

FAHAMU REFUGEE PROGRAMME

Annual Report of Activities 2012-2013

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From the Directors

As increasingly restrictive approaches are taken against asylum seekers, the need for refugee legal assistance globally is greater now than it has ever been. Our mission is increasingly relevant and necessary. Since the inception of FRP, we have acted to combat the erosion of refugee representation where it exists and develop it where it does not, to connect lawyers and advocates with the resources and training they need to defend refugee rights, to advocate against the erosion of protection (challenging the cessation of refugee status in Africa and coordinate responses to refugee internment in Kenya, for example), to ensure deportees receive legal help upon return, to establish legal assistance centers, and to inspire young advocates to defend refugee protection as a fundamental component of human rights around the world.

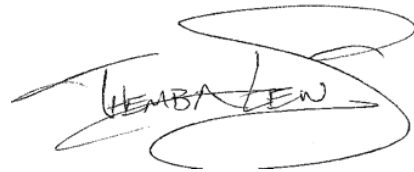
Over the past year, FRP has been represented in Egypt, Belgium, Turkey, the United States, Switzerland, Morocco, the Netherlands, Uganda, Lithuania, Korea, and Bosnia, teaching on refugee law, training young lawyers, networking with partner organizations, and meeting and working with refugees (including in negotiations before the International Criminal Court). We continue to train and maintain a cohort of interns, researchers, and others interested in our programming, both in our offices and remotely.

The 2012-2013 year was a significant one for our programme, and we hope this report will provide some insight into our tremendous growth and development over the past twelve months.

Dr. Barbara E Harrell-Bond, OBE



Mr. Themba Lewis



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**Centralising
resources for refugee
legal aid, globally.**

The Fahamu Refugee Programme (FRP) promotes the legal protection of refugees, globally. We do this by centralizing resources for legal assistance providers and refugees themselves and producing the monthly Fahamu Legal aid Newsletter. Legal aid is in its infancy in most of the world, but is crucial to the realization of refugees' rights, especially the critical first step: recognition of refugee status. Few governments pay for legal assistance for refugees; the little that is available is done by volunteers. Legal service providers will improve their service by sharing experiences and, by working together, can achieve the goal of ensuring there is refugee legal protection available everywhere.

Objectives of the Fahamu Refugee Programme:

- 1. To continue to expand the resources available through our various media, and to ensure accessibility to an ever greater audience of refugee legal assistance practitioners;*
- 2. To continue to respond to the daily requests for information, and link emergency requests for help with relevant practitioners; and*
- 3. To establish a sustainable funding base for FRP.*

FRP ACTIVITIES¹

The Refugee Legal Aid Information Website

The centrepiece of FRP is its information platform: www.refugeelaidinformation.org. The website is designed to centralize information for those providing legal assistance to refugees globally and to direct refugees to *pro bono* legal assistance in countries all over the world. It emphasizes the many legal and lesser-known issues in the asylum process, and includes contact details for relevant websites and experts on conditions in specific countries. To help legal advisers with difficult cases, FRP continues to recruit highly qualified specialists who offer their services as 'resource persons' for challenging cases involving exclusion, apostasy, gender identity, unaccompanied minors, and other complex and emerging grounds for asylum.

FRP launched a re-vamped and overhauled new web platform in February 2013 after a month of troubleshooting and design. The new site allows for greater integration into social media, a more coherent format, greater accessibility, an auto-translation function, and increased access through mobile technology such as smart phones and tablets. It allows for direct feedback on content by visitors, harnessing the breadth of knowledge and global experience our audience provides. It also facilitates instant 'sharing' so that viewers are easily able to connect others with information they find useful on our site. We continue to 'populate' our website, adding new information daily.

¹ The Fahamu Refugee Programme began in 2009; this report covers the period ending on 1 July 2013. In September 2012, FRP registered itself as an independent Private Limited Company in the UK under the Companies Act 2006 using the name, 'Information for Refugee Legal Aid' (No. 8232075). Nik Roberts, Director, Versantus Co. and Barbara Harrell-Bond are the two board members for this not-for-profit company. Themba Lewis took up his appointment as co-director with Barbara Harrell-Bond as he is taking over the management of FRP on 1 August 2012.

The majority of our users connect to resources without our intervention, however we respond to daily requests for experts on particular countries and issues. The website has already proven instrumental in helping legal advisers who report to us when they make successful interventions on behalf of the refugees they represent. We also receive a number of requests from refugees for information from countries all over the globe, and we are usually able to link them to the help they need. At times we also bring cases to the attention of Department of International Protection (DIP) at UNHCR Geneva, to ensure that Country Offices are alerted by UNHCR Geneva. When particularly vulnerable or urgent cases are identified.

Since August 2012, FRP has taken a vigorous approach to augmenting and updating its Internet visibility in emerging spheres of information dissemination. FRP established a Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn presence, following from the successful *Newsletter* transition to a Tumblr blog format in January of 2012.



FRP's twitter account has quickly gained followers, including the Harvard University Refugee Law

Clinic, The European Council on Refugees and Exiles, a number of UNHCR offices around the world, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), the International Detention Coalition (IDC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University, a wide variety of academics and researchers, and many others. Our Facebook page has similarly drawn a number of followers, including UNHCR's Policy and Development Evaluations Service (PDES). Our LinkedIn account has recently been created and is rapidly gaining followers and connections from the global refugee community.

Through analytics we are able to track visits to FRP site, as well as the location of users. Annex I demonstrates the growth of visitors since 2011. A notable increase is clear in the past year.

NEW PROJECTS ON FRP WEBSITE

Post Deportation Monitoring Network

In September 2012 we launched the Post Deportation Monitoring Network (PDMN).² The PDMN page establishes a network of NGOs and individuals who will serve as points of contact to link with counterparts in order to track what happens to failed asylum seekers after deportation and assist with legal support. It aims to build a body of evidence to inform policy in countries that deport failed asylum seekers, and to make this evidence available for lobbying and possible use in support of asylum cases. It will highlight deportation policies that place asylum seekers at risk.

² See: <http://frian.tumblr.com/post/30649441834/launching-the-post-deportation-monitoring-network>

Refugee support groups believe many deportees have genuine asylum claims but are unable to prove them due to a lack of - or inadequate - legal representation. Most states and UNHCR deny responsibility for failed asylum seekers, many of whom are deported. Evidence collected by human rights organisations suggests that deportees, often identified by their distinctive 'travel documents', may be detained on arrival, and many are subject to interrogation, torture, and other degrading treatment. Justice First has documented harassment, imprisonment, and torture of deportees to the Democratic Republic of Congo by state authorities.³ The Refugee Law Project in Uganda similarly found that deportees are arrested if they are suspected of politically dissident activities; some have disappeared.⁴ Both organisations have also reported that deportees were harassed, arrested, and tortured for the act of having claimed asylum abroad. Claiming asylum in another state is often seen as an act of treason.⁵

In the last year, PDMN has grown to a membership of 21 organizations in 12 deporting and receiving countries. In order to increase the visibility of the network, interns working on the PDMN have published several articles and have given an interview to IRIN, the news service of the UN's office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.⁶

The network has been designed as a resource to be used between NGOs (without reference to our staff); but PDMN has played an active role with NGOs who try to connect with organisations in Uganda, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, working to ensure that our links are effective, and that there is someone who can respond in the country of arrival. Information gathered from the member NGOs in Pakistan and Uganda has been submitted as evidence to the UK Home Affairs' committee's enquiry into asylum, focusing on the situation of failed asylum seekers post-deportation and on treatment of deportees during the deportation process.⁷

PDMN has also met challenges. In some countries, such as Egypt and Chad, FRP partner NGOs have not been able to meet refused asylum seekers at the airport, nor assist them afterwards, as this would have put their staff at risk. Additionally, the logistics of hearing about an impending deportation in time to coordinate response remains a challenge for our network.

I have used the COI experts list several times for my research and I am pleased to inform you that the responses to my inquiries were very fast and very useful. Thus, I find your list utterly useful! Thank you so much ... it is really helpful.

Olga Ziori, Athens Lawyer

³ <http://justicefirst.org.uk/unsafe-return-the-report-on-congolese-who-had-been-removed-to-the-dr-congo/>

⁴ <http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/64236>

⁵ <http://api.ning.com/files/PswCn84NetJNEVC73PY7uPeC2oBjqNJWF8r2FJHfsxy93pjaRTu5GSvP9DNKZDQvNrzdTz2w2BhfGEeHmkFgJ0QmPUnQle/EritreaDevolucinDetencinyTortura.pdf>.

