EXHIBIT OPENING

RESSETLEMENT JOURNEYS: CENTRAL AFRICA TO DURHAM

FRI NOV 13 5-7 PM
DURHAM HISTORY HUB
500 W MAIN ST, DURHAM
EXPO RUNS NOV 13-15

FOOD & MUSIC!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

SPONSORED BY THE DUKE AFRICA INITIATIVE, THE DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE STUDIES & THE PROGRAM IN SERVICE LEARNING AT DUKE.
This exhibit was created as part of a Fall 2015 Duke University course, *Issues in Global Displacement: Voix Francophones*.

**Who is a refugee?**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a refugee is a person who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

The US Refugee Act of 1980 incorporated the UNHCR definition of a refugee into US policy and outlined specific procedures for resettling refugees in the United States.

Selon le Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR), le terme 'réfugié' s'applique à « toute personne qui, craignant avec raison d'être persécutée du fait de sa race, de sa religion, de sa nationalité, de son appartenance à un certain groupe social ou de ses opinions politiques, se trouve hors du pays dont elle a la nationalité et qui ne peut ou, du fait de cette crainte, ne veut se réclamer de la protection de ce pays ».

If these 59.5 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 24th largest in the world.

59.5 million forcibly displaced worldwide

- 19.5 million refugees
- 38.2 million internally displaced persons
- 1.8 million asylum-seekers
- 14.4 million under UNHCR’s mandate
- 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA
### Central African Republic (CAR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Approx. 4.6 million people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Bangui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>The official languages are French and Sangho. Over 70 other languages are spoken, including Gbaya, Swahili, Bangi, Hausa, and Arabic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Refugees from this Country (Globally)</td>
<td>412,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What’s Going On?**

CAR has found itself in the midst of rebellion resulting in part from political instability in the recently independent nation. The most prominent agent in these rebellions is the “Seleka”, a Muslim insurgency group. In response, Christian counterrevolutionary groups known as “anti-balaka” have opposed Seleka since its capture of the capital of Bangui in 2013, adding a religious hue to the conflict.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Languages</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Refugees from this Country (Globally)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s Going On?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
70,000 → 100,000

Current US annual refugee cap to the raised cap for 2017

2,419 refugees resettled in North Carolina

More than half of refugees reaching third countries resettle in the United States

10th in the nation for receiving refugees

Source: http://www.state.gov/
http://www.ncdhhs.gov/
Where Do Refugees in Durham Come From?

Source: Church World Relief and The Office of Refugees Resettlement
Refugees in Durham

337 refugees have arrived in Durham in 2015

Served by two major organizations:
World Relief
Church World Services

16 different languages spoken among these refugees

Church World Services has resettled 181 refugees in 2015

World Relief has resettled 156 refugees in 2015

source: World Relief and Church World Services
Why Durham?

A conversation with CWS and refugee clients in Durham

Both refugees and resettlement agents point out the variety of merits Durham offers to the refugee community. As Jourdi Bosley of the CWS resettlement agency explains, “Durham is a really welcoming city in many ways. In a formal policy sense, the city council just passed a resolution deeming Durham a ‘refugee welcome city,’ meaning that the government is supportive of incoming refugees and of increasing their numbers.” Beyond this formal sense, “There is a high number of universities, intense student involvement, and lots of cross-cultural awareness,” that make the city dynamic engaging.

Ms. Bosley further noted, “When a refugee comes [to the United States] they are assessed on a number of different levels—one of which is whether they have a US tie.” A tie, or a friend or family member already in the states, acts as a liaison in the resettlement process and often attracts families to their current location. Areas that are thoroughly populated by refugees, like Durham, continue to attract refugee families in this manner. Once in Durham, most refugees stay in the Triangle area due to the various jobs that contribute to the local economy, great weather, very good schools, and kind people. Another enjoyed benefit that has greatly eased their transition is the community web of refugees that has developed over time, which provides opportunities for cultural connection and support.

Eventually, all these benefits forge a new sense of home. One recent refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo shared her thought process: “[When] you have just arrived to a new place, you have to love it. It’s perspective. What are you going to do if you don’t? You have to love it even if you don’t love everything, because you are there. Now when I say I’m home, I mean here is my home—just as you would say when you’re at your home. When first got here, we were new...the new people. Everything was different. But we are not new anymore and I have gotten used to things here. I love almost everything about this town.”
The Refugee's Journey to North Carolina

Flees country of origin to a relatively safe neighboring country or refugee camp.

