

In the resettlement process, refugees with disabilities are frequently treated unequally with their non-disabled counterparts

- Immigration policies in most countries discriminate against refugees with disabilities. In addition, when one family member is denied permanent resident status on medical grounds, the entire family is denied. In extreme cases, families leave children with disabilities behind so the rest of the family may be resettled¹⁴

An inclusive approach to conflict resolution would include:

- A protocol for foreign aid workers, Canadian officials is needed to raise awareness of the particular vulnerability of people with disabilities in conflict situations as well as to ensure that those who are marginalized are able to access aid.
- Reform to immigration policy. Canada could lead the way internationally by reforming its immigration practices to remove discriminatory policies related to people with disabilities

DEVELOPING A HUMAN SECURITY POLICY AGENDA

While this paper provides some detailed analysis of the implications of a human security and inclusion agenda in particular sectors, each of the areas highlighted could be the topic of a detailed policy dialogue. In some instances those dialogues are already underway (inclusive education, poverty reduction etc.). However the analysis aims to emphasize the need for an overarching framework of inclusion in which these sectoral issues can be developed. For Canada to fulfill its role in promoting peace globally, Canadian foreign policy and development assistance strategies must adopt a framework for human security that is inclusive.

From a foreign policy perspective Canada must adopt an inclusive doctrine which requires, for example: All messaging from Canadian representatives to promote the protection of human rights and well being of all civilians including people with disabilities; investing in training of peacekeeping forces to know how to manage and support diversity and lead all civilians out of harms way; reconstruction efforts to adopt an inclusion lens to prevent discriminatory barriers from being recreated; prevention efforts to draw from an inclusion lens by investing in systems that are on the whole more inclusive of diversity¹⁵; promoting inclusive language and commitments in peace accords whenever appropriate; supporting all efforts by governments to build more inclusive societies that enable the participation and inclusion of people with disabilities; supporting humanitarian training and efforts for official Canadian staff and representatives in crisis situations to know how to help refugees/civilians with disabilities, etc.

For the purposes of building an inclusive approach to human security in development assistance, Canada with CIDA as the lead agency must develop and adopt a framework for inclusive development as a basis for promoting human security. The implications of such a framework would impact on multilateral and bilateral investments as well as partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

¹⁴ Taken from: Refugee International. Displaced and Disabled. <http://www.refugeesinternational.org/cgi-bin/ri/other?occ=00584>

¹⁵ (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=139991>);