




**HOPES FULFILLED OR DREAMS SHATTERED?  
FROM RESETTLEMENT TO SETTLEMENT**  
Responding to the needs of new and emerging refugee communities

**A conference taking us from resettlement to settlement, with focus on  
the Women at Risk resettlement program**

**November 23 – 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 2005, University of New South Wales, Sydney**

“Hopes Fulfilled or Dreams Shattered” is a three phase event which weaves together three strands of the refugee experience.

Day 1 Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Days 2- 4 Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Day 5 Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
 <p align="center">Refugee Court of Testimonies</p>	 <p align="center">The Journey from Resettlement to Settlement in a Third Country</p>	 <p align="center">A Focus on Women at Risk</p>

Through this structure we will hear first hand from refugees about their experience before coming to Australia and while settling into their new country.

We will then move to a more formal examination of the services provided to assist in this process and the specific issues and concerns of “refugee women at risk”.

This is more than a “talk-fest”. The five day event is results focused. The conference outcomes will be thoroughly documented and the various papers, panels and workshop reports will be brought together into a comprehensive report with recommendations for policy makers and service providers, both in Australia and overseas.

Please join us to learn more about the refugee experience and to add your voice and expertise to the production of an improved response both in Australia and overseas.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENTS

### “Refugee Court of Testimonies”

On Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we begin with a “**Refugee Court of Testimonies**” at which refugees settled in Australia from many parts of the world will share their stories through testimony, poetry, song and film. It will be a day of tears and celebration, an acknowledgement of the horror of the refugee experience, and of the strength and resilience of the people who survive and rebuild their lives in Australia.

### “From Resettlement to Settlement -The Conference”

From Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, we move into the more formal conference. This section is entitled “**From Resettlement to Settlement**”. On Thursday following the official Conference opening, we will examine the nature of resettlement as a durable solution for some refugee families. We will look at the conditions from which refugees come to Australia, the nature of the conflicts and the persecution from which they escape and learn about life in refugee camps. Links will be made between these pre-arrival experiences and the needs and strengths which refugees bring to Australia and other countries of resettlement. It will provide a context for our examination of settlement service provision.

On Friday and Saturday we will work across a number of streams looking at good practice in refugee service provision, examining gaps, articulating problem areas and searching for solutions. Refugee voices will be in every session, discussing their experiences as new arrivals in Australia and describing the ongoing needs of refugee communities.

Highlights of this section of the conference will be the afternoon Plenary Sessions. On Friday we will hold a “State Forum”, at which the various States around Australia will have the opportunity to present their models of settlement service provision, and to share common issues and successes.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a “Hypothetical” Panel Session at which a group of experts from across the various streams of the conference will workshop how they would approach a number of resettlement cases.

The Conference Committee has decided to consider the needs of Temporary Protection and Bridging Visa Holders, even though it is acknowledged that under the current policy provisions they are not entitled to the majority of settlement services.

### “Forum on Refugee Women at Risk”

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a special “**Forum on Refugee Women at Risk**”: Australia has a generous intake of Women at Risk, which is a special visa category for women who are identified as being at extreme risk of violence. There are major concerns about the effectiveness of the program in many refugee situations. Women who enter Australia and other resettlement countries on this program often have greater immediate settlement needs than other refugee entrants. This day will focus on identifying and addressing the particular concerns and protection needs of refugee women at extreme risk in countries of asylum and resettlement.

# THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## DAY 1 THE REFUGEE COURT OF TESTIMONIES

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Ceremonial Opening

Four sessions of Refugee Testimonies

A short commentary on the human rights aspects of the stories presented by a panel of Human Rights Experts

Closing - a celebration of the strength and resilience of refugees world wide, and remembrance of those who do not survive.

## DAYS 2 – 4 FROM RESETTLEMENT TO SETTLEMENT

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Formal Opening	Stream Plenaries	Stream Plenaries
Key note Speakers	Thematic Workshops	Thematic Workshops
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Stream Plenaries	Thematic Workshops	Full Plenary
Thematic Workshops	State Forum	Hypothetical session
Dinner Break	Conference Dinner	Closing ceremony
Skills based workshops		

The conference will cover a number of Streams and Thematic Areas

### CONFERENCE STREAMS

HEALTH	EDUCATION	SOCIAL	LEGAL
-Physical -Psychosocial -Mental	- Child - Adult - ESL	- Settlement - Community - Employment - Housing - Culture - Family	- Migration - Family/DV - Child protection - Refugee

### THEMATIC AREAS WILL INCLUDE:

Refugee Children and Young People, Refugee Women At Risk, Gender Issues-Women and Men, Older Refugees, Emerging Communities, Rural and Regional, Temporary Protection Visas, Bridging Visa Holders

## DAY 5

### FORUM ON REFUGEE WOMEN AT RISK

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November

This day will involve plenary and workshop sessions which will focus on identifying and addressing the particular concerns and protection needs for refugee women at extreme risk in countries of asylum and resettlement.

## **BACKGROUND**

In recent times UNHCR has targeted resettlement as an increasingly important response to protracted refugee situations. In response to this, Australia's Offshore Resettlement and Special Humanitarian programs have focused on refugee communities from protracted conflict and refugee situations across Africa. Many refugees from these communities have spent extended periods in refugee camps often for over ten years, without access to adequate food, water or health services. Many women and girls have experienced multiple incidents of sexual and gender based violence including rape, in their home countries, during flight and in camps. Many children have grown up with only limited access to education and training services. Recent reports received from settlement services and community organisations around Australia and internationally indicate that many services are simply not coping with the range of special needs of these groups. Health services are stretched to the limit and schools don't know how to cope with so many traumatised and often preliterate children and young people. These reports all point to an urgent need to rethink settlement policy and service provision. In response the Centre for Refugee Research has decided to convene an international conference, at the University of New South Wales. They have been joined by a conference organising committee composed of a broad range of refugee community organisations, settlement service providers, academics and students from the University of New South Wales. For a detailed list of committee members please refer to the conference website.

## **SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS:**

A number of organisations are formally sponsoring this event. For a contribution of \$1,500 towards the conference running costs these organisations will be named on all future conference publicity. For a current list of supporters please refer to the conference website. If your organisation wishes to become a named sponsor of this event please contact either Linda Bartolomei or Rebecca Eckert.

Funding is also being sought for conference scholarships to enable the participation of members of refugee communities from around Australia. For further information on the costs of providing scholarships please refer to the conference website. [www.women-at-risk-resettlement.info](http://www.women-at-risk-resettlement.info)

## **WANT TO BE INVOLVED?**

If you are interested in being involved in the planning and organisation of the Conference, please contact Linda Bartolomei or Rebecca Eckert at the Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales. Phone: (02) 9385 1961. Email: [info@women-at-risk-resettlement.info](mailto:info@women-at-risk-resettlement.info)

## **CALL FOR PRESENTERS AND FOR PAPERS**

We are seeking participation from refugees, community members, service providers, government personnel and academics. Presentations will be restricted to a maximum of 20 minutes. Formal papers will be considered for inclusion in a refereed journal.

We will be seeking input into the designated themes and streams and we cannot guarantee that all papers will be accepted. Each stream and thematic area had a co-ordinator and a sub committee and these committees will decide on the session content.

## **CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

Registration forms and more detailed information regarding the conference can be downloaded from the conference website at [www.women-at-risk-resettlement.info](http://www.women-at-risk-resettlement.info)