

*The International Conference on the Reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees
(ICRIRR)*

*Vildmarkshotellet, Norrköping, Sweden
25-27 April 2001*

The *International Conference on the Reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees* is designed to provide an international forum for the exchange of ideas and means of supporting refugee resettlement among the 10 traditional and 8 emerging resettlement countries. Planned as the mid-point catalyst in an on-going process of exchanging “best practices” in the integration of resettled refugees among the resettlement countries¹ goals for the Conference include:

- Drafting commonly endorsed principles for the “successful” reception and integration of resettled refugees that are applicable regardless of the level of funding available to resource resettlement programmes;
- Facilitating both formal and informal links and exchanges between the various resettlement countries;
- Gathering resources for the development of a reception and integration handbook; and
- Strengthening the reception and integration programmes of traditional and emerging resettlement countries.

The generous offer of the Swedish National Integration Office to host the conference together with funding from the United States and the Nordic Countries (to enable the identification and deployment of an integration specialist from the NGO community to UNHCR to serve as conference facilitator), has enabled ICRIRR to be planned for 25-27 April 2001 near Stockholm, Sweden. Joint letters of invitation from Mr. Andreas Carlgren, Director General of the Swedish National Integration Office and Mrs. Erika Feller, Director, Department of International Protection, UNHCR are being issued. Participation in the conference is by invitation only and resettlement country delegations have been carefully selected to include representatives from a broad cross-section of respective resettlement programme partnerships.

The Chairperson for the conference is the internationally known Swedish journalist, correspondent, author and producer of film documentaries, *Mr. Goran Rosenberg*. Planning for the conference has been guided by the Working Chair, Mr. Erik Stenstrom of the Swedish National Integration Office, and members of a Steering Group representing most of the Governments, non-governmental organisations and regional UNHCR staff affiliated with the 18 countries currently resettling refugees. Delegates to the conference will include representatives from State and municipal branches of government, local and national NGOs as well as UNHCR regional and Headquarters staff. Former refugees from among the resettlement countries will also participate as speakers and delegates to ICRIRR.

¹ (The “traditional” resettlement countries are: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States; the “emerging” resettlement countries include: Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Ireland, Iceland and Spain).

The evening of 26 April 2001, hosted by Mr. Gary Troller, Regional Representative for the Nordic and Baltic Countries, UNHCR, will feature a dinner and 50th Anniversary event commemorating the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees.

The *Provisional At-A-Glance* version of the conference agenda follows for reference purposes.

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