

News from the Refugee Highway

Sidebar - Celebrate World Refugee Sunday June 22!

World Refugee Sunday provides an opportunity for congregations around the world to raise awareness of and pray for refugees and internally displaced persons. It is held on the Sunday immediately following United Nations World Refugee Day.

Helpful resources, including a downloadable bulletin insert, a resource packet, prayer points and links to other materials, are available at the RHP web page, www.refugeehighway.net.

Sidebar - RHP Roundtable in Entebbe, Uganda

The RHP will host a Refugee Roundtable for church leaders in Entebbe, Uganda June 18-23, 2008. On-site arrangements are being coordinated by the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA).

The roundtable will bring together approximately 80 strategic church leaders from around the world, including 5-10 representatives from each region and issue group area of the RHP. Participants will see first-hand the impact of refugee movements; partner with the African church through prayer and encouragement; and strategize about ways to engage more local churches worldwide in ministry to refugees.

For more information, contact Linda Moorcroft of the Refugee Highway Partnership leadership team at Linda_Moorcroft@christiestreetc.com.



Farad directed a major Afghan newspaper. When a regime change brought terror and murder threats, he and his family were forced to flee. After first hiding in the countryside, they eventually traveled via Pakistan and Russia to the Netherlands. But the Dutch government denied their request for asylum. What next?*

Farad is just one of millions of refugees traveling the "refugee highway." The term refers to well-worn routes traveled by desperate people forced from their homelands by violence, terror and persecution. The refugee highway spans the globe and is filled with countless stories of human suffering.

Like Farad, the refugees who travel this highway simply seek a safe place to call home. But the challenges they encounter are complex and heart-wrenching. Refugees must locate food, shelter and medical care; heal from physical and emotional trauma; navigate a maze of border regulations and immigration policies; learn new languages and customs; and wrestle with loneliness and despair.

The Refugee Highway Partnership (RHP) is a community of Christian leaders from around the world who share a commitment to welcome and serve refugees and a desire to see the global church more actively engaged at every spot on the refugee highway.

The birthplace of the RHP was an historic consultation held in Izmir, Turkey in 2001. The more than 200 attendees at that event represented refugee-producing, refugee-transit and refugee-receiving countries. But they shared a common desire to connect the people already reaching out to welcome refugees at diverse points along the refugee highway and a common dream to see more Christians to respond to the overwhelming need.

The mission of the RHP is to mobilize the worldwide church to bring hope and provide refuge for over 30 million refugees and internally displaced people. The RHP

serves as a catalyst for collaboration. It casts vision by sponsoring World Refugee Sunday and producing resources such as the Refugee Highway map (copies available at the RHP web page), connects people by hosting periodic consultations and roundtable events, and exchanges information through a web page and quarterly e-newsletter.

Members of the RHP include any individual, church, or organization which shares the core values of the partnership. Leadership is provided by a team which includes regional coordinators representing Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, and South Pacific and issue group coordinators representing Advocacy, Children, and Leadership Development.



Heidi Moll Schoedel

Please join us! Together, we can bring the love of Christ to refugees around the world.

Farad and his family appealed their asylum denial and years later still wait for a final verdict. During this period of exhaustive and terrifying uncertainty, people from a local church began visiting his family. Through these new friends, Farad found peace in Jesus. And now, with all of his talents, he wants to dedicate himself to sharing the wonderful news about Jesus with his fellow countrymen in the Netherlands and abroad.

For more information about the RHP and to register for our quarterly e-newsletter, visit our web page at www.refugeehighway.net. <<

* name changed to protect privacy