Introducing World Refugee
A Voice for the Hidden

I am excited to present the Refugee Asylum Support Project (RASP) newsletter called World Refugee. The named is inspired by World Refugee Day, celebrated annually on June 20th. World Refugee Day is a salute to the indomitable spirit and courage of the world’s refugees, not just in enduring the dangers and violence of the crises that made them refugees, but also in the courage they show in rebuilding their lives and contributing to society in difficult or unfamiliar circumstances.

World Refugee provides a voice for those unseen faces that endure internal displacement or seek asylum in foreign countries. Moreover, it seeks to open dialogue with the greater RASP community on timely issues affecting refugee and asylum seekers.

Warmly,

Mişelë Bernal
Media & Political Action Chair
Toasting to Charity

RASP would like to thank all who came out to support Alivia’s Charity Bar Review on October 22, 2009. The event was a huge success, raising $750 in proceeds! Donations will be used to purchase clean birthing kits for internally displaced persons – one of the groups most at risk for birth-related deaths.

RASP would also like to give a special and warm thanks to Anne Dana who worked very hard and with a big heart to make the event possible.

Alivia’s Charity Bar Review

Where: Alivia’s Durham Bistro
When: October 22, 2009
Why: Proceeds support internally displaced pregnant women
Who: Law Students for Reproductive Justice, the Health Law Society, the Refugee & Asylum Support Project, and the International Human Rights Law Society
What: $750 in proceeds

$2.00 to Save Lives!

Every minute a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth.

61% of maternal deaths take place during labor, delivery or the immediate post-partum period.

3.4 million newborns die each year.

These numbers can be lowered by providing women with clean birthing kits for only $2.00 each.

Each kit contains a plastic sheet for the woman to give birth on, a clean razor for cutting the umbilical cord, a string to tie the umbilical cord, and plastic gloves.
Table Talk with Janan Crocker

Janan Crocker is RASP’s Events and Public Speaker Coordinator. During fall 2009, she worked on an asylum case for a South African Woman persecuted by a Rwandan Tutsi. The South African woman was appealing an immigration judge’s decision not to grant her and her children asylum in the United States. A Rwandan Tutsi had been harassing her because she was married to a Rwandan Hutu who may have been involved in genocide against the Tutsis before the Hutus lost control of the government.

The Rwandan Genocide was the 1994 mass killing of hundreds of thousands of Rwanda's Tutsis and Hutu political moderates by the Hutu dominated government under the Hutu Power ideology. Over the course of approximately 100 days, the death toll is estimated to have been between 500,000 and 1,000,000 – that is, as much as 20% of the total population of the country.
Every year, more and more children are immigrating to the United States without a parent or legal guardian. At any given time, an average of 700 unaccompanied minors are being detained by the US Department of Homeland Security Department. Some of these children come to the United States seeking asylum, others with the hope of being reunited with family members already living here, and all are simply in search of a better future for themselves. These children are driven by a strong survival instinct that assures them that the US is their last resource, their salvation. They are willing to risk it all for a chance at a new life. And they do.

*Children in No Man’s Land* is a 40-minute documentary uncovering the plight of the 100,000 unaccompanied minors crossing the US/Mexico border every year. Focusing on the Arizona/Sonora Desert border area, this work takes an up-close-and-personal look at the stories behind both successful and unsuccessful border crossing attempts by Mexican children seeking to reunite with family in the US or in pursued of work and a better future. Through a series of interviews conducted at shelters along the Mexican border, *Children in No Man’s Land* gives a face and a voice to a situation that might be more complex and dangerous than any of us – and certainly the children involved – can imagine. We hear from the children themselves about why they embark on such a dangerous journey and what it has been like for them so far.
Fall 2009 RASP Projects

2010 Event Preview
Check out what’s coming up!

Refugee Panel Discussion
RASP Nuts and Bolts Training

American Gateways
Spanish affidavit translation.

Joseph A. Loy | Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Research 2nd Circuit law for a legal brief in support of an asylum client.

King & Spalding
Update the research in Board of Immigration Appeals brief.

Seattle Law Group
Research documenting sexual abuse in the Eritrean military.
Contact RASP

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