



WORLD VIEW



*From the UConn School of Social Work
Center for International Social Work Studies*

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Fall 2008

December 1st is World AIDS Day

December 1st, 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Every year, people and organizations across the globe commemorate this day as a time to educate one another and become more involved in addressing the global AIDS epidemic.

In the buildup to World AIDS Day, participating organizations have taken action to inform and empower youth around the world, emphasizing the vital role that youth leadership plays in addressing AIDS and other pressing social issues. At the forefront of this campaign is a series of “teach-in” events in the Indian cities of Pune and New Delhi, which will culminate in large-scale concerts in both of those cities on December 1st. Among other major themes, these educational sessions focus on the goal of achieving worldwide universal health care access for children coping with AIDS. Events are sponsored by World AIDS Campaign (WAC), with additional support and funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Wake Up Pune and the Naz Foundation.

For more information on this and other World AIDS Campaign events, visit: <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org>.

Tuesday, December 2nd, 12:30 pm: 'Iraqi Exodus' Film Screening & Panel Discussion

In *Iraqi Exodus*, filmmaker Tania Rahkmanova aims to foster understanding of the Iraqi refugee crisis in Syria and Jordan, as well as the struggles that Iraqis face once they are resettled to the United States. The panel discussion on December 2nd will expand upon these themes by asking how social service professionals can build public awareness of refugees' situation, garner public support, and mobilize local communities to advocate on behalf of those whose circumstances have forced them to leave their home and country.

Tuesday's panel will feature two speakers who have worked and written extensively on the subject of refugee resettlement: Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven; and Scott Harding, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Community Organization at the UConn School of Social Work and Co-Director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work.

The screening will cover about 25 minutes of the documentary, followed by panel speakers presenting for 15 minutes, and then a discussion and question/answer segment. A sign-up sheet will be available for those who are interested in advocacy for Iraqi refugees. Food and beverages will be provided.





WORLD VIEW

From the Center for International Social Work Studies at UConn



‘Children of the Undocumented’ Panel Discussion on Immigration

On October 22nd, 2008, the UConn Center for International Social Work Studies hosted an event Titled "Children of the Undocumented: Forgotten Casualties of Immigration Policy." The panel of speakers included:

- Abigail Amorim, MSW, Executive Director, The Brazilian Alliance in Hartford, CT.
- Kathryn Libal, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, UConn School of Social Work and Department of Human Development and Family Studies.
- Barbara Richards, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, creator/moderator of electionvolunteers.org, founding member of *Unidad Latina en Acción* in New Haven, and list-serv creator for a recent immigrant children’s in-state tuition bill (which passed the State House and Senate, but was later vetoed by the Governor).



Abigail Amorim

This presentation, which was planned and organized by former CISWS intern Daniel Melchor, concerned the impact of new policies toward undocumented workers and their families, with emphasis on the increasing detention and deportation of migrants.

One of the most widely discussed topics was the March 6, 2007 immigrant raid in New Bedford, Massachusetts. On this day, about 300 ICE workers raided the Michael Bianco, Inc., factory and detained 350 suspected undocumented immigrants working there. One aspect of the New Bedford raids that went largely unnoticed in the media was the impact on the children of those who were detained—many of whom returned home from school on March 6th to find that one or both of their parents were missing. Working off of this theme, panelists discussed ways for social workers to address the needs of children who are separated from their parents within a human rights framework, and roles that social workers can play in shaping policies related to this issue.

Sources

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- Rahkmanova, T. (2008). Iraqi Exodus Production Diary I: Welcome to Syria. Retrieved from the PBS Wide Angle web site: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/iraqi-exodus/production-diary-i-welcome-to-syria/2679/>
- World AIDS Campaign (2008). World AIDS Day update. Universal access campaigner’s update, 2:3, 4-5. Retrieved from the WAC web site: http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/en/content/download/32069/369191/file/newsletteroctsept_08.pdf