See

<http://frian.tumblr.com/post/30649441834/launching-the-post-deportation-monitoring-network>.

⁶ See <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/launching-the-post-deportation-monitoring-network/>; Podeszfa, L. and C. Manicom 2012, 'Avoiding Refoulement: The Need to Monitor Deported Failed Asylum Seekers.' <http://oxmofm.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Leana-and-Charlotte-FINAL.pdf>; Podeszfa, L. and F. Vetter 2012 'Violating the rights of deportees: why some deportations to African states amount to refoulement' in Democracy in Africa, <http://democracyinafrica.org/violating-the-rights-of-deportees-why-some-deportations-to-african-states-amount-to-refoulement/>, reprinted by QARN, <http://www.qarn.org.uk/homepage/violating-the-rights-of-deportees-why-some-deportations-to-african-states-amount-to-refoulement/>; and Siegfried, K. 2013, 'New Network Monitors Deportee Abuses', <http://www.irinnews.org/Report/97637/New-network-monitors-deportee-abuses>.

⁷ See <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/130416%20Asylum%20written%20evidence.pdf>

In the coming year, the team will increasing the number of partner organisations and explore ways to lessen risks. Moreover, we aim to raise awareness regarding deportation and the need to prepare for this eventuality. PDMN has also applied for funding through Joseph Rowntree for a study on the situation facing refused asylum seekers who have been deported to Uganda and Cameroon.

Asylum Claims on Grounds of Sexual Orientation

Our LGBTI Resource Person, Eddie Bruce-Jones, has been overwhelmed by requests for help; so we have added a web-based information list for all states to the information that he provides.⁸ Although there is a host of LGBTI-relevant information on the web, we could find no comprehensive listing of national legislation and respect for LGBTI rights, or offered instant access to the information that lawyers need when preparing asylum cases for adjudication.

The FRP pages allow lawyers to access country-specific legislation and case law (where it can be found), and include sections on public attitudes and/or state capacity to protect LGBTI people. Each country page concludes with a list of non-governmental agencies (NGOs), where they exist, and country of origin specialists who have agreed to provide reports on the plausibility of individual situations that lawyers can present to adjudicators.

The research for this part of FRP's information portal is being conducted by student interns from the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, and the School of Law and the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP), at the Oxford Brookes University. The goal is to have the LGBTI information for all UN member states completed by the end of 2013.

Your program is of immense value, thank you so much for all your hard work and advocacy on behalf of the often voiceless refugees overseas.

Bonnie Rubrecht

Administrative Director, Harvard Immigration & Refugee Clinical Program, Harvard Law School

LOBBYING FOR FAIR TREATMENT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS UNDER LAW

Invoking the Cessation Clause for Rwandan Refugees

FRP chaired the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network's working group lobbying against UNHCR's recommendation that refugee status should be stripped from Rwandans globally. This lobbying involved raising the issue at the UNHCR/NGO Consultations in Geneva, carrying articles in the *Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter*, petitioning internationally, participating in international conferences, and assisting in organizing the American Bar Association meeting on the subject in Washington DC. Our lobbying succeeded in having the cessation date postponed to June 2013. UNHCR continues to press for its invocation, but was forced to announce at this June's UNHCR/NGO consultations that only three countries were going to invoke it (Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia) and that there was no consensus among host states that it is appropriate. In the process of this campaign, two FRP interns have written their MA theses on

⁸ Moreover, www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org aims to provide a one-stop shop for lawyers, in particular for those who have low bandwidth access to the internet and cannot search it easily.

the subject, and one has decided to go to law school to prepare himself for a career in refugee law.⁹

Refugee internment in Kenya

In December 2012, FRP, in response to Kenya's Department for Refugee Affairs announcing its intention to restrict all refugees in the country to Kakuma and Dadaab camps, immediately began voicing serious concern over the proposed action. FRP published articles on the topic for three subsequent months in the *Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter* and communicated with our partner organizations in Kenya.¹⁰ FRP also supported the lodging of a court case against the directive, based in constitutional rights afforded all people in Kenya. UNHCR joined this case as *amicus curiae*.

FRP joined the Humanitarian Policy Group in London on 4 February 2013, along with senior representatives of international organizations, NGOs, and UK government ministries working in relation to Kenya and Somalia, to discuss joint advocacy towards ensuring continued respect for fundamental refugee rights. As a result, FRP developed a close working relationship with Refugees International, and co-wrote a letter of concern to UNHCR Regional Bureau for Africa Director George Okoth-Obbo, signed by a number of FRP network member organizations. This was followed by a press release to UK media, and continued focus in the *Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter*. To date, FRP maintains focus on the issue, which is continually being discussed. Pending the court decision, relocation of the refugees has been blocked.

The Failed Asylum Seekers at Choucha Camp, Tunisia

The situation at Choucha Camp in Tunisia constitutes another issue requiring sustained lobbying. The camp received thousands of people from Libya following the overthrow of Gaddafi. Some 3,000 identified themselves as asylum seekers, and UNHCR hastily conducted Refugee Status Determination (RSD) adjudication. Some of those recognized were resettled, but the situation as we are writing this report is that hundreds of recognized refugees are objecting to 'local integration' in Tunisia and the roughly three hundred 'failed' asylum seekers are refusing generous financial payments to return to their countries of asylum because they fear persecution if returned.¹¹

UNHCR Standing Committee March 2013

In March 2013, FRP intern Amber Stechman presented the *Statement on Behalf of African NGOs* before the UNHCR Standing Committee in Geneva.¹² The Committee, comprised of government representatives, provides an avenue for NGOs to raise concerns and provide commendations on developments. FRP served to compile and draft the statement, working in tandem with NGOs (national and international) across the continent to highlight specific concerns in a number of countries. FRP was able to directly raise concerns related to cessation, SGBV, trafficking, Syria, and UNHCR budgetary priorities.

⁹ The second completed his law degree in June 2013.

¹⁰ See: <http://frian.tumblr.com/post/44315382902/refugees-in-kenya-a-briefing-on-recent-developments>, <http://frian.tumblr.com/post/42017299362/kenya-dont-force-55-000-refugees-into-camps>, <http://frian.tumblr.com/post/39344353316/kenya-restricts-refugees-to-camps-violating-refugee>

¹¹ See: <http://frian.tumblr.com/search/choucha>

¹² See: <http://frian.tumblr.com/post/46839870396/agenda-item-3-a-i>

Establishing refugee legal aid in Morocco

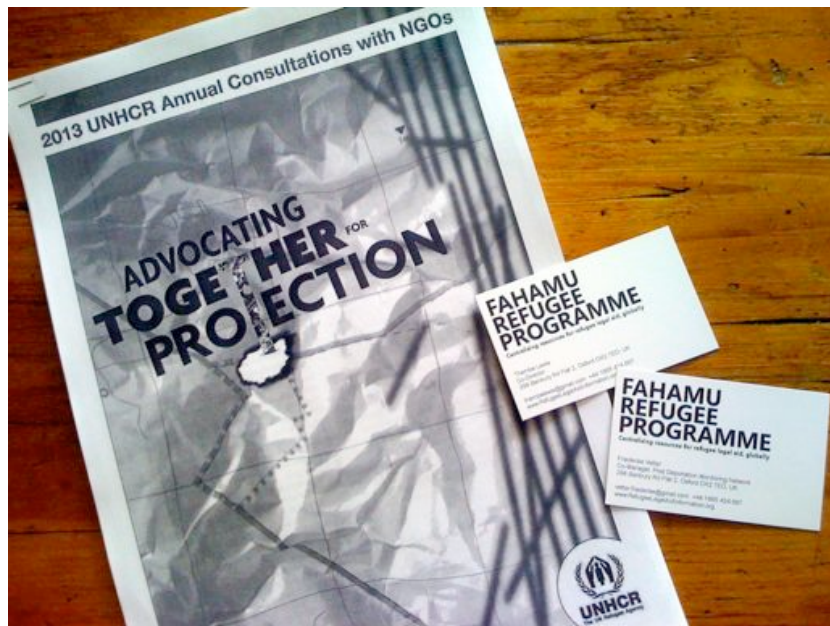
There is currently no organization providing legal aid to individuals who want to present their case for asylum before UNHCR, the decision-maker, in Morocco. In November 2012, FRP co-director Barbara Harrell-Bond traveled to Morocco in advance of the bi-annual meeting of the EUROMED Working Group on Refugee and Migrants, held in Oujda. Together with Anna Jacobs, a Fulbright Fellow, and Dylan Fuller, a Boren Fellow and lawyer with Human Rights First refugee experience, she visited UNHCR and a number of NGOs, including some of UNHCR's implementing partners.

