CALL FOR PAPERS:

Seeking contributions for an edited volume on “Children and Forced Migration: Durable Solutions during Transient Years”.

Editors: Marisa O. Ensor (marisaensor@yahoo.com), and Elzbieta M. Gozdziak (emg27@georgetown.edu)

The proposed book project is conceived as a follow up to our successful volume “Children and Migration: At the Crossroads of Resiliency and Vulnerability” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), to be included in Palgrave’s recent series on “Studies in Childhood and Youth”.


BOOK CONCEPT:

The official end of conflict rarely signifies the cessation of violence or the automatic (re)establishment of the rule of law and human rights protection. Limited opportunities and additional displacement similarly remain common features of life in many post-war societies. For children and youth, who often constitute the largest demographic sector of displaced groups, the search for viable solutions typically prioritizes needs and aspirations that reflect the transient nature of their age group, and differ from those of their elders. Additional difficulties are posed by the inconsistent definition and uneven implementation of the traditional “durable solutions” to forced displacement – i.e. “voluntary repatriation”, “local integration”, “resettlement to a third country” – on the part of national governments and international assistance agencies. Intergenerational differences regarding the impact and perceived desirability of these or other alternatives are rarely considered. They thus remain largely unexamined and insufficiently understood, impeding the transition from humanitarian aid to human development.

Given the very high proportion of children and youth among displaced populations worldwide, and the particular challenges and opportunities they must confront, their experiences, needs and aspirations must be investigated and factored into relevant policy and practice. The chapters included in this edited volume seek to contribute to this effort by sharing findings that may inform forced migration programming so that it better responds to the age-differentiated priorities of displaced communities, hence promoting more sustainable durable solutions. These dynamics are shown to have a significant impact on the way in which access to material assets, education, employment opportunities, political participation and other key resources is negotiated among the youngest members of displaced groups.
SUGGESTED CHAPTER TOPICS:

Responding to the need to better understand this complex issue, book chapters will address questions including:

- To what extent do so-called “durable solutions” to refugee problems factor in the specific needs of displaced children?
- How do refugee children’s experiences of repatriation, local integration and resettlement to a third country differ from those of their adult counterparts?
- What are the implications of these intergenerational differences for the long-term wellbeing of the affected children, their families and communities?
- What are the main factors – cultural, legal, structural – that facilitate or impede displaced children’s integration into their new societies?
- In which ways are the experiences of other groups of involuntarily displaced children broadly understood – e.g. survivors of human trafficking, undocumented child migrants, child soldiers, disaster survivors, etc. – similar and/or different from those of child refugees in terms of their prospects for achieving durable solutions to their situation?

PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

Please email Marisa O. Ensor (marisaensor@yahoo.com) and Elzbieta M. Gozdziak (emg27@georgetown.edu) to indicate your willingness to contribute a chapter to our volume by submitting a provisional title and abstract (300-400 words) by January 15, 2015.

Initial chapter drafts (7,000-8,000 words) by selected authors will be invited by May 15, 2015.

Fully revised drafts will be expected by September 1, 2015.