

## **Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Protection and Practice**

New York University  
School of Continuing and Professional Studies  
M.S. Program in Global Affairs  
GLOB1 - GC.2320.001  
Monday & Wednesday 6.00p.m. - 9.00p.m.  
*9 July – 8 August 2012*  
Professor Catherine Shevlin Pierce  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 4.30 - 6.00 pm (other times by appt.)  
[csp272@nyu.edu](mailto:csp272@nyu.edu)  
212. 992-8380 (Global Affairs Program)

### **Course Objectives/Overview:**

This course will enhance students' understanding of the global dynamics of displacement: intra/inter-state conflicts; natural disasters; climate change (water scarcity; resource competition); and, 'development' initiatives (e.g., large-scale infrastructure projects). It will examine forced displacement from the perspective of human rights law and humanitarian law and will address the challenges facing humanitarian workers.

In the 20th century, two world wars, the Cold War, the end of colonial empires, and intra-state conflicts resulted in large numbers of people being forcibly displaced from their usual place of residence. The first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century have witnessed new waves of refugees, a steep increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and a rise in the number of persons seeking asylum. Frequent natural disasters (earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis), and an increase in smuggled and trafficked people have augmented the ranks of the displaced.

Initially, the course will examine the legal frameworks addressing forced displacement (e.g., internationally agreed conventions and declarations) and will assess the changing role the international community in responding to these situations. Subsequently, it will focus on specific countries/regions (e.g., the Balkans; South and East Asia; Sub-Saharan Africa; the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and the Middle East), which illustrate the dimensions of displacement and changing trends in humanitarian assistance by multi-lateral/ bilateral donors and civil society organizations. Cross cutting issues such as: gender-based violence; the specific needs of vulnerable groups: women; children (particularly unaccompanied children); adolescents; the aged and access to livelihoods will be examined.

### **Course Format**

The initial sessions (2) will follow a lecture format in order to cover the basic issues in displacement. Subsequently, the class will be conducted as a seminar, featuring student led discussions and presentations. Informed class participation is key element of the course. As schedules permit, guest speakers will be invited from the intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations.

It is essential that students complete the designated readings prior to coming to class and monitor principal websites addressing forced displacement issues. Selected websites are listed below. During the final class sessions, students will present their *Issue Paper* (see below) for class discussion. As schedules permit, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will be invited to address the class.

### **Course Materials:**

UNHCR, *The State of the World's Refugees: In Search of Solidarity*, Oxford University Press, 2012. (Available on line and at the NYU Bookstore).

UNHCR, *The State of the World's Refugees: Human Displacement in the New Millennium*, Oxford University Press, 2006.

<http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/4444afc50.pdf>

(Optional; a useful reference.)

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Development 2011* (April 2012)

<http://www.internal-displacement.org>

Forced Migration Review, "The Technology Issue", October 2011

<http://www.fmreview.org/technology/>

David Rieff, *A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis*, Random House - Vintage, 2002 (available from Amazon: new @ \$12.99; used @ \$5.00.)

The readings for each class session are listed below. It is essential that students read the designated material prior to the class session and be prepared to participate actively in class discussions. *Reading assignments may be adjusted during the term to respond to students' particular interests.*

**CGA Attendance and Lateness Policy:** students must attend class regularly. Your contribution to classroom learning is essential to the success of the course. Any more than one (1) absence (other than for verifiable medical or similar reasons) will likely lead to a need to withdraw from the course or a failing grade. Students are expected to arrive on time; those coming in after attendance has been taken will be recorded as tardy. Two instances of tardiness will be counted as one absence.

### **Research Paper:**

Research Paper -- Students will submit a research paper/case study analyzing a particular dimension of forced displacement. The research paper, due 15 August is to be analytical in nature and should be approximately *15 double spaced-pages*. It may focus on a specific country or sub-region, analyzing forced displacement in that entity. The topic for the research paper should be selected in consultation with the professor by 23 July. The paper *must be submitted electronically via the Assignment Tool on Blackboard, and a hard copy (double spaced) should be given to the instructor at the final class meeting.*

### **SCPS Statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

*Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically, plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer; a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; creative images, artwork, or design; or facts or ideas gathered, organized, and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing and not providing proper attribution. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgement of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper or course to dismissal from the University.*

**Grading:** Final grades will be calculated according to the following percentages: substantive class preparation and participation, 40%; research paper, 60%. In accordance with CGA policy: *a grade of incomplete is granted only in extreme cases such as illness or other family emergency, and only when almost all work for the semester has been successfully completed. A student's procrastination in completing his/her assignments is not a basis for an incomplete.*

**July 9th      Session 1**  
**Principal human rights instruments and legal frameworks addressing the situation of refugees**

(This session examines the legal frameworks pertaining to refugees.)

*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)*

*The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*

*The 1967 Protocol to the 1951 Convention*

*The 1969 OAU Refugee Convention*

<http://www.unhcr.org/BASICS/4034b6a34.pdf>

*The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (1984)*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b36ec.ht>

**July 11th      Session 2**  
**Internal Displacement Issues -- 1990s to the present**

(This session will discuss causes/responses to internal displacement resulting from political unrest and from natural disasters in various regions.)

“Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement”

<http://www.unhcr.org/43ce1cff2.html>

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Development in 2011* (April 2012), pp. 8 – 34.

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/82DA6A2DE4C7B](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/82DA6A2DE4C7B)

[A41C12575A90041E6A8/\\$file/IDMC Internal Displacement Global Overview 2012.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/refugees/2012/05/29-kyrgyzstan-trip-report-ferris)

*State of the World's Refugees 2012*, Chapter 5: “Protecting the Internally Displaced”.