The visit explored possibilities surrounding the establishment of refugee legal aid under the auspices of *Droit Et Justice*, an NGO established by a Casablanca law firm that is promoting *pro bono* culture in Morocco. *Droit Et Justice* agreed to add refugee legal aid to its services pending funds to bring an expert refugee lawyer to train local lawyers for at least a year. The lawyer would do cases, work to reform Moroccan refugee policy, and raise awareness of refugee issues in Morocco.

A funding proposal was submitted to the EUROMED Foundation for *Droit et Justice*, and, in June 2013, Ms. Maud Depresle was hired, a French lawyer with impeccable qualifications who will begin her work in August this year. FRP played a central role in facilitating the funding and hiring.

Individual Case Networking

Through our email we receive countless requests for country of origin information, and a large number of requests for assistance from refugees themselves. We link people with NGOs (where they exist), lawyers (where they exist), and UNHCR offices. We supply refugees with a self-help kit, now in French, Arabic, and English, to help them prepare their cases. On rare occasions we help refugees submit



their cases directly to the Department of International Protection at UNHCR, Geneva. One such case, a Rwandan family in China, has now been resettled in Sweden through our intervention. Others have successfully gained refugee status, and still others have been able to have concerns heard by authorities otherwise unreachable.

TRAINING

Not only is there a dearth in the provision of legal aid throughout the world, there is also a serious need to raise the standards of the legal aid that *is* provided, and not only in the global south. A grant from the US Institute for Peace (USIP) allowed us to take a training programme to Asian lawyers; trainings took place in Thailand and Malaysia, but the costs of such face-to-face training suggests that we must persevere in providing learning opportunities through our website.

We have gained permission and mounted two major training films on our website, 'Well-Founded Fear' and 'Practicing Refugee Law.'¹³ We also have several other training films uploaded¹⁴ and promote the *Refugee Law Reader*,¹⁵ which is designed mainly for law professors who intend to offer courses in their universities.¹⁶ It is a comprehensive on-line model curriculum for the study of the complex and rapidly evolving field of international refugee law covering Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. We also have several distance learning courses on the website, and, as mentioned, have resource persons (teachers) who help lawyers with difficult cases.

In addition to lawyers seeking help with particular issues from our Resource Persons, a number of lawyers from Africa and Asia have begun sending us samples of their work; this allows us to comment on the testimonies they are taking and suggest questions they should pursue.¹⁷

We have undertaken an assessment (and testing for utility in low bandwidth or Internet-absent situations), of Asylum Access's refugee-rights-toolkit,¹⁸ and are considering applying for funding for other distance learning courses. Over the next year we will be expanding training resources on the website and improving the way they are currently presented.

The Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter

FRP has continued to publish the *Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter* online on the first of each month since February 2010. The Newsletter regularly received about 2,000 hits per month

¹³ See: <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/content/films> where you will find all of the educational films on refugees that we have gained permission to make available on www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org. A filmmaker has offered to make a DVD from the course we offered on witchcraft accusation as the basis for claiming refugee status. We offered this course in collaboration with UNHCR in 2010 and it was videotaped. The number of such cases appearing all over the world is on the increase.

¹⁴ <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/content/training>;
<http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/node/1165>; <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/content/clone-airobi-code>.

¹⁵ <http://www.refugeelegalaidinformation.org/content/refugee-law-reader>

¹⁶ In 1982 there were only two places where refugee law was taught as a *course*, Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre and the Osgoode School of Law, Toronto, Canada. More law schools are now offering courses, but few in the global south. The Refugee Law Reader produces materials in French, Russian and Spanish.

¹⁷ This experience demonstrates how lawyers lack the ability to take a complete testimony. FRP is collecting good examples of cases and redacting them for confidentiality so they can be shared with lawyers interested in improving their skills.

¹⁸ This assessment of the Toolkit is being done by Kuldip Phull, an asylum judge here in the UK. She actually 'found' us by finding and being impressed by the website and the Newsletter. She offered to help and we thought her to be ideal for this as a first task.

over the last half year, and despite being published in English, the geographic scope of these visits covered 123 countries - demonstrating its international relevance.

The *Newsletter* covers a diverse range of topics relating to refugee legal assistance, including continued focus on the cessation of refugee status for Rwandan refugees, a special focus on the quality of protection for refugees stranded in Choucha camp, the effect of emotional strain on witnesses evidence provision, codes of conduct for legal assistance providers, refugee status determination procedures in Argentina, deportation, and many other topics.

Over the past year, the *Newsletter* has received regular reader responses, subscription requests, and external contributions.¹⁹ By utilizing social media, *Newsletter* articles have been distributed by UNHCR, the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Amnesty International, The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, and a number of refugee law professionals and refugee advocates.

The *Newsletter* depends on a six-member volunteer editorial team supervised by Themba Lewis. Since August 2012, two training manuals have been drafted in order to ensure consistency between issues and accuracy within the editorial staff. These documents provide all of the guidance necessary to compile and publish the newsletter, allowing for greater sustainability as volunteers are replaced over time.

FRP was awarded £5,000 funding to pay a part-time coordinating editor through the LUSH Charity Pot funding scheme. This has ensured sustainability of the rapidly growing *Newsletter* at least into end of 2013.

FRLAN list-serv (frlan-list@fahamu.org)

FRP continues to moderate the FRLAN list-serv, an email network of lawyers and others concerned with the provision of legal assistance to refugees. Vicky Goodban, the first FRP intern, moderates the list-serv remotely. It is increasingly used to discuss cases and ask questions, a further opportunity for legal advisors to *learn*. We also use it as a means of distributing information on legal aid issues that miss the deadlines for the *Newsletter*. Membership of the list continues to grow, now past the 700 members mark. Members recently used the list to secure interpretation for an Uzbek speaking refugee in Thailand, request Country of Origin expert commentary on a Bolivian case, and other discussions concerning Turkmenistan, Peru, Guinea, Chad, Israel, and a number of other locations.

'I [want] to thank you so much for your great organization and its newsletter, *Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter*. I follow the newsletter closely and I also recently was able to help a co-worker in Harvard's Human Rights Program find resources for a desperate man in El Salvador who ONU was able to help by going to your website. In the past, we haven't been able to provide answers for people in these situations ... and it was amazing to be able to connect someone so quickly with the names and numbers of organizations that might be able to help.'

Bonnie Rubrecht

Administrative Director, Harvard Immigration & Refugee Clinical Program, Harvard Law School

¹⁹ Subscription requests are now greater than ten per month, and increasing each month.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

FRP currently operates with its co-directors and a volunteer intern staff of five, full time, in Oxford. In addition, the *Newsletter* maintains a volunteer editorial staff of six, working remotely from around the world. Intern numbers rise during term-time at the two Oxford-based universities.

Paid Staff

Co-director Themba Lewis has now completed nearly a year in his position. FRP-founder Barbara Harrell-Bond continues in her role. Themba has been given the lead role in establishing the Private Limited Company, the company bank account, and researching the establishment of an independent charity.

Volunteer Interns

FRP has, from the beginning, relied heavily on the volunteer labour of full and part-time interns. An advantage to interns is our location, which provides access to the resources of the University of Oxford: the Bodleian libraries, seminars and, with permission from instructors, visiting

In August 2012, two FRP interns interviewed an Angolan refugee couple that had twice been denied legal aid in the UK on the basis of 'lack of merit'. Through the exercise, the interns took the testimony of the primary applicant (learning the skills needed for effective interviewing and testimony writing), grappled with difficulties arising from challenges in interpretation, identified critical legal arguments for refugee status, solicited an expert report on country of origin information, learned to assess the value of evidence, liaised with the UK Border Agency and the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal, and ultimately defended the refugee claimant before an immigration judge, acting as 'McKenzie Friend'. This practical experience is unparalleled in terms of training in refugee law and case composition, and the case was ultimately won.

