

Dear friends,

As you may know the United Nations has designated 20 June as World Refugee Day (WRD) and it is commemorated each year to highlight the plight of refugees worldwide and recognise their courage and resilience. WRD is also an opportunity to highlight the importance role that governments and civil society play in protecting refugees and helping them restart their lives.

The global theme for World Refugee Day 2008 is refugee protection. Above all refugee protection means making sure those people who flee their homes because of persecution and conflict are given safe haven, and that they won't be sent back to danger. But protection also means that refugees receive shelter, food and medical care and that their rights are respected, including rights to education, to freedom of movement and to family unity.

UNHCR Regional Office Canberra expects to have some posters to distribute closer to World Refugee Day and hopes to place a Community Service Announcement on television on the theme of international protection. Watch our local website ([unhcr.org.nz/au](http://unhcr.org.nz/au)) for more information on World Refugee Day and thematic materials and let us know what you have planned if you'd like us to list it on our events page.

In the meantime, we encourage organisations to pick up the theme of refugee protection in planning local celebrations, and adapting it to local scene. Some Australian NGOs, for example, have chosen to focus on the need for refugees to find '*A place to call home*' within the broader protection framework.

The pending 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in December this year is another opportunity to focus on refugee rights and we believe there are notable synergies between World Refugee Day and Human Rights Day this year.

UNHCR has copies of its education kit *Human Rights, Refugee and UNHCR* which helps teachers prepare lessons on the relationship between refugee protection and human rights. While developed to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR, all the issues remain very salient. And we've updated (and are reprinting) the very popular 'Lego' series of posters used to stimulate discussion in the lesson plans. The series *What's the difference? How does it feel? Spot the refugee and What's wrong here?* has been updated to challenge some of the language that has crept into public discourse more recently. The kit, posters and video are available via [aulcapi@unhcr.org](mailto:aulcapi@unhcr.org) or +61 2 6281 9108/04 and will also shortly be available for download via [www.unhcr.org.au/UNHCR-pubres-canberraresources](http://www.unhcr.org.au/UNHCR-pubres-canberraresources)

We look forward to hearing of your plans for World Refugee Day 2008.

UNHCR Regional Office  
Australia, New Zealand, PNG and the South Pacific