Applies to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) for protection. Applies for permanent resettlement in a resettlement country where the UNHCR makes sure you qualify as a refugee.

Waits for an overseas Processing Entity (an agency contracted with the Department of State Bureau of Population and Migration) to prepare a case file.

Interviews with the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration services to demonstrate you qualify as a refugee.

Receives a medical examination and basic cultural orientation to the U.S.

If application qualifies it becomes a "case" and is assigned to a national agency such as Church World Service.

Leaves country of asylum and is met at the airport by staff from the local agency who welcome them to NC.

Points de vue: les réfugiés francophones parlent
Perspectives: Francophone Refugees Speak

Comment est-ce que vous trouvez Durham? En fait, ce qui me plaît beaucoup, c'est la culture américaine. Il y a beaucoup de respect, même si quelqu’un ne vous connaît pas. Mon pays n’est pas le même. Ici, ils sourient avec toi, ils disent "hi." Ça me plaît beaucoup.

Could you share something about the experience of being a refugee? You must have courage. God will help you. Being a refugee, you must have courage. You must hold yourself up. Even if it’s hot or cold. Even if you haven’t had something to eat. You make progress. God will help you. It’s not going to bother you.

Quels sont vos rêves, vos espoirs?

What are your dreams, your hopes? My dream is to become an American Citizen. And I would really like to learn English. If I knew English well, one day I could work as an interpreter. It is my dream to be an interpreter.

Pourriez-vous partager quelque chose sur l’expérience d’être réfugié? Il faut du courage. Dieu va t’aider. Être réfugié, il faut avoir du courage. Il faut se soutenir. Même s’il faut chaud ou froid. Même si tu n’as pas à manger. Tu progresses. Dieu va t’aider. Ça ne va pas te déranger.

Est-ce qu’il y avait des difficultés quand vous êtes arrivée? Il y avait beaucoup de difficultés au début. Maintenant, je peux aller n’importe où à n’importe quelle heure. Je connais les heures de bus, je connais les heures tous les jours que les gens travaillent. Maintenant c’est facile mais au début c’était très très difficile.

Were there a lot of difficulties when you arrived? There were a lot of difficulties at first. Now, I can go anywhere at any hour of the day. I know the bus schedule, I know the hours people work every day. Now, it’s easy but at first it was very, very difficult.
Alors, on commence à s’habituer ? Maintenant, on commence à s’habituer. Comment ça a étonné, comment tu vas monter le bus, tu vas descendre, tu vas tirer le fil pour descendre. Mais au début c’était difficile, même pour tirer le fil. Je sais que, si j’arrive, c’est après cette arrête, l’arrête que je pars. Si j’arrive ici, je vais tirer le fils, je descends.

Qu’est ce que tu penses de l’école ? Good. C’est cool. C’est, c’est aussi...funny. Parce qu’ils ont beaucoup de gens qui sont crazy. Aussi, il y a les gens de mon dossier. Ils sont people, happy people, tu vois? Les Africains, les Américains, de same school. Moi, I want to be a lawyer.

Quelles sont les différences entre votre vie en Centrafrique et ici ? En Centrafrique, il y a des grosses maisons, des centres pour les handicapés [comme moi]. Là, il y avaient beaucoup de chose à pratiquer, comme couture. J’avais des clients, mais ici, ce n’est pas le même.

What are the differences between your life here and life in the Central African Republic (CAR)? In CAR, there were big houses, community centers for the handicapped [like me]. We had a lot to do at those centers, like sewing. I had clients, but here, it is not the same.

C’était quoi dans la culture américaine qui vous a étonné le plus? Par exemple, les américains n’ont pas vraiment une culture de salutation, ce n’est pas obligatoire. En Afrique on doit saluer avec les mains, mais ici, on le fait avec des gestes.

What surprised you the most about American culture? There is not really a culture of salutation in the US; it is not required. In Central Africa, we have to salute people by hand, but here, we do it with gestures.