



ICAR

Signpost series

Rwandan refugees in the UK

March 2004

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Introduction

About ICAR's signpost series

ICAR's signpost series provides essential links and core information on issues in the media spotlight. Each signpost features details of useful resources, from statistics to first-hand accounts from refugees, which are readily available to researchers, journalists and other interested parties.

About this signpost

At the beginning of April 2004, people around the world will be marking the ten-year anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. Although interest is likely to focus on survivors in Rwanda and the situation in the country since the events of 1994, it is important to remember that the UK is also home to a number of Rwandans who came to the UK after the genocide.

This signpost on Rwandan refugees in the UK provides details of resources, organisations, projects, real live stories, and statistical data that may be useful to researchers, teachers, journalists, civil society groups, and other interested parties seeking to compile information about Rwandan exiles in this country.

The signpost does not focus on resources relating to Rwanda and Rwandan refugees outside the UK. However, many of the organisations listed work in Rwanda as well as the UK and many items listed have relevance beyond the UK context. For more international information of this type, visit <http://www.forcedmigration.org>.

Historical context



Figure 1: Map of Rwanda (Source CIA World Factbook)

Rwanda is situated in Central Africa, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi. The official languages are French, English and Kinyarwanda.

The territory of what is now Rwanda was a centralised state at the end of the nineteenth century when it was colonised and became part of German East Africa in 1890. After the First World War it became a Belgian League of Nations mandate. Together with the territory which is today Burundi, it was called Ruanda-Urundi and was administered as part of the Belgian Congo. The independent nation of Rwanda was established on 1st July 1962.

During the colonial period, differences between the two major ethnic groups became institutionalised. Prior to this time, the distinctions had been largely occupational – the majority agricultural people were considered Hutu, the

smaller population of cattle-herders Tutsi, and a third group, the Twa, who constituted about 1% of the population. There was significant intermarriage between Hutu and Tutsi who shared a common language, religion and territory. Inspired by European theories of racial hierarchies, the colonial rulers attributed distinct physical characteristics to the two groups. They considered the Tutsi minority to be superior and accorded them positions of political influence in the administration. The distinction between the two groups was also marked by the introduction of identity cards indicating tribal ethnicity as either Tutsi or Hutu in 1933.

In the post-independence period, the country was ruled by Hutu-dominated governments. Many Tutsis fled the country during the 1950s and 1960s, and sought refuge in neighbouring countries, particularly Zaire (now DRC), Burundi, and Uganda, where the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) was formed, composed largely of the children of Tutsi refugees who had fled to Uganda. In the late 1980s, the country was hit by a sharp decline in the world market price for coffee, a significant source of Rwanda's foreign exchange earnings. Subsequent economic restructuring resulted in heightened inflation, land scarcity and unemployment. Civil war broke out in the early 1990s, following an attempted overthrow of the Rwandan government by RPF rebels from Uganda. This resulted in paved the way for the establishment of a coalition government and President Juvénal Habyarimana signed a power-sharing settlement in Arusha, Tanzania in April 1994.



Figure 2: Flag of Rwanda (Source CIA World Factbook)

On 6th April 1994, the plane carrying President Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart was shot down near Kigali. This became the catalyst for the subsequent genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed between April and June 1994. Most of the victims were Tutsis, but they also included politically moderate Hutu opposed to the extremists. In response to the genocide the RPF took power and an estimated two million Hutus fled into neighbouring Zaire (renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1997). Among those who fled to Zaire were some of the people responsible for orchestrating the massacres in Rwanda. The refugee camps therefore came under attack from Rwandan troops who became drawn into the conflict in the DRC, until the signing of a peace agreement in late 2002.

Since 1994, 2.5 million former refugees – both Hutu and Tutsi – have attempted to reintegrate in Rwanda, forming nearly one third of the country's population. The repatriation of former refugees has continued in recent years. During 2002, more than 30,000 refugees returned to Rwanda, mainly from Tanzania and the DRC. The current government has introduced a system of local tribunals, called *gacaca*, to promote both justice and reconciliation. Under this system those suspected of perpetrating genocide are confronted directly by their accusers and the trials are overseen by respected members of the local community.