In September 2012, as the culmination of a case that 'found FRP' through the website, two interns met an LGBTI Iranian refugee arriving in the UK from Singapore. Although the Iranian holds refugee status in the UK, the interns continue to work with the refugee to navigate the legal and bureaucratic obstacles to achieving basic protection guaranteed by law in the UK, such as housing entitlements, emergency financial loans, and access to the medical establishment. The process is providing the interns first-hand experience negotiating the restrictions and burden placed on those who arrive without support networks.

courses at the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), COMPAS and the International Migration Institute. Nearly all of our interns gain employment or go on for further studies after leaving us (some decide to study law).²⁰ We draw interns from a wide number of sources, those that work full-time come from abroad and part-time interns are usually RSC and Oxford Brookes University students.

Interns gain practical training in refugee law and the provision of refugee legal advice through the daily operations of FRP. FRP has recently established a cooperation dialogue with the Oxford University Law Faculty *Pro Bono Publico* group to further this practical training, providing interns the opportunity to directly engage with refugee law. Already this year we have provided

legal assistance to Rwandans, Angolans, and Iranians at various points in their asylum claims.

Interns also gain experience in international forums, as participants and observers. This year FRP interns attended academic and policy-focused conferences in Lithuania, Switzerland, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

²⁰ Two former interns are taking up internship positions with UNHCR Morocco, a convenient coincidence in view of our efforts to begin a legal aid programme there.

Hosting the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network

FRP serves as the secretariat for the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network (SRLAN).²¹ This network has a steering committee of nine members that meets quarterly via Skype. It holds its annual general meeting in Geneva in June in conjunction with, and one day in advance of, the annual UNHCR/NGO consultations. Since 2004, legal aid NGOs have been attending these consultations and using it as an opportunity to hold private meetings with UNHCR staff to object



to aspects of the RSD procedures followed by the UNHCR country offices in the some 60 states where UNHCR is the decision-maker. SRLAN now has RSD procedures, working groups on right to work, Rwanda and the cessation clause, state RSD procedures, and one reviewing UNHCR handbook on mandate RSD procedures. Vicky

Goodban acts as the secretary for SRLAN meetings.

FRP Relations with Other Networks

FRP is connected with a great number of refugee rights groups around the world through our web-resources and our dedicated Resource Persons. However, we maintain formal connections with the following:

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

Through the AMERA UK and Fahamu Trust's membership of ICVA, FRP participates as an active member. ICVA, whose office is in Geneva, acts as the 'gatekeeper' for Geneva-based UNHCR activities and it organizes, with UNHCR the annual UNHCR/NGO consultations. Most members are UNHCR implementing partners who provide 'humanitarian' assistance in refugee camps; *it has only been since 2004 that rights-based NGOs have participated in the consultations.* Each year the SLRAN organizes plenary sessions and side meetings on refugee rights, the problems with UNHCR RSD-adjudication, and questioning the continued existence of refugee camps. Dr. Harrell-Bond attends ICVA general assembly meetings and conference in Geneva that provides an important avenue for reminding member NGOs of the need for a rights-based approach to humanitarian aid.

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)

FRP is a founding member of the APRRN and Barbara Harrell-Bond has attended its general meetings – in Thailand, Malaysia, and Republic of Korea. APRRN organizes working groups on legal aid, statelessness, the Rohingya, women refugees, and other regionally specific topics. Its membership brings together over 100 NGOs in a region where most states have not ratified the Convention. One of its major emphases has been on encouraging these states to enact domestic law.

Martin Jones, who is the head of training and research for FRP has taught courses in the Asia Pacific region funded by USIP. These videos are one product of these courses and are now publicly available on YouTube:

- Myths and Facts about Refugees: <http://youtu.be/OBYKAvgLzCs>

²¹ <http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/content/about-srlan>

- Concerns of the Thai Government about Refugees: <http://youtu.be/8D4LL9kAs5o>
- Drafting a Refugee Bill: Thailand (Part 1): <http://youtu.be/z6BkVGfmHwM>
- Drafting a Refugee Bill: Thailand (Part 2): <http://youtu.be/c43C3wYR1qA>
- The Nairobi Code: <http://youtu.be/3dmTVh3bXeg>
- Why Work with Refugees? <http://youtu.be/OHfYihBhe5Q>
- Training and Working with Pro Bono Lawyers: <http://youtu.be/CGvqzQt6C1k>
- Drafting and Promoting a Refugee Bill: South Korea: <http://youtu.be/Tclki-l43bg>
- Do Lawyers Make a Difference? <http://youtu.be/0g-6CAjLYCO>

International Detention Coalition (IDC)

FRP is also a founding member of IDC, who have launched a global project to discourage the detention of refugees and other migrants around the world. Its website shows their activities, and FRP hosts a page for Grant Mitchell, the IDC Executive Director and our Resource Person on Detention, to respond to requests he receives on it. IDC is registered as a charity in Australia, but acts globally.

EUROMED Human Rights Network (EUROMED HRN)

The EUROMED HRN was established to link certain European countries with countries in the 'neighbourhood' of the Mediterranean. Its working groups focus on women, justice, freedom of expression, and refugees and migrants. There is a bi-annual general assembly, and each working group meets two times a year in a country where there are NGO members of EUROMED. FRP participates in this network through AMERA UK's membership. Participation in these meetings is funded by EUROMED HRN.

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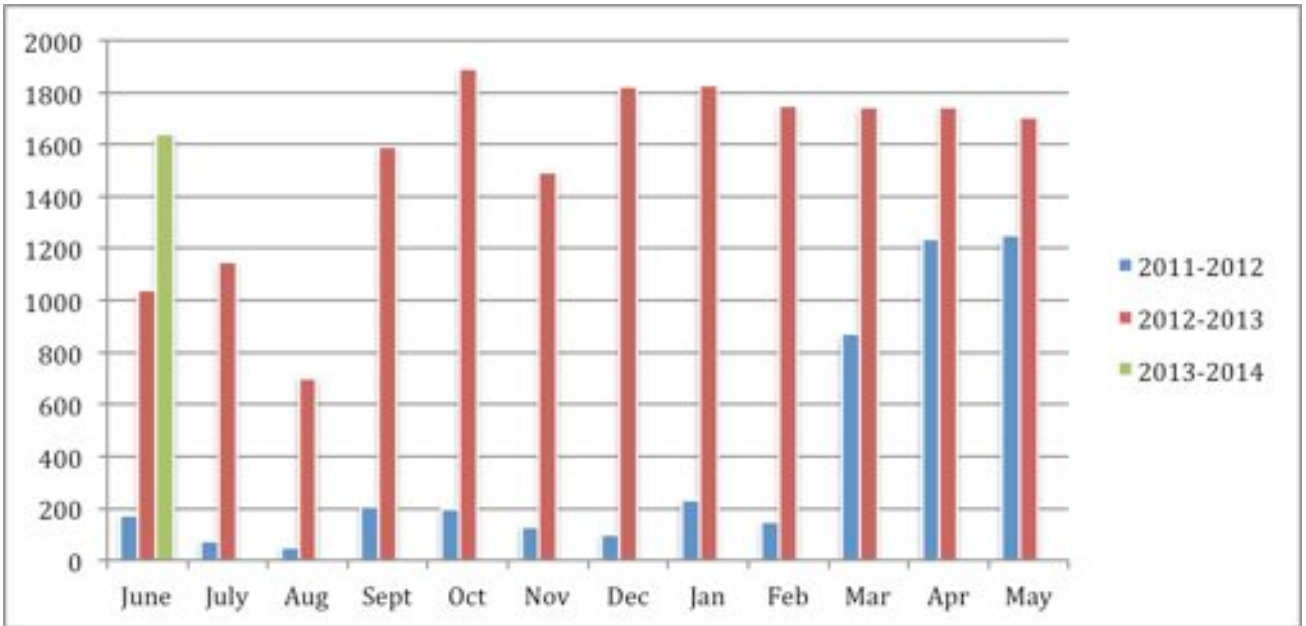
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ANNEXES:

ANNEX I: Growth of the Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter and FRP Website

