

## Forced Migration Review

Forced Migration Review (FMR) provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them. It is published in English, Arabic, Spanish and French by the Refugee Studies Centre of the Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford.

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After confirmation of their citizenship, Biharis in Bangladesh can now have hope of leading a normal life after decades of exclusion. UNHCR/G M B Akash



from the editors of

**FORCED  
MIGRATION**  
review

A 'stateless person' is someone who is not recognised as a national by any state. They therefore have no nationality or citizenship (terms used interchangeably in this issue) and are unprotected by national legislation, leaving them vulnerable in ways that most of us never have to consider. The possible consequences of statelessness are profound and touch on all aspects of life. It may not be possible to work legally, own property or open a bank account. Stateless people may be easy prey for exploitation as cheap labour. They are often not permitted to attend school or university, may be prohibited from getting married and may not be able to register births and deaths. Stateless people can neither vote nor access the national justice system.

As we are reminded by Mark Manly and Santhosh Persaud in their article in this issue, statelessness often means that leading a life like others in society is just not possible. Lacking access to the rights, services and legal documentation available to citizens, the world's stateless populations face unique challenges and require specialised responses from the international refugee regime as well as specific instruments for their protection.

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**Reader Survey:** Our thanks to those of you who completed our Reader Survey and gave us your endorsement and your ideas. A summary report is on page 74 and a fuller report is online at <http://www.fmreview.org/2008survey.htm>.

**Our mailing list:** We need to ensure that our mailing list is as up to date as possible. If your contact details have changed recently, or if you expect them to change in the near future, please would you email us ([fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk)) with the details. This will save possible wastage of FMR funds on postage.

**FMR is moving offices:** In April, the Refugee Studies Centre, where we are based, is moving in with the rest of the Oxford Department of International Development. All our contact details will stay the same except for our telephone and fax numbers which will change to +44 (0)1865 281700 (tel) and +44 (0)1865 281721 (fax). If you plan to visit us, our office address is now the same as our postal address (see opposite).

With best wishes.

Marion Couldrey & Maurice Herson  
Editors

### Forthcoming issues

- FMR 33 (due out in July 2009) will focus on protracted displacement situations.
- FMR 34 (November 2009) will focus on urban displacement. The call for articles is at <http://www.fmreview.org/urban-displacement/>. Deadline for submission of articles is 20 July (please note extended deadline).
- FMR 35 (March 2010) will focus on disability and displacement.

See <http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm> for details.



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