

# WORLD REFUGEE DAY

**June 20, 2008**

“Protecting Refugees: Rebuilding Lives in Safety and Dignity”

In countries where people have to flee their homes because of persecution and violence, political solutions must be found, peace and tolerance restored, so that refugees can return home. In my experience, going home is the deepest wish of most refugees. *Angelina Jolie*

**Protection through Solidarity.** World Refugee Day is a time to remember the plight of refugees around the world and to recognize the contributions of refugees in our communities. It is a time to think about the rights of refugees, and to recall that for a refugee, every day is refugee day, when their rights are too often denied. And it is a time to act. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and National Geographic will hold a special event on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC.

**Protection through Connection.** In June, Gabriel Stauring and Katie Jay Scott of Stop Genocide Now ([www.stopgenocidenow.org](http://www.stopgenocidenow.org)) are returning to the Darfuri refugee camps in eastern Chad. They will be in the capital, N'Djamena, on June 20. Send them your laminated photos and/or DVDs of Tents of Hope events by June 5<sup>th</sup> so they can show them to the Darfuri refugees (1732 Aviation Blvd. #138, Redondo Beach CA 90278). We would like photos of people holding a sign that reads, “Protect Darfur!”

**Protection through Creativity.** Be creative in planning a local action to commemorate World Refugee Day on June 20 and draw attention to Darfur. Tents of Hope emphasizes three areas for action: education, advocacy and fundraising. Here are a few suggested actions:

- ✓ **VOTE!** for the right of the displaced people of Darfur to safely return home. You can soon find an online ballot at the Tents of Hope website. Hold a town hall meeting on Darfur and invite participants to vote. Use your painted tent as a “voting booth.” Make a ballot box and decorate it with images from your tent or new images. We will deliver all of the ballot boxes to the Democratic and Republican conventions.
- ✓ **BE A WITNESS!** to the plight of the Darfuri people. Invite the public and media to a tent painting event or display your tent in a prominent location. Show a film or invite a speaker. Write a letter to your representatives or write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

- ✓ **GO GREEN!** by collecting used cell phones for recycling. We will soon post a special section on our website for the ECO-CELL program so you can learn how to participate. This program will benefit Tents of Hope and STAND.

Tell us about your plans for World Refugee Day. We welcome any suggestions.  
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