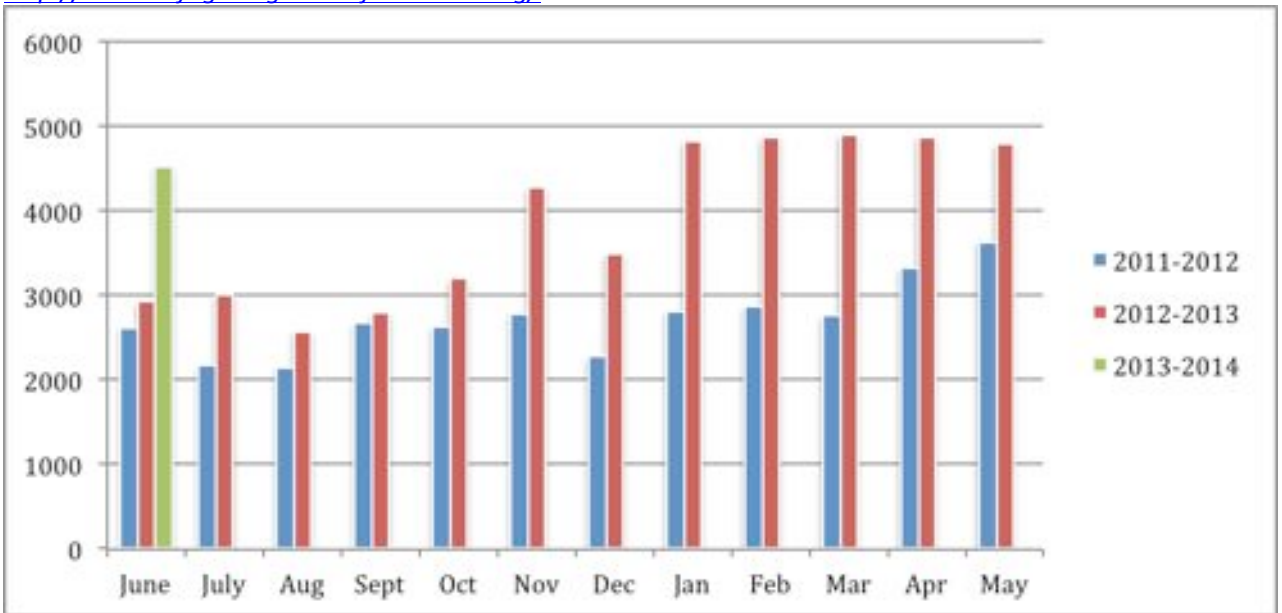
Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter: Number of visitors per month from 2011-2013

www.frlan.tumblr.com



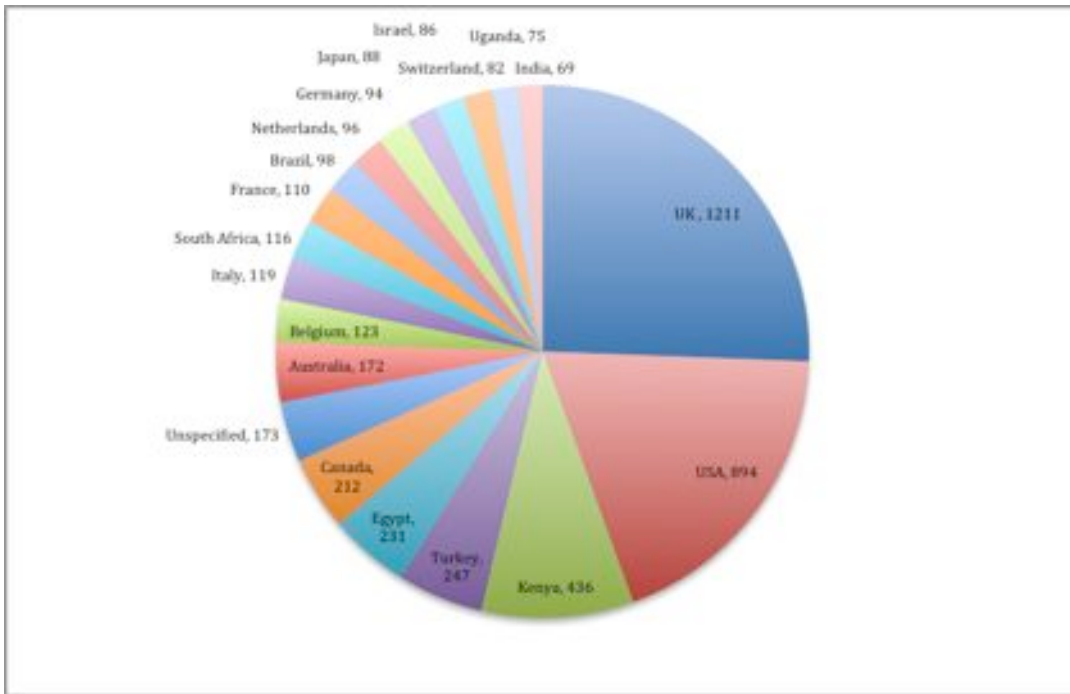
FRP Website: Number of visitors per month from 2011-2013

<http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/>



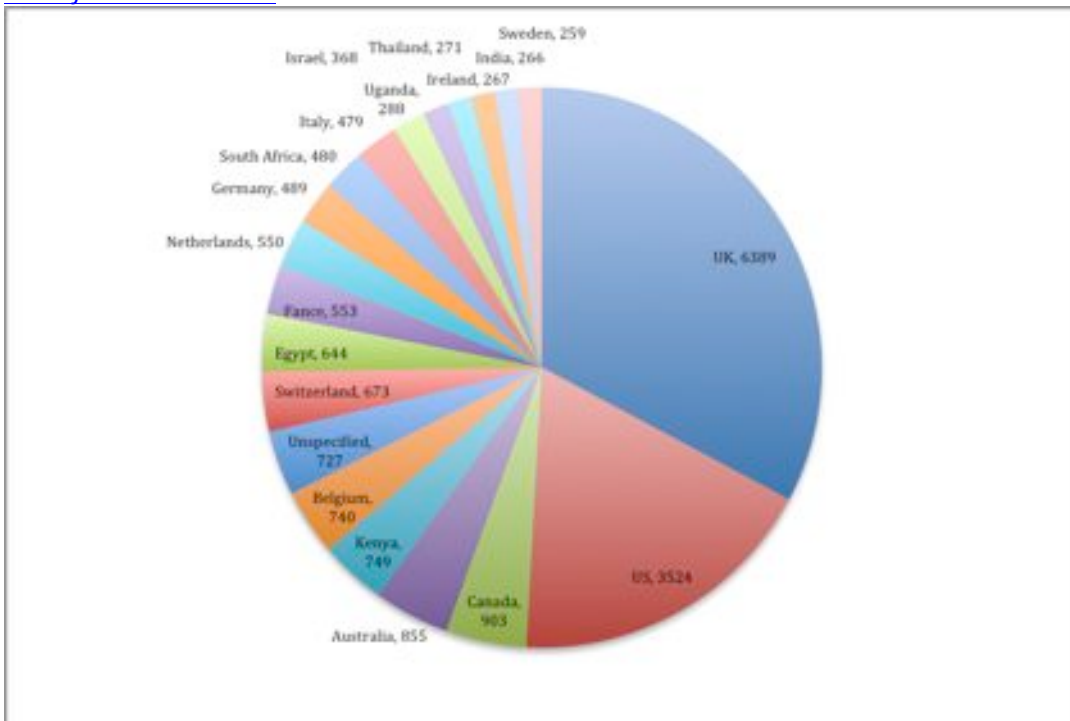
Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter: Top Twenty Visiting Countries June 2011-June 2012

