



**OVERVIEW OF EVENTS¹ RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEE WOMEN
AND REFUGEE CHILDREN**
(as of 1 December 2001)

According to information available to UNHCR, the following events relevant to this theme have been scheduled for 2001 and 2002:²

a) Refugee Women

- **24–26 January 2001** – UNHCR: Gender in Post Conflict Situations, Oslo;
- **26 February–31 December 2001** – USA and Canada: A Ten-Year Review of the Implementation of UNHCR's Policy and Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women, field visits to Ethiopia, Eritrea, Pakistan, Turkey and Zambia. The review was carried out by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children in partnership with Canada and USA; UNHCR facilitated the review. The preliminary findings were shared with the Executive Committee in October 2001;
- **27 February–2 March 2001** – Inter-Agency Standing Committee: Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming, New York;
- **27 February–3 March 2001** – Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children: 5th Regional Conference/General Assembly, Dar-Es-Salaam;
- **27–29 March 2001** – UNHCR: Inter-Agency Lessons Learned Conference on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Geneva;
- **Mid April 2001** – USA and Canada: Review continued, field visit to Pakistan;
- **23–24 April 2001** – Swedish Presidency (Migration Office)/EU Commission/US Government: Seminar on Asylum (among other issues: Membership of a Particular Social Group; Gender-related Persecution), Norrköping;
- **4–6 May 2001** – Canadian Council for Refugees: International Conference on Gender-related Persecution, Montréal;
- **20–22 June 2001** – UNHCR and Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children: Respect our Rights: Partnership for Equality – A Dialogue with Refugee Women (The Geneva consultations were part of a series of consultations at the regional/country level and brought together some 50 refugee women for a direct dialogue with UNHCR on a number of issues, some of them specifically linked to the Global Consultations, in order to ensure that refugee women's realities and perspectives are brought into the debate.), Geneva;
- **6–8 September 2001** – UNHCR and International Institute of Humanitarian Law: Roundtable in the context of the Global Consultations related to 2nd Track: Gender-related Persecution; Membership of a Particular Social Group, San Remo;
- **February 2002 (tentative)** – Norway and UNHCR: Seminar on Improving the Security of Refugee Women and Displaced Women in and around Refugee Camps, Oslo.

¹ These events do not necessarily take place in the context of the Global Consultations but their results will be brought into the process, as appropriate.

² UNHCR would appreciate receiving indications from delegations as to additional meetings relating to refugee women and refugee children (please send information to Ms. Walpurga Englbrecht [englbrew@unhcr.org] with the Department of International Protection).

b) Refugee Children

- **22–23 January 2001** – Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children: Review of the draft of Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (organisations involved are: UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC, IRC and WV), Geneva;
- **29 January–2 February 2001** – UNICEF: Preparatory Committee Meeting for UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (UNSSC), New York;
- **1–2 March 2001** – Swedish EU Presidency: Seminar on “Children affected by Armed Conflict and Forced Displacement”, Norrköping;
- **22–28 March 2001** – Hague Conference on International Law: 4th Meeting of the Special Commission to Study the Implementation of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, The Hague;
- **27–29 March 2001** – UNHCR: Inter-Agency Lessons Learned Conference on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Geneva;
- **8–10 April 2001** – Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and UNICEF: Amman Conference on the Use of Child Soldiers, Middle East North Africa Consultation, Amman;
- **26–27 April 2001** – Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children: Review of advanced draft of Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (organisations involved are: UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC, IRC and WV), New York;
- **16–18 May 2001** – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany and UNICEF: Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNSSC, Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia, Berlin;
- **20–22 May 2001** – Rwanda (host): Summit of African First Ladies on Children and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Kigali;
- **21–23 May 2001** – Morocco and UNICEF: Arab-African Preparatory Meeting for UNSSC, Financing the Global Agenda for Children, Marrakech;
- **28–31 May 2001** – OAU and UNICEF: Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNSSC, Joint Pan African Forum on the Future of Children, Cairo;
- **29–31 May 2001** – Swedish EU Presidency: Children’s Rights in Europe – Challenge and Responsibility, Örebro (Sweden);
- **30–31 May 2001** – UNICEF, Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and Save the Children (Sweden): Working Group on Child Protection Training for UN Peacekeeping Operation Personnel (informal meeting), New York;
- **31 May 2001** – Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service: Refugee Foster Care Programme Conference, Baltimore (USA);
- **11–15 June 2001** – UNICEF: Third Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for UNSSC, New York;
- **18–19 June 2001** – Georgetown University: Transatlantic Workshop on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Washington DC;
- **26 June 2001** – Informal Briefing on Refugee Children’s Issues during the UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting (with progress report on the independent evaluation on refugee children and regional updates by Senior Regional Advisers on Refugee Children), Geneva;
- **2–5 July 2001** – Italy: Filling the Knowledge Gaps: A Research Agenda on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, Florence;
- **4–7 July 2001** – Université Cheikh a Diop de Dakar: Colloque International Convention des Nations Unies sur les droits de l’enfant: réalisations, contraintes et perspectives pour le troisième millénaire, Dakar;
- **18–22 August 2001** – Institute for Child Rights and Development: Second International Conference on Child Rights Education, Victoria, BC (Canada);
- **28 August 2001** – First Inter-Agency Teams (IATT): HIV/AIDS & Children in Conflict Situations, New York;

- **17-27 September 2001** – OSCE: Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), Warsaw;
- **26 September 2001** – Pre ExCom: Workshop on Refugee Children with NGOs, Geneva;
- **10–12 October 2001** – UNICEF: Inter-Agency Meeting on Demobilization of Child Soldiers in Active Combat, Nairobi;
- **16–18 October 2001** – UNICEF and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: East Asia & Pacific Consultations for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Bangkok;
- **17–20 October 2001** – UNHCR and Save the Children: Separated Children in Europe Programme – Seminar, Bratislava;
- **25–26 October 2001** – Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the Voluntary Organisation in Co-operation and Emergency (VOICE) and Save the Children Fund (UK): Child Soldiers: A Cooperative Approach to Defining Good Practice, Brussels;
- **February–October 2001** – Independent evaluation of the impact of UNHCR’s activities in meeting the rights and protection needs of refugee children, conducted by *Valid International Ltd.* (UK) (Field missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d’Ivoire, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (including Kosovo), Guinea, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania were also undertaken. The preliminary draft findings were presented during the last session of EXCOM);
- **14–16 November 2001** – UN Standing Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa: Conférence sous-régionale sur la protection des femmes et des enfants dans les conflits armés en Afrique Centrale, Kinshasa;
- **24–26 November 2001** – North-South Centre of the Council of Europe: Children & Youth in Africa – Actors of their Own Development, Lisbon;
- **11 December 2001** – Organisation Suisse d’Aide aux Réfugiés: Unaccompanied Minor Asylum-Seekers, Bern;
- **17–20 December 2001** – Japan and UNICEF: Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Yokohama.
- **8–10 May 2002 (tentative)** – UN General Assembly Special Session on Children: Review of the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children and making commitments for future action, New York;
- **2002** – Separated Children in Europe Programme: The Best Interests of the Child in the Asylum Process (participants may include: UNHCR, Save the Children, UNHCHR, UNICEF, Committee on the Rights of the Child, ICRC, IOM, independent experts), Geneva.

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