Statistics

Rwandan refugees worldwide

Between 1991 and 2001 an estimated 2.5 million Rwandans left their country as refugees, the largest outflow being during the year of the genocide, 1994, when 2.3 million people fled from Rwanda.¹ In 1994, most sought refuge in neighbouring countries: 1,375,000 fled to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), 674,000 fled to Tanzania and 260,000 fled to Burundi.² At the end of 2002, there were approximately 75,000 Rwandan refugees worldwide, thereby constituting the 24th largest group of refugees in the world.³ The largest Rwandan refugee populations were in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda (see table below). During 2002, approximately 39,000 refugees returned to Rwanda, mainly from Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, forming the sixth largest national group of returnees in the world.⁴

Ten largest Rwandan refugee populations at end of 2002⁵

Country	Size of refugee population
Democratic Republic of Congo	20,510
Uganda	18,937
Republic of Congo	5,985
Zambia	5,032
Zimbabwe	2,901
Tanzania	2,717
Kenya	2,509
Belgium	1,661
UK	1,575
Canada	1,390

¹ UNHCR (2002) *Statistical Yearbook 2001: Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Other Persons of Concern – Trends in Displacement, Protection and Solutions*, Geneva, UNHCR, Annex A.10. Available from: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=3dcb7f9e4&page=statistics>

² UNHCR (2002) *Statistical Yearbook 2001: Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Other Persons of Concern – Trends in Displacement, Protection and Solutions*, Geneva, UNHCR, Annex A11. Available from: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=3dcb7f9e4&page=statistics>.

³ UNHCR (2002) Population Statistics (provisional) Table 4. Available from: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=3f3769672&page=statistics>.

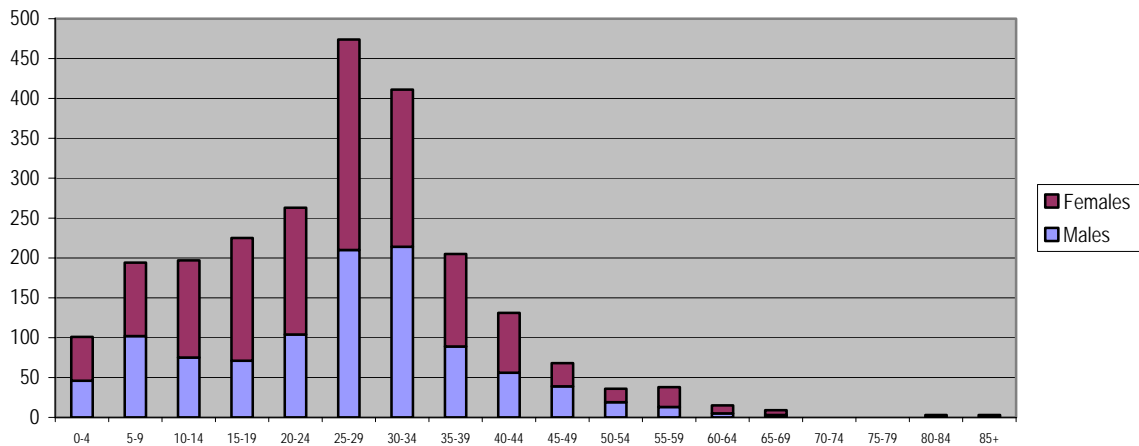
⁴ UNHCR (2003) *Refugees by Numbers*. Available online from: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=3d075d374&page=statistics>.

⁵ UNHCR (2002) 'Refugee population and major changes, 2002' from *2002 Annual Statistical Report: Rwanda*, Geneva, UNHCR, 23 July 2003. Available from: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opendoc.pdf>.

Profile of the Rwandan population in the UK

Data from the Census⁶ shows that 2,373 people who were born in Rwanda were living in the UK in 2001, of whom 1,052 (44%) were male and 1,321 (56%) were female. Whether these individuals have refugee status or another form of immigration status in the UK is not known, as the Census does not collect data on immigration status. These figures may also include British nationals born in Rwanda and will exclude second and third generation Rwandans born in the UK.