www.frlan.tumblr.com



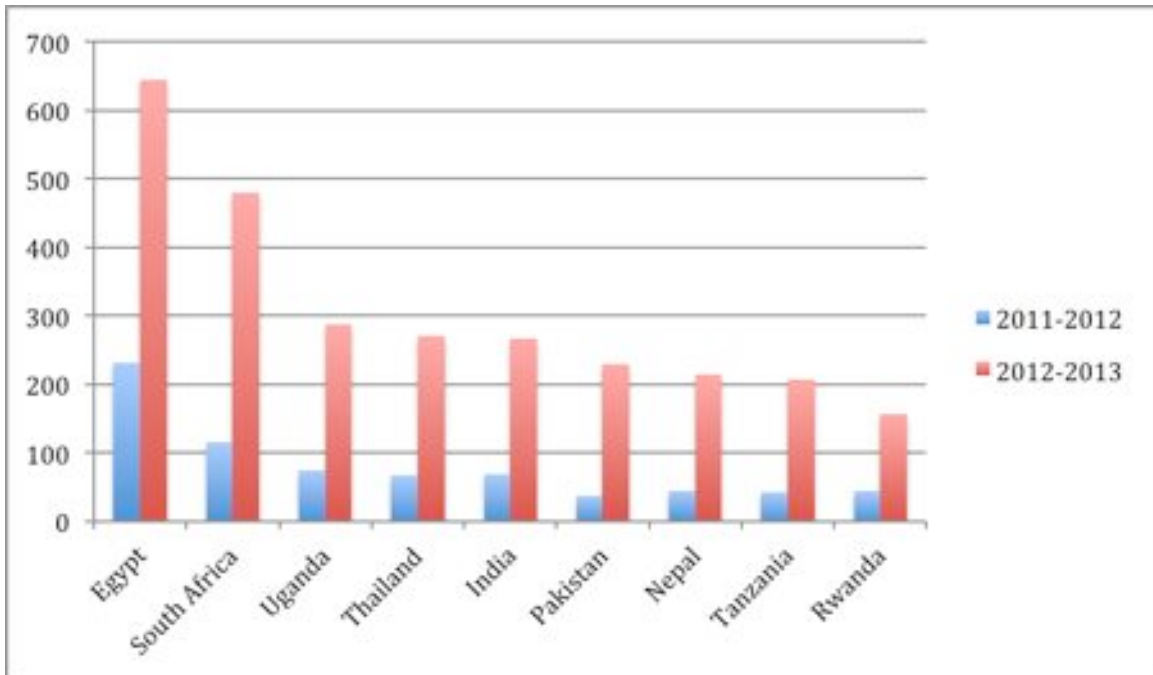
Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter: Top Twenty Visiting Countries June 2012-June 2013

www.frlan.tumblr.com



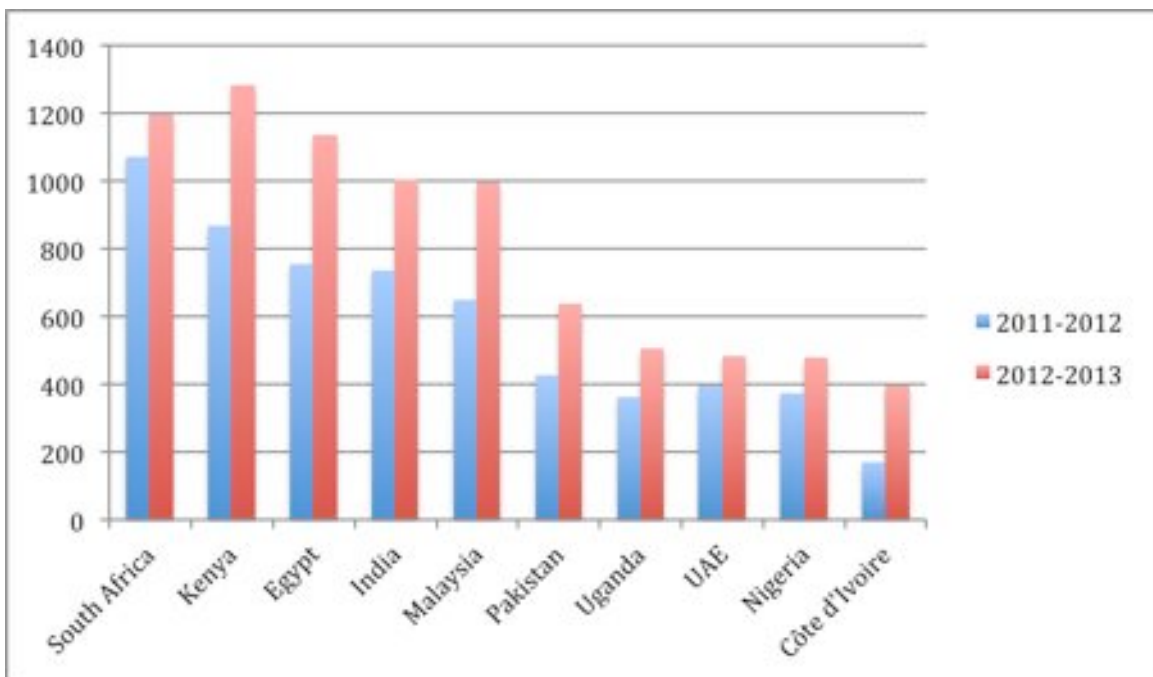
Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter: Yearly Growth in the Number of Visits from Selected Countries

www.frlan.tumblr.com



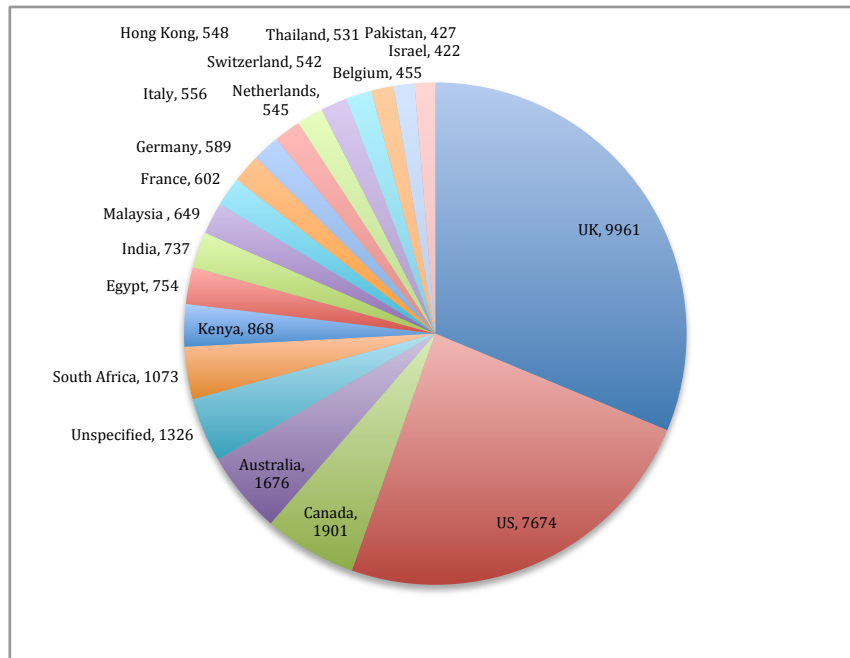
FRP Website: Yearly Growth in the Number of Visits from Selected Countries

<http://www.refugeelgalaidinformation.org/>



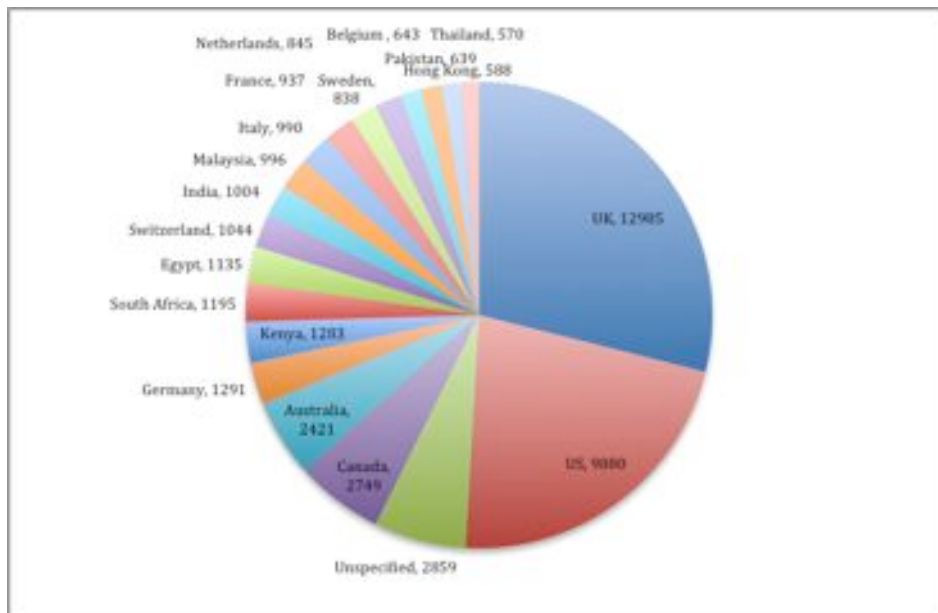
FRP Website: Top Twenty Country Visits June 2011- June 2012

