

⚡ 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 Sept (360) and Oct '08 (355) totalled 715.

First Instance: Of 824 applications processed in Sept/Oct '08, some 28 applicants were recognized as refugees at *first instance*, some 799 applicants were refused and 88 applicants were returned to have their case processed in the EU country to which they first arrived. (cf. *Dublin Convention/Regulation*). Of some 245 persons whose applications were processed under the *prioritized* category, one was recognized as a refugee.

Appeal Stage: Of 366 *Substantive Appeals* processed in Sept/Oct'08, 44 appellants were recognized as refugees - that is, a refusal decision at *1st Instance* was overturned, while some 54 appeals were withdrawn.

Top Countries of Origin of new asylum applicants in 2008, up to 31 Oct: Nigeria: 26%; Pakistan: 6%; Iraq, Georgia & DR Congo: 5%.

Backlog of unprocessed cases at 31 Oct '08: 4,738 (*First Instance*: 1,231; *Appeals*: 3,507)

Leave to Remain: At 16 Nov, some 999 people had been granted LTR in Ireland '08 (total for '07 was 852).

Family Reunification: New applications in Sept/Oct '08 totalled 68 (involving 148 dependants). Some 74 applications (176 dependants) were processed to completion (ie. report sent to Min. Justice).

Separated Children (Unaccompanied Minors) - of 67 young people under 18 years referred to the HSE/ Separated Children's Unit in the months, Sept/Oct '08, about half were re-united with family and half placed in care. In the same period, six Chinese (4 F/2M: 15-17yrs) and one Nigerian (M:17 yrs) 'went missing from care'.

Direct Provision: At 16 Nov '08, 6,208 people were resident in 52 centres (cap: 7,127) in 20 counties - included are 750 in Mosney; 260-300 in 5 centres (Athlone, Ballyhaunis, Cork (Kinsale Rd), Millstreet, Galway); 100+ in 7 centres.

Self-Catering: Reduced from 6 to 5 Centres (Dublin (2), Ballaghderreen, Dundalk, Mallow). Cap: 537; Residents: 383.

Reception Centres - two, both located in Dublin (Stillorgan, Baleskin). Capacity: 459; Residents: 271.

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

CHURCH

Catholic-Muslim Forum - At the Forum on the theme *Love of God, Love of Neighbour* held in Rome from 4-6 Nov last, each side was represented by 24 participants & 5 advisors. Included in the 15-point final declaration was a recognition that *Young people are the future of religious communities and of societies as a whole. Increasingly, they will be living in multi-cultural and multi-religious societies. It is essential that they be well formed in their own religious traditions and well informed about other cultures and religions.* The declaration concludes by affirming that all the participants *expressed satisfaction with the results of the seminar and their expectation for further productive dialogue.*

Full text: http://www.vatican.va/news_services/press/vis/vis_en.html

I was a Stranger and you made me Welcome - To promote better understanding and co-operation between the Catholic Church in Africa and Europe, some 20 Arch/Bishops from both continents met in Liverpool (19-23 Nov '08) to discuss *Migration as a new point of evangelisation and solidarity*. Archbishop Patrick Kelly of Liverpool noted that the venue was particularly fitting because of the city's role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. *Our story has had its dark days, he said, so this is a significant movement which allows us to take hold of our history in humility and truth...and find new ways of reconciliation.* Bishop Eamonn Walsh, Chair, Irish Episcopal Council for Immigrants, also addressed the Conference.

INTERNATIONAL, EU AND NATIONAL ISSUES

2nd Global Forum on Migration Empowering Migrants for Development - Manila, 27-30 Oct 2008.

Among the NGOs represented at the Forum were Caritas Europe (CE) and Migrants Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI). CE underlined how women searching for work abroad so as to support their families and educate their children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. While acknowledging some of the positive aspects of migration to Ireland, the MRCI delegation highlighted many major problems, including workplace exploitation, trafficking for forced labour, people becoming undocumented and unfair immigration policies. The 3rd Forum will be held in Greece in '09. Cf. www.caritas-europa.org www.mrci.ie

COMECE Migration Working Group (WG) met in Brussels on 28 Oct 2008. The WG - delegates of Bishops' Conferences of EU - again emphasized the need to defend and guarantee the right to Family Reunification. Speaking to the WG, representatives of the forthcoming Czech Presidency of the EU (Jan-June 2008) presented their priorities in the field of migration and asylum, where the focus will be on the removal of obstacles to freedom of movement and access to the EU labour markets for citizens of the new Member States. The main topics will be modern technologies (re border protection), Internet and the protection of minors, and the fight against drugs. To balance the emphasis put by the (current) French Presidency on the 'South' in the global approach to migration, the Czech Presidency will focus on their Eastern European neighbours.

Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign - *Don't close your Eyes* : this public awareness campaign ("blue blindfold"), in which Ireland is participating as one of 6 European countries, was launched in October last by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) at the Dept of Justice. It is designed to ensure that the EU becomes a more hostile environment for criminals engaged in trafficking of human beings. **Resources:** 01 6028659; ahtu@justice.ie

IMMIGRATION, RESIDENCE AND PROTECTION (IRP) BILL 2008 - The Select Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Women's Rights has concluded its consideration of the IRP Bill 2008. Some welcome changes have been made to the initial draft but a number of important amendments, proposed by various groups, have not been included. The Fourth /Report Stage is expected to commence in the New Year. The **EMBRACE NI** autumn newsletter is now available and can be accessed on www.embraceni.org. A new web page on *Interfaith Understanding in N Ireland* and some Advent/Christmas resources with a migration theme, for adults and young people, can also be found on the web site.

RESOURCES

Directory of Migrant-led Churches and Chaplaincies - published by All-Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism (AICCMR). Launch: **Belfast, Fri, 5 Dec, 4pm**, Edgehill Theological College, 9, Lennoxvale, BT9 5BY
Dublin, Sun, 7 Dec, 5.30, Best Western Sheldon Hotel, Kylemore Road, D12.

(For details contact Philip McKinley - philipmckinley@hardgospel.net or 087 1325531)

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) - the NGO Alliance Against Racism (NAAR) seminar on contributing to NAAR's Shadow Report (to the Irish Govt's report) is on Wed, 3rd Dec '08, 2.00-5.00, at Carmelite Centre, 56 Aungier Street, D 2. Book: justiceop@eircom.net as soon as possible.

TAKEN - film on trafficking, now being shown in several cinemas - will be available on DVD.

Intercultural and Interfaith Calendar 2009 - Jesuit Refugee Service - To order: tel 01 8148644; e.m: info@jrs.ie

BULLETINS: *Comhlámh* - elink@comhlamh.org; *NCCRI* - www.nccri.ie; *MCRI* - www.mcri.ie;

Integrating Ireland - info@integratingireland.ie; *Refugee Information Service* - wale.mogaji@ris.ie

Monitoring CutBacks in Frontline Services - the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice is piloting a new addition to its website www.jcfj.ie/cutbacks - highlighting social/economic cost of cutbacks, users affected, geographical location... Those experiencing closure/funding cutbacks can contact Lena or Eoin at Tel 01 8556814; cutbacks@jcfj.ie

Local and EU Elections 2009 - Integrating Ireland - www.integratingireland.ie/local-and-eu-elections-2009

Refugee Information Service (RIS) provides information and advocacy at *Outreach Clinics* in Dublin, Galway, Mayo, Westmeath, Longford. For details 'phone 091 532850 or e-mail: infogalway@ris.ie

TO PONDER

... the [Universal] Declaration [of Human Rights] makes each of us our brother's and sister's keeper, no matter where he or she is in the world. It makes us carers for one another, advocates and champions for our common stand on the rights of the individual. ... And who is this individual to whom these rights apply? The reply from the Declaration is a breathtaking and magnificent visualization of humanity. The rights apply to everyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation. What is more, they apply everywhere and always. ...The universality of the Declaration created an image of our planet as a place without boundaries, a place where local or parochial vanities and taboos, traditions and inhibitions could never again be used to justify the marginalisation or exclusion of any human being.

Remarks by President McAleese, 3rd Annual *Irish Human Rights Commission Human Rights Lecture*, 25th November 2008

God's Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to humankind. ... This was the real light...

The Word became a human being and...lived among us ...

Prologue to the Gospel of Saint John

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



