

Religious freedom key to promotion of human development, Msgr. Vitillo comments at UN seminar



The role of religious leaders in providing protection and conflict prevention is often overlooked by the international humanitarian community. Photo: ICMC

Geneva, 28 November 2016 - Last week, Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo spoke about the status of freedom of religion in the context of humanitarian emergencies at a high-level seminar organized by Aid to the Church and Caritas Internationalis at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

ICMC's Secretary General remarked that religious persecution is often a root cause of humanitarian emergencies. "Although economic factors played a major part, the countries which largely accounted for the increase in refugees in 2015 were centers of religious extremism – Syria (Daesh), Afghanistan (Taliban) and Somalia (Al Shabaab)," Msgr. Vitillo said.

He went on praising the role of faith-based organizations in preventing and responding to humanitarian crises. On the humanitarian frontline for the reception and integration of displaced people, religious organizations relentlessly promote the responsibility to protect, thereby contributing to the advancement of human development worldwide.

In a dialogue with Michel Veuthey, Director of the Centre Catholique d'Etudes de Genève, Msgr. Vitillo also commended the commitment of the volunteers of resettlement support centers promoting "safe spaces for refugees to learn and embrace new customs" as well as highlighted the importance for adult refugees to access decent and productive opportunities to achieve full integration in the host society.

DOWNLOAD FULL SPEECH:

 [Freedom of Religion in the Context of Humanitarian Emergencies \(https://www.icmc.net/sites/default/files/documents/freedom-of-religion-humanitarian-emergencies-vitillo_0.pdf\)](https://www.icmc.net/sites/default/files/documents/freedom-of-religion-humanitarian-emergencies-vitillo_0.pdf)

(pdf, 54.89
KB)

Tweet

0

Like

G+1

Rue de Varembe 1, PO Box 96,
CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 919 10 20
Email: info@icmc.net (<mailto:info@icmc.net>)

FOLLOW US



http://twitter.com/ICMC_news



<http://www.facebook.com/icmc.migration>



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/icmc-migration/>



<http://plus.google.com/114881803106602511192>



<http://www.linkedin.com/company/international-catholic-migration-commission>



<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpGzHyxhMmoiGTFZQlhJIMQ>



<https://www.instagram.com/icmc.migration>



</news-releases.xml>