



Telebriefing:
**FUNDING REFUGEE RIGHTS IN A NEW ERA: EMERGING TRENDS,
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

June 20, 2012

In collaboration with [Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees](#) (GCIR)

Speakers:

- [Bill Frelick](#), Director, Refugee Program, Human Rights Watch
- [Becca Heller](#), Director, Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project

Description:

Forced displacement is at a 15-year high. Of the 43.7 million displaced people worldwide, 15.4 million are refugees. Most refugees have fled areas affected by long-term conflict including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia, resulting in protracted refugee situations and an average length of displacement of 17 years. According to the UNHCR, 80% of the world's refugees now live in developing countries and the numbers of refugees able to return home are at an all-time low since 1990.

These statistics illustrate the great challenges and notable opportunities in promoting refugee rights now and in the years ahead.

In this telebriefing, funders explored...

- Current issues and challenges in the field of refugee protection, including flight, resettlement, and integration into host communities
- How today's pressing concerns—including violent conflicts, climate change, and the economic downturn— affect refugees
- New developments and prospects for safeguarding refugee rights
- Lessons from the situation of Iraqi refugees seeking protection
- Effective and innovative strategies funders can use in working to address refugee needs in the United States and other refugee-receiving countries

To listen to the full telebriefing:

Visit [IHRFG's website](#) (you will need to enter the password "humanrights").