



1 family torn apart by war
is too many

PRESS RELEASE

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Get to know a Refugee on this World Refugee Day

The 2014 Global Trends report shows that more people fled in 2014 than at any other time in our records. Around the world, almost 60 million have been displaced by conflict and persecution, a population that is equivalent to the world's 24th biggest country. Nearly 20 million of them are refugees, and more than half are children. Their numbers are growing, every single day, on every continent. The challenges this phenomenon poses requires radically different solutions. UNHCR has given much needed hope by protecting tens of millions of forcibly displaced asylum- seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons as well as stateless persons by extending the support required to rebuild their lives. Global commitment is needed to provide refuge and safety for people fleeing conflict and persecution.

On this 70th anniversary of the UN's founding and the 60th year of Sri Lanka's membership in the UN, UNHCR welcomes the promise of the renewed partnership it shares with the government of Sri Lanka for the past 28 years. UNHCR hopes that the government will solidify its commitment by acceding to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons along with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

UNHCR commends the government of Sri Lanka for its efforts to effectively address the issue of statelessness on its territory by passing legislation enabling access to citizenship. Furthermore, UNHCR appreciates the generosity of the government of Sri Lanka in hosting those who seek refuge and protection within its borders. Government's efforts to welcome and reintegrate returning refugees has brought hope to thousands of Sri Lankans who live as refugees around the globe to date. Moreover, UNHCR continues to extend its utmost support to the government in finding durable solutions for the remaining IDPs in the country and welcomes the initiatives to enhance reconciliation by building trust and confidence among the returnee population that includes; both internally displaced and returning Sri Lankan refugees.

On this World Refugee Day, UNHCR commemorates the strength and resilience of more than 60 million people around the world forced to flee their homes due to war or human rights abuses. UNHCR Representative, M. Golam Abbas states *"Our aim is to change perceptions, to view refugees as ordinary people. Refugees live their day to day lives as mothers, fathers, musicians, and artists...sharing similar passions, talents and interests. Refugees had a life, an identity, a family and a future before they were forced to flee. We should remember that Refugees are ordinary people living through extraordinary times"*

End.

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