<http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/>



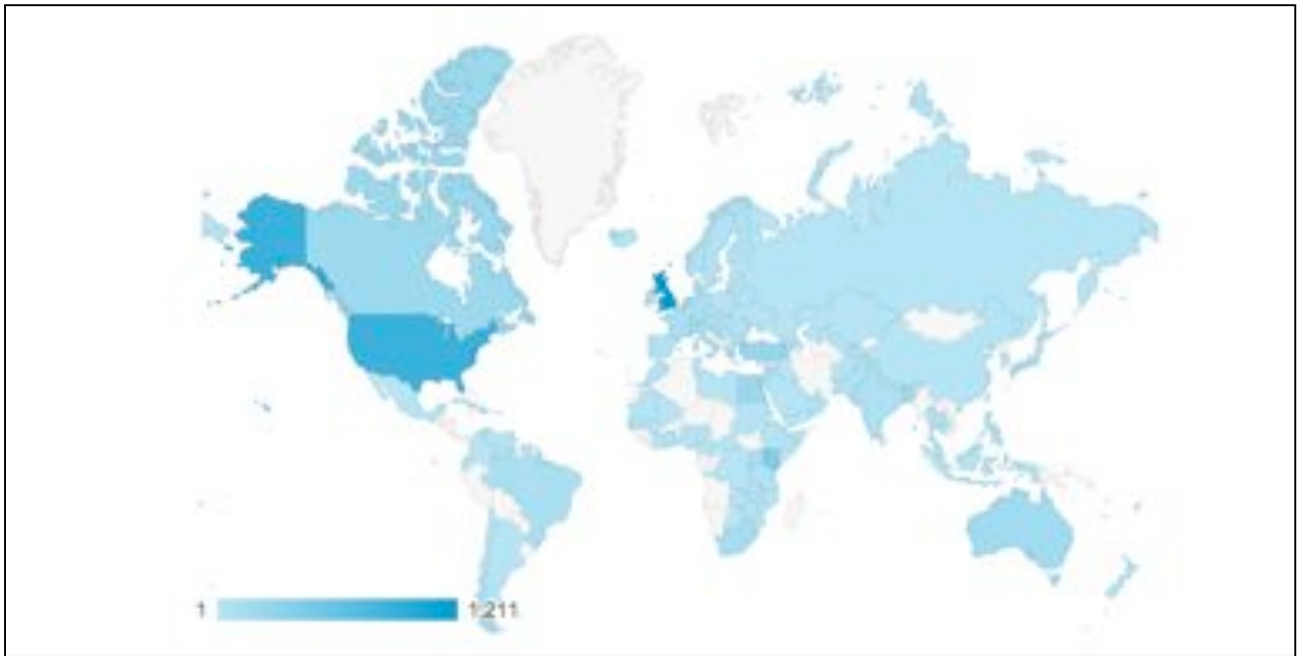
FRP Website: Top Twenty Country Visits June 2012- June 2013

<http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/>



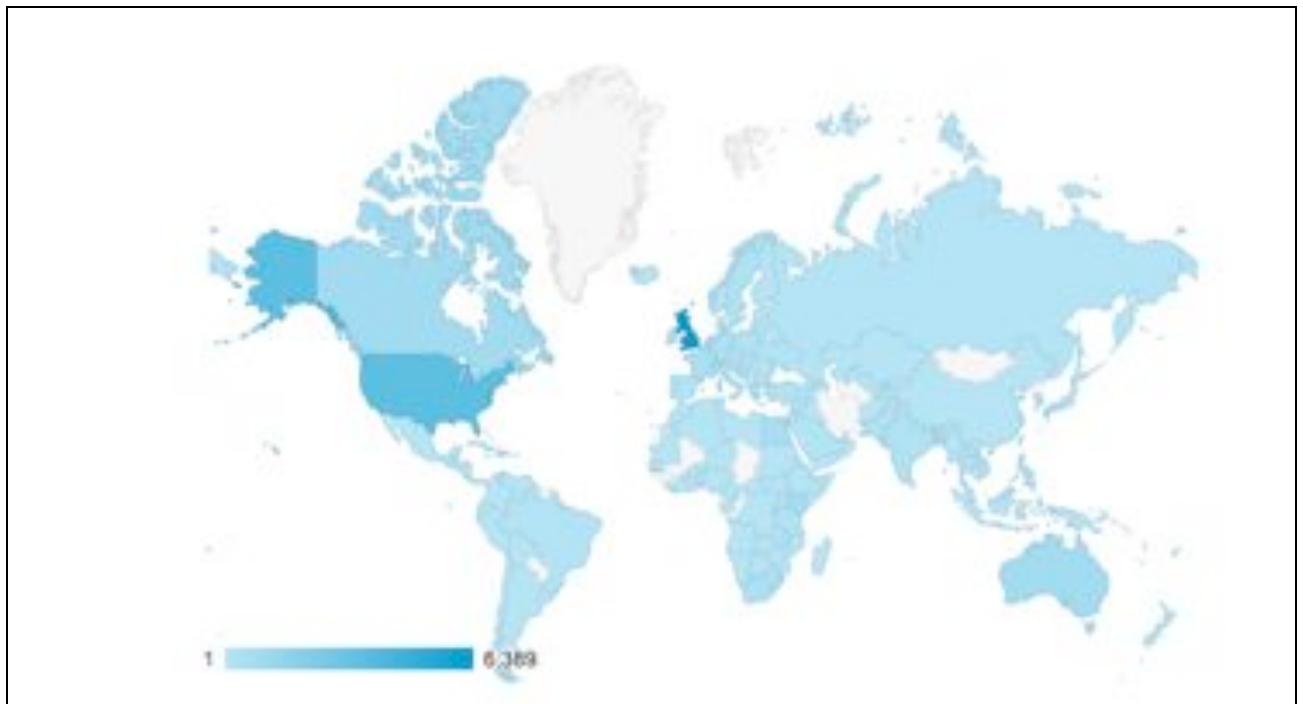
Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter: Map of Visiting Countries 2011-2012

www.frlan.tumblr.com



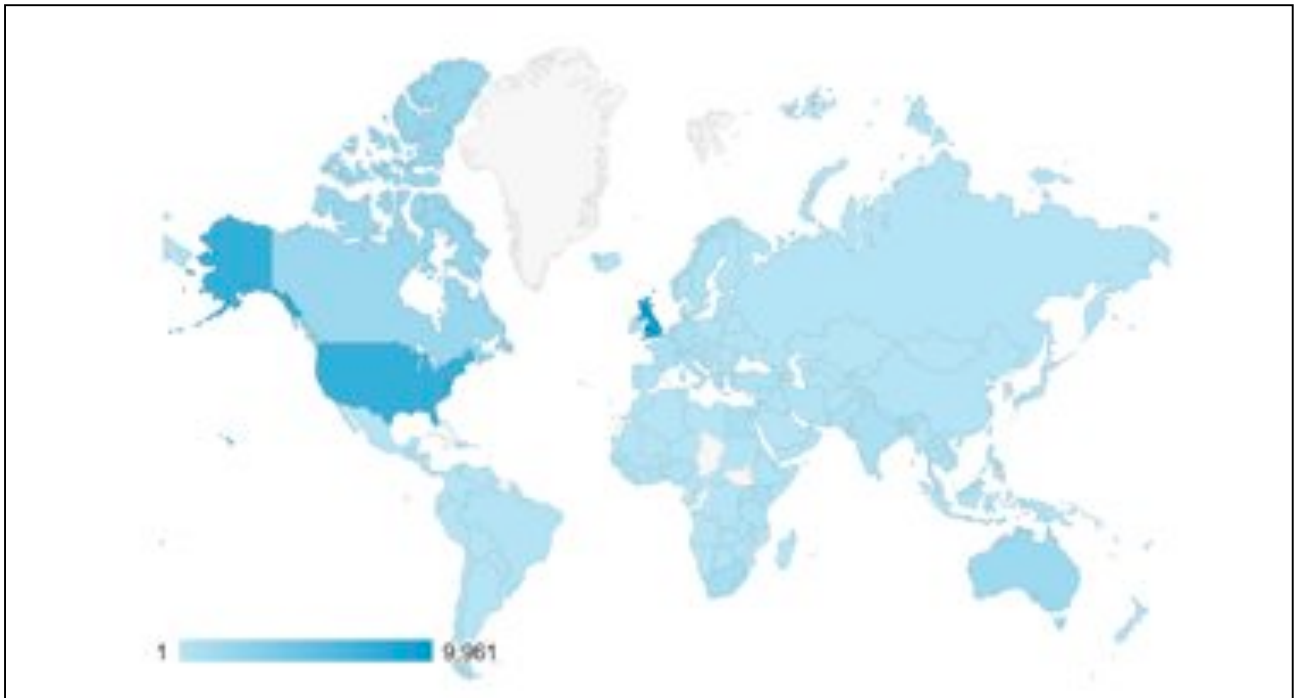
Newsletter: Map of Visiting Countries 2012-2013

