



## WHAT IS THE WOMEN'S REFUGEE COMMISSION?

The Women's Refugee Commission was founded in 1989. We work for laws, policies and programs that ensure that refugee women, children and young people are safe; have the services and resources they need to be healthy and achieve their potential; take part in making decisions that affect their lives; and are advocates and activists themselves.

There are nearly 45 million refugees and internally displaced people in the world. Four out of five of them are women, children and young people. On average, refugee situations last 17 years.

## WHAT WE DO

The Women's Refugee Commission works to make sure that:

- refugee women and girls receive family planning and help during pregnancy and childbirth;
- displaced women and girls are protected from rape (defilement) and other violence;
- displaced children are able to attend school;
- refugee women can make money to support themselves and their families;
- young people receive education and skills training;
- women and children who seek safety (asylum) in the United States are treated well and are not put in prison.

## HOW WE WORK

### We gather information:

- We travel to refugee settings to meet and talk with refugees, UN agencies and international and local organizations.
- We find out what refugees need.
- We learn which programs (including education, skills

building, livelihoods, reproductive health) work and which don't.

### We then use the information we've collected:

- We meet with staff from international organizations and tell them what should be done to improve the lives of refugee women, children and young people.
- We write manuals and guidelines to help humanitarian workers work better with refugees.
- We arrange meetings with government, nongovernmental organization (NGO) and UN staff, at which refugees themselves can tell staff what they need.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- We are a nongovernmental organization (NGO). We are not a governmental, political or religious organization.
- We have 25 staff members and a board of directors. Some are former refugees.
- The Women's Refugee Commission does not generally provide grants or funding to organizations or individuals. If you contact us at [info@wrcommission.org](mailto:info@wrcommission.org), we will send you information on organizations that give grants to local organizations.
- The Women's Refugee Commission cannot help individuals get asylum in the United States. If your life is in danger and you need to find safety in another country, contact the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([www.unhcr.org/contact.html](http://www.unhcr.org/contact.html)) or an international organization working in your country.

The Women's Refugee Commission is affiliated with and is legally part of the International Rescue Committee, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and does not receive direct financial support from the IRC. 2009.

Photo: UNHCR/S. Errington.

122 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10168-1289  
212.551.3115 | [info@wrcommission.org](mailto:info@wrcommission.org)  
[womensrefugeecommission.org](http://womensrefugeecommission.org)

