

Pakistan

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts, taken directly from Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Special Procedure reports, relating to issues of interest and concern to UNHCR with regards to Pakistan.

Treaty Body Concluding Observations

**CRC/C/15/Add.217 34th Session
27 October 2003**

Refugee and internally displaced children

65. *While noting some progress in this field, for instance, the introduction of birth registration in the refugee camps in May 2002, the Committee remains concerned at the very harsh living conditions in Afghan refugee camps, the scarcity of food and water and the lack of shelter and medical care, which have serious implications for the situation of children living in these camps. The Committee is also concerned at reports of ill-treatment of refugees by the police.*

66. *The Committee recommends that the State party:*

(a) Make all appropriate efforts to improve the living conditions of refugee families and children in refugee camps and elsewhere within the country;

(b) Give special attention to unaccompanied refugee children;

(c) Ensure that refugee children have access to health care and education and are not discriminated against;

(d) Ensure that refugee children receive appropriate protection and in this regard, seek cooperation with relevant United Nations specialized agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF, as well as with NGOs;

(e) Consider ratifying international instruments, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

76. *While noting the serious efforts undertaken by the State party to prevent child trafficking, the Committee is deeply concerned at the very high incidence of trafficking in children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, bonded labour and use as camel jockeys.*

77. *The Committee recommends that the State party:*

(a) Ensure that cases of disappeared children are registered and investigated appropriately;

(b) Continue and strengthen its efforts to combat the problem of child trafficking;

(c) Strengthen national and regional strategies and programmes on the prevention and suppression of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and ensure that these strategies take into account the commitments made at the two World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 1996 and 2001.

Special Procedure Reports

Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/44

Addendum

Mission to Pakistan and Afghanistan

(1-13 September 1999)

E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.4

13 March 2000

89. Humanitarian aid to all parts of Afghanistan and to the refugees in Pakistan should be increased. The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan makes the Afghan population one of the most vulnerable in the world. It is important that there be a sustained effort to assist the refugees, the majority of whom are women and children. Such assistance should include: the provision of shelter for women victims of violence, increased food supply, better medical services and health care for all refugees and the provision of primary, secondary and tertiary schooling for all Afghan children. The aid community should take all possible measures to meet what is without doubt one of the world's greatest humanitarian disasters.

- End of excerpts -

Protection Operations and Legal Advice Section

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