



**CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION
FONDATION CANADIENNE DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE**

**Regional Programme on Refugees and Migration
Moscow, November 11-15, 1996**

PRESS-RELEASE

Eastern and Central European NGOs gather to draft a work plan in response to the Program of Action of the CIS Conference on Refugees and Displaced Persons (Geneva, May 1996).

Since its disintegration, the former Soviet Union (CIS) has been the stage of massive population movements. In addition to an estimated 9 million people on the move within the CIS, a large number of asylum-seekers from outside countries (i.e. Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia) has been steadily increasing the flow of migrants and refugees in this region.

The **Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF)**, in cooperation with the **Moscow Research Center for Human Rights**, are bring together human rights NGO representatives from 20 countries in Eastern and Central Europe for a five-day regional programme on the priority issue of Refugees and Migration.

A group of Canadian experts from McGill University, Carleton University and UQAM will facilitate this session, for which the CHRF has developed a specific curriculum designed to identify common problems and solutions. Together with Western and Eastern European counterparts, the Canadian team are given a series of presentations on topics related to the theme. The programme will culminate in the drafting of an NGO Work Plan stemming from the CIS Conference Program of Action.

A report on the CIS Conference will be delivered by Arthur Helton, Director of Forced Migration Programs at the Open Society Institute (New York).

For more information, see enclosed schedule and list of presentations.

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