on governments, non-governmental and faith-based organizations to work together to combat human trafficking. Opening the recent GIFAAHT workshop, Kenyan MP, Ms Millie Odhiambo, said that

parliament needs to enact laws that focus on the protection of sex abuse victims. **GIFAHT**'s main objective is to stop human trafficking through the collaborative efforts of groups and individuals of diverse faiths worldwide. Maura O'Donohue MMM, who gave the keynote address, and Joan Roddy dmj, both members of *Act to Prevent Trafficking* (APT), participated. CATHOLIC INFO SERVICE FOR AFRICA, 16 June '09 - cisa@wananchi.com

**Global Trends** - According to a recent report of the UN High Commission for Refugees, the global number of people uprooted by conflict and persecution at the end of '08 stood at 42 million, including 16 m. refugees and 26 m. internally displaced people. The figure of 42 m. includes many people who have little or no prospect of going home in the near future. DR Congo and Somalia are among the countries which face long-term internal displacement situations, as well as generating refugees who flee beyond their own borders. www.unhcr.org

**Christian NGOs look to influence reform agenda:** On 9 July, this Brussels-based network published a list of 18 recommendations for the 'Stockholm Programme' which sets the direction of EU asylum/ migration policies for 2010-'15. The document seeks to protect *the inviolable dignity of the human person & promote concepts of the common good, of global solidarity and the promotion of a society that welcomes the stranger.* www.caritas-europa.org

**EMBRACE** - Following threats in Belfast to Roma people from Romania, Roma families were moved to City Church and then to a secret location, until payments (by the Housing Executive & EMBRACE) for flights to Romania could be arranged. There are concerns that the victims of violence had to flee, rather than the perpetrators being apprehended. It is noted that City Church, in particular, and other Churches *already* had good relationships with Roma people. EMBRACE, having developed links with the Roma community, was seen as the obvious conduit for donations from the public for that community. cf EMBRACE newsletter #14 on www.embraceni.org

**Reporting on Refugees – Guidance by and for journalists**, launched by UN High Commission for Refugees, National Union of Journalists & the Irish Refugee Council to mark World Refugee Day, calls for fair and honest journalism. It underlines - *There is no such thing as a bogus asylum seeker or an illegal asylum seeker.*

*Everybody has the right to seek asylum in another country.* (p.4) cf www.unhcr.ie; nuj.org.uk; irishrefugeecouncil.ie

**Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) - Meeting your local TDs** is part of MRCI's campaign to **STOP THE CHANGES TO WORK PERMITS** in support of non-EEA migrant workers, who have been working in Ireland and have been made redundant and who cannot take up new employment until the job in question has passed the 'labour market' test. This obliges the employer to advertise the post for 2 months on FAS website and to prove that no Irish/other EEA national is available to fill the position. On how to support the campaign, cf www.mrci.ie

## RESOURCES

**What the Bible says about the Stranger** - *Biblical perspectives on racism, migration, asylum and cross-community issues* - An expanded, second edition, by Prof Kieran O'Mahony OSA, with discussion questions, prayers and suggestions for dramatisation...a resource for parishes, youth groups, schools etc. Available: Refugee and Migrant Project at [refproject@iecon](mailto:refproject@iecon) (Rep of Irl) and Irish Inter-Church Meeting at [info@irishchurches.org](mailto:info@irishchurches.org) (N.I.).

**Racial Justice Sunday 2009** resources are available on <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/396>, for use on RJS, Sept 13, and throughout the year. Theme: **The Changing Face of Britain and Ireland - Who do you say I am?** Mk 8:29.

**Directory of Migrant-led Churches and Chaplaincies** – For copies, e-mail: [refproject@iecon](mailto:refproject@iecon) (Rep of Irl) or [info@irishchurches.org](mailto:info@irishchurches.org) (N.I.) Also available on: www.irishchurches.org / www.iccsi.ie

**The Johns - sex for sale and the men who buy it** by Victor Malarek, Arcade Publishing, New York, 2009, pp 310, ...paints a stunning portrait of the men and organisations that foster and drive the sex trade... (From: Eason, etc)

**Post-Grad Diploma in Intercultural Education** (new) will focus on elements of education in a diverse society - delivered at Marino Institute of Ed, accredited by TCD, open to primary/post-prim teachers, those seconded to related fields etc. www.mie.ie/Continuing-Professional-Development/PG-Dip-Intercultural-Education.aspx

## TO PONDER

*[Human Trafficking] is the modern face of slavery. The ending of this trade ... must be a priority... A trafficked woman requires help on a number of fronts – protection from her former clients and her pimp, from organised crime gangs which run people-trafficking as big business, from threats to her family in her country of origin, and even from unthinking governments who, classifying her as an 'illegal' immigrant, move first to criminalise her and then to deport her. But she also needs help rebuilding herself, overcoming the destruction of her physical & mental health that will have resulted from the degradation & terror she was forced to undergo.*

'A Call to Halt the Traffic' (Editorial), The Tablet, 20 June 2009, p.2

**For further info on items in this newsletter, contact Sr. Joan Roddy, Refugee & Migrant Project Director**  
SANCTUARY can now be accessed at [www.catholicbishops.ie/refugees](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/refugees)