www.frlan.tumblr.com



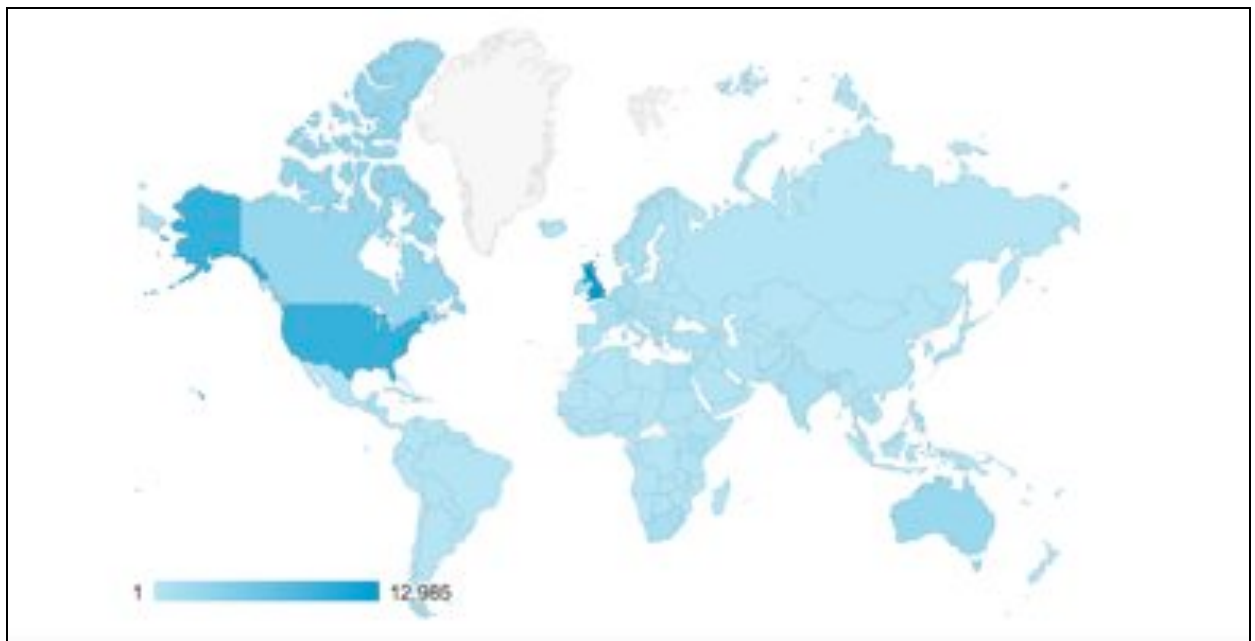
FRP Website: Map of Visiting Countries 2011-2012

<http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/>



FRP Website: Map of Visiting Countries 2012-2013

<http://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/>



ANNEX II: Selected FRP Participation in International Forums

UNHCR European Bureau: The Rwandan Cessation Clause

Brussels/Oxford, April 17th 2012
Guillaume Cliche-Rivard

Separated Children and Young People in the Asylum System

October 2012
Rebecca Wilson and Eliana Barrera

Monitoring Unaccompanied Afghan Minors After Deportation- Sue Clayton

Garden Court Chambers, December 19th 2012
Friederike Vetter and Themba Lewis

Asylum Rights Campaign –Sub-Group Detention

London, January 15th 2013
Friederike Vetter

AMERA Egypt, Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights, UNHCR and Tadamon

Egypt, February 2013
Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

Supporting Immigration Detainees

London, February 1st 2013
Eliana Barrera and Friederike Vetter

Overseas Development Institute: ‘Refugees in Kenya: A Briefing on Recent Developments and Implications for Urban Refugee Policy’

London, February 4th 2013
Themba Lewis

Oxford Human Rights Film Festival: Neukölln Unlimited

Oxford, February 24th 2013
Friederike Vetter and Themba Lewis

International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Geneva, March 1st 2013
Amber Stechman

University of London, School of Advanced Study: Refugee Law Initiative: ‘The Provision of Legal Aid Services and Access to Legal Representation for Asylum-Seekers in Canada and the UK’

London, March 14th 2013
Themba Lewis

University of London, School of Advanced Study: Refugee Law Initiative: ‘A Liberal Tide: Towards a Paradigm Shift in Latin American Migration and Asylum Policy-Making?’

London, March 18th 2013
Themba Lewis

International Conference on Rwandan Refugees

Brussels, March 28th-30th 2013
Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program Speaker Series: ‘Helping Refugees: Do I need them more than they need me?’ - Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond at Sabanci University

Istanbul, April 24th 2013
Friederike Vetter, Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

University of London, School of Advanced Study: Refugee Law Initiative: ‘Treating Like Cases Alike in Refugee Law Adjudication’

London, April 25th 2013
Themba Lewis

Workshop with local NGOs: ‘The Experience of Refugees as Beneficiaries of Aid’

Istanbul, April 26th 2013
Friederike Vetter, Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

Refugee Studies Centre: ‘Workshop – The deportation of unaccompanied minors from the EU: family-tracing and government accountability in the European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minors (ERPUM) project’

Oxford, May 3rd 2013
Friederike Vetter

Human Welfare Conference: ‘Well defined? Interdisciplinary understandings of human welfare’

Oxford, May 8th 2013
Katherine Rehberg, Nath Gbikpi, Jeannine Hollaus

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture – Tracks Across Sand: The dispossession of the Khomani San of the Southern Kalahari – Professor Hugh Brody

Oxford, May 8th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti

National Coalition of the Anti-Deportation Campaign: Training session for anti-deportation campaigners
Oxford, May 11th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti and Friederike Vetter

EuroMed Human Rights Network's Working Group on Migration and Asylum, Fahamu Refugee Programme
Oxford, May 17th-19th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti, John Cacharani, Nath Gbikpi, Friederike Vetter and Themba Lewis

Family Ties: Remittances and support in Puntland and Somaliland – Dr. Laura Hammond
Oxford, May 29th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti

UNITED Conference against racism
Trakai, Lithuania, May 26th-31st 2013
Friederike Vetter

Meeting for closing Campsfield
Oxford, June 4th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti and Zanij Noruzi

Migration and Asylum Policies in Europe
Oxford, June 6th-7th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti

Course at Northwestern University: 'Refugee Law and the Provision of Legal Representation of Refugees'
Chicago, June 4th-8th
Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network: Annual General Meeting
Geneva, June 10th, 2013
Friederike Vetter, Themba Lewis and Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

UNHCR: Annual Consultations with NGOs
Geneva, June 11th-14th 2013
Friederike Vetter, Themba Lewis and Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond

How constitutions matter – The Foundation for Law, Justice and Society
Oxford, June 14th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti and Zanij Noruzi

Full Planet, Empty Plates – Lester Brown
Oxford, June 25th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti, Victoria Smythies, Jessica MacLean and Ceridwen Lewis

The Law in the Parts – Ra'anán Alexandrowicz
Oxford, June 26th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti

Human Rights Action Centre: Training on EU Law Rights and EU Advocacy
London, July 17th 2013
Lara Ramazzotti, Victoria Smythies, Jessica MacLean and Ceridwen Lewis

ANNEX III: Selected FRP Staff and Intern Publications

'Pending Questions: UNHCR Recommendations Regarding the Cessation Clause for Rwandan Refugees'. Guillaume Cliche-Rivard; Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter. May 2012, Issue 26,

'Rwandan refugees face no choice but repatriation'. Guillaume Cliche-Rivard and Barbara Harrell-Bond; Open Democracy. May 2012.

'Why I cannot return to Rwanda: Testimonies of Rwandan refugees'. Lily Parrott; Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter. July 2012, Issue 28.

'Launching the Post-Deportation Monitoring Network'. Leana Podeszfa and Sarah Eldridge, Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter. September 2012, Issue 29.

"The Cessation Clause and Rwandans in Uganda: Is the Countdown Beginning". Guillaume Cliche-Rivard and Evi Kyprioti, Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter. September 2012, Issue 29.

'Violating the rights of deportees: why some deportations to African states amount to refoulement'. Leana Podeszfa and Friederike Vetter; Democracy in Africa. November 2012.

'Rwanda: why UNHCR is wrong about Cessation'. Rebecca Wilson; Open Democracy. November 2012.