Brookings –LSE Project on Internal Displacement  
“*Central Asia: Disaster, Displacement and Human Rights*”  
<http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2012/05/29-kyrgyzstan-trip-report-ferris> (optional reading as time permits)

**July 16th**

**Session 3**

**Refugee Concerns and Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

(This session explores the crafting of viable responses to increasingly complex displacement situations in today’s world, with particular attention to climate change and to the Asia region, which has experienced several natural disasters in recent years.)

*State of the World's Refugees 2012*, Chapter 7, “Displacement, Climate Change, and Natural Disasters”

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Internal Displacement in South and South-East Asia*, pp. 80 – 89.

**July 18th**

**Session 4**

**Upgrading the Effectiveness of Humanitarian Intervention**

(This session examines the responses of the donor community to complex emergencies [highlighting the experience in Haiti]; and, new technologies for more effective humanitarian relief efforts.)

*State of the World's Refugees 2012*, Chapter 1, “Conflict, Displacement, and Humanitarian Space”; Responding to Emergencies”.

**Forced Migration Review**, “The Technology Issue”, Issue 38, Oct. 2011  
<http://www.fmreview.org/technology/>

This issue examines the role of technology in responding to the needs of displaced persons.

Overview of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
[http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article\\_s&id\\_article=849](http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article_s&id_article=849)

***Disaster Relief 2.0: The Future of Information Sharing in***

***Humanitarian Emergencies,***” -- report (March 2011) on the use of crowd-sourced maps to augment delivery of humanitarian services. (UN Foundation; Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Vodafone Foundation; and, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

<http://www.unfoundation.org/press-center/press-releases/2011/disaster-report-2.html>

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Session 5**

**Aspects of Humanitarian Assistance and Intervention in the Former Yugoslavia**

(This session explores the challenges in delivering of humanitarian assistance. It considers the responses of the international community (e.g., the UN system and NATO) to the crises in Bosnia and Kosovo.)

Rieff, *A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis*

Bosnia - pp. 123-154; Kosovo - pp. 197-230.

(Note: Do you agree / disagree with Rieff's perspective on the changing nature of humanitarian assistance?)

July 25<sup>th</sup>

**Session 6**

*Guest Speaker: Kevin P.Q. Phelan, Director of Communications, Doctors Without Borders; former Chief of Mission, South Sudan*

**Stateless Populations and Asylum Seekers: Challenges and Solutions**

(This session assesses changing trends in granting asylum and responding to the needs of stateless people.)

*1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*

*1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*

[www.ohchr.org/english/law/statelessness.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/statelessness.htm)

**State of the World's Refugees 2012**, Chapter 4, "Resolving Statelessness" and Chapter 2, "Keeping Asylum Meaningful".

July 30<sup>th</sup>

**Session 7**

**Internal Displacement in the Middle East and North Africa**

(This session examines "old" and "new" displacement crises in the region: the situation of Palestinian refugees; Iraqi refugees; and those displaced by the events of the "2011/2012 Arab Spring".)

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Internal Displacement 2011*, pp. 72-80.

UNWRA, "Who are the Palestinian Refugees?"

<http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=86>

Council on Foreign Relations, *Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

<http://www.cfr.org/israel/crisis-guide-israeli-palestinian-conflict/p13850>

Refugees International, "Iraqi Refugees and IDPs"

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/where-we-work/middle-east/iraq>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/world/middleeast/syrias-conflict-intrudes-on-antakya-turkey.html?\\_r=1&ref=refugees](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/world/middleeast/syrias-conflict-intrudes-on-antakya-turkey.html?_r=1&ref=refugees)

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/95964/IRAQ-Returnees-from-Syria-a-humanitarian-crisis-in-the-making>

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**Aug. 1st and  
Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Session 8 and Session 9\*\***

**Forced Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa**

(Analysis of the causes/consequences of displacement in: Rwanda; the DRC; Sudan; Somalia; Mali. Discussion of: the extensive human rights violations; SGBV; co-opting child soldiers; dysfunctional life in refugee camps; provision of livelihoods and the effectiveness of interventions by the international community (UN, multi-lateral donors and CSOs).

The Kampala Convention - - *Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa*

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/kampala-convention>

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Internal Displacement in Africa 2011*, pp. 36 -55.

Reiff, *Rwanda*, pp. 155-193.

*Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/genocide.html>

*Forced Migration Review*, No. 36 –“The DRC and Great Lakes Region”, (Nov. 2010); articles written by UN staff members and by representatives of Civil Society Organizations addressing: displacement, reintegration; role of women activists; displaced youth, child disability.

<http://www.fmreview.org/DR Congo/>

**\*\* Session 9 -- Students' Presentation of their research papers**

**Aug. 8th**

**Session 10**

**\*\* Students' Presentations of their research papers**

**Suggested Websites**

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

[www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

[www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

[www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org)

[www.forcedmigration.org](http://www.forcedmigration.org)  
[www.foreignaffairs.org](http://www.foreignaffairs.org)  
[www.goodhumanitariandonorship.com](http://www.goodhumanitariandonorship.com)  
[www.idproject.org](http://www.idproject.org)  
[www.theIRC.org](http://www.theIRC.org)  
[www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)  
[www.womenscommission.org](http://www.womenscommission.org)  
[www.humanitarianinfor.org](http://www.humanitarianinfor.org)  
[www.refugeecouncilusa.org](http://www.refugeecouncilusa.org)  
[www.refugeesinternational.org](http://www.refugeesinternational.org)  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk)  
[www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org)  
[www.nrc.no/idp.htm](http://www.nrc.no/idp.htm)  
[www.state.gov/g/prm](http://www.state.gov/g/prm)  
[www.wrcommission.org](http://www.wrcommission.org)