Faith-based humanitarianism

The response of faith communities and faith-based organisations in contexts of forced migration



Workshop 22 September 2010

(Seminar Room III, Oxford Department of International Development, 3 Mansfield Road)



Programme

8h00-8h30 - Arrival and registration **8h30** - Welcome address (Programme/housekeeping for the day), Héloïse Ruaudel (RSC)

08h35-9h40 - Introductory Session; Chair, Professor Roger Zetter (RSC)

Keynote address: Narratives of practice: overview of the responses of faith communities and faith-based organisations to people affected by conflict, crisis and forced migration, Dr Hany El Banna OBE (The Humanitarian Forum)

Understanding 'sanctuary': faith and traditions of asylum, Professor Philip Marfleet (University of East London)

9h40-11h10 - Session 1: Faith, religion and humanitarianism: bridging the gap or maintaining distinction between religious and humanitarian affairs?; Chair, Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (RSC)

Bridging dialogue between the discourses of faith and humanitarianism: establishing partnership through the deconstruction of functional secularism, Professor Alastair Ager (Columbia University)

Between heaven and earth: religion, secularism, and humanitarianism, Dr Stephen Hopgood (SOAS)

Catholic agencies as transnational responders to humanitarian crises, Professor David Hollenbach (Boston College), Rv Daniel Villanueva (Entreculturas), Dr Maryanne Loughry (JRS)

11h10-11h30 - Coffee break

11h30-13h00 - Session 2: "Using" faith, religiosity and spirituality: practical and psychosocial strategies in the lives of people affected by crisis, conflict and forced migration (Case-studies from the UK, Kenya, Algeria and Syria); Chair, Professor Philip Marfleet (UEL)

Spiritual dimensions of forced migration and the inner spirals of youth transition: towards an integral critical heuristic understanding and response to young people in crisis, Loul Bereket (Leeds Metropolitan University)

By the Rivers of Babylon: the role and significance of faith and faith based organisations in the lives and experiences of internally displaced persons in Kenya, Dr Parsitau Seleina (Egerton University, Kenya)

The pragmatics of performance: putting 'faith' in aid in the Sahrawi refugee camps, Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (RSC)

The mobilization of religion as a cultural resource, Tahir Zaman (University of East London)

14h00-15h30 - Session 3: Narratives of practice: views from the global south (Case-studies from Thailand/Burma, Egypt and Sri Lanka,); Chair, Richard Haavisto (RSC)

Faith-based humanitarian organisations at the Burma- Thailand borderland: the example of the Christian Karen Baptists, Dr Alexander Horstmann (Max Planck Institute, Germany)

Christian-based humanitarianism in complex situations: 'Faith' challenges and opportunities in refugee outreach in Cairo, Raymond Wung (The American University of Cairo)

Humanitarian interventions and the suspicion factor: the case of FBOs in Sri Lanka, Rev Pinnawala Sangasumana (University of Sri Jayewardenepura/Sri Lanka)

15h30-16h00- Coffee break

16h00-17h30 - Session 4: Narratives of practice: views from the global north (Case-studies from the UK, the USA and Australia); Chair, Dr Alana Harris (Lincoln College, Oxford)

Comparing left-wing and religiously-motivated asylum activist organisations: the importance of attitudes towards the state (UK based), Dr Nick Gill (Lancaster University)

The faith community's role in refugee protection, resettlement, and advocacy, Jessica Eby (Church World Service)

Much to be proud of but much to be done: Faith-based organisations and the politics of asylum in Australia, Dr Erin Wilson (RMIT University, Australia)

17h30-17h40- Concluding remarks: Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (RSC)

18h00-onwards - Evening lecture and receptionⁱ (The Vaults Radcliffe Square);

Chair, Dr Dawn Chatty (RSC)

Improving responses: distinctiveness, partnership and professionalism, Dr Elizabeth Ferris (Brookings-Bern)









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i Food and refreshments will be served