

Overview of Resettlement in the Global and Australian Context

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Fifteen years into a millennium that many of us hoped would see an end to war, a spreading global violence has come to threaten the very foundations of our international system. More people fled last year than at any other time in our records. Around the world, almost 60 million have been displaced by conflict and persecution. Nearly 20 million of them are refugees, and more than half are children.¹

Resettlement is a partnership activity. Without the generosity, commitment and expertise of States, NGOs and others, it could not take place.²

1 Introduction

The resettlement of refugees is a process which rarely features with prominence in public discourse. In Australia, the national response to the displacements of the Vietnam War was perhaps one exception to the norm, during which time resettlement of refugees in relatively large numbers garnered significant attention. The present time is proving to be another such exception.

The term 'resettlement' is increasingly being applied as a 'catch all' to refer to a variety of somewhat different interventions in the situation of refugees.

A perception also appears to be increasing that resettlement is the only legitimate method by which refugees can seek international protection. In other words, that resettlement provides the correct

- 1 Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. See <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlIkQNvInFA&feature=youtu.be>>.
- 2 Antonio Guterres, Foreword to UNHCR *Resettlement Handbook* (UNHCR, 2011a, 1).

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.