Rwandan-born population in the UK by sex and age group



	Total	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
Males	1052	46	102	75	71	104	210	214	89	56	39	19	13	5	3	0	0	3	3
Females	1321	55	92	122	154	159	264	197	116	75	29	17	25	10	6	0	0	0	0
Total	2373	101	194	197	225	263	474	411	205	131	68	36	38	15	9	0	0	3	3

Another source of statistical data about Rwandans in the UK are the annual statistics on grants of citizenship. These show that 131 Rwandans were granted British citizenship between 1998 and 2002.⁷

Grants of British citizenship in the UK to Rwandans

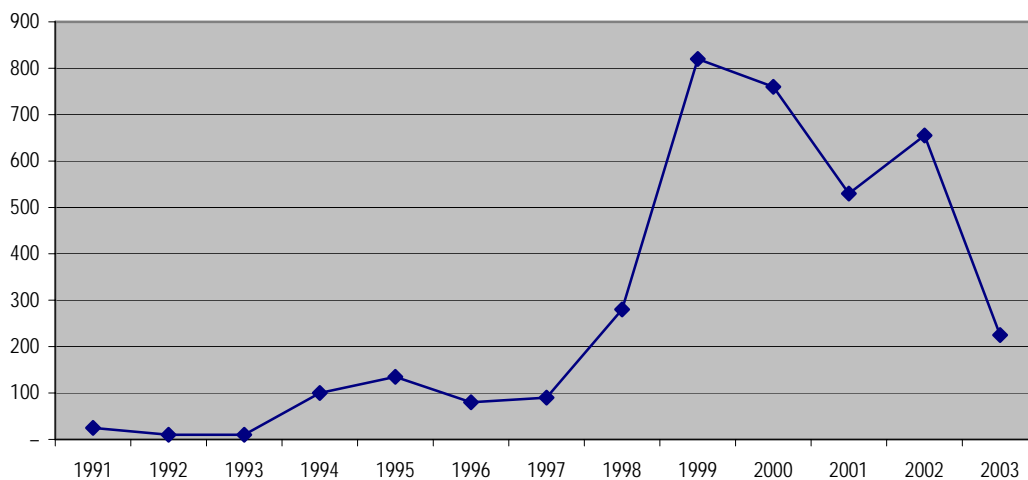
Year	Number of grants
1998	4
1999	5
2000	22
2001	30
2002	70

⁶ Census 2001, Table ES03: Usual resident population by sex, country of birth and age group.

⁷ Figures taken from Dudley, J. & Woollacott, S. (2003) *Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2002* 09/03, 28 August 2003: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb903.pdf>, Dudley, J. and Hesketh, K. (2002) *Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2001*, 06/02, 27 June 2002: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb602.pdf>, Dudley, J. and Harvey, P. (2001) *Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2000*, 9/01, 31 May 2001: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb901.pdf>, Kilsby, P. & McGregor, R. (2000) *Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 1999*, 10/00, 8 June 2000: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb1000.pdf>, Chilton, T. & Kilsby, P. (1999) *Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 1988*, 6/99, 20 April 1999: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb699.pdf>

It is difficult to accurately estimate the percentage of the Rwandan population in the UK who are refugees since the UK government does not collect statistics on this basis. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there were 1,575 Rwandan refugees in the UK at the end of 2002.⁸ According to the UK Home Office statistics, 3,720 asylum applications were received from Rwandan nationals between 1992 and 2003 and 3,435 decisions were made. Of these 692 were granted asylum (20%), a further 924 (27%) were granted either Exceptional Leave, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave and 1,819 (53%) were refused.⁹ Limited figures are available on the outcome of asylum appeals by nationality. Between 2001 and 2003, 1,060 adjudicator (first tier) appeals were determined. Of these, 210 (20%) were allowed, 760 (72%) were dismissed, and 85 (8%) were withdrawn. No figures are available for the number of Rwandans who were either removed or departed voluntarily from the UK between 1991 and 2003. Details of Rwandan asylum applications, outcomes and first tier appeals between 1991 and 2003 are provided in the graphs below.¹⁰

Number of Rwandan asylum applications in the UK, 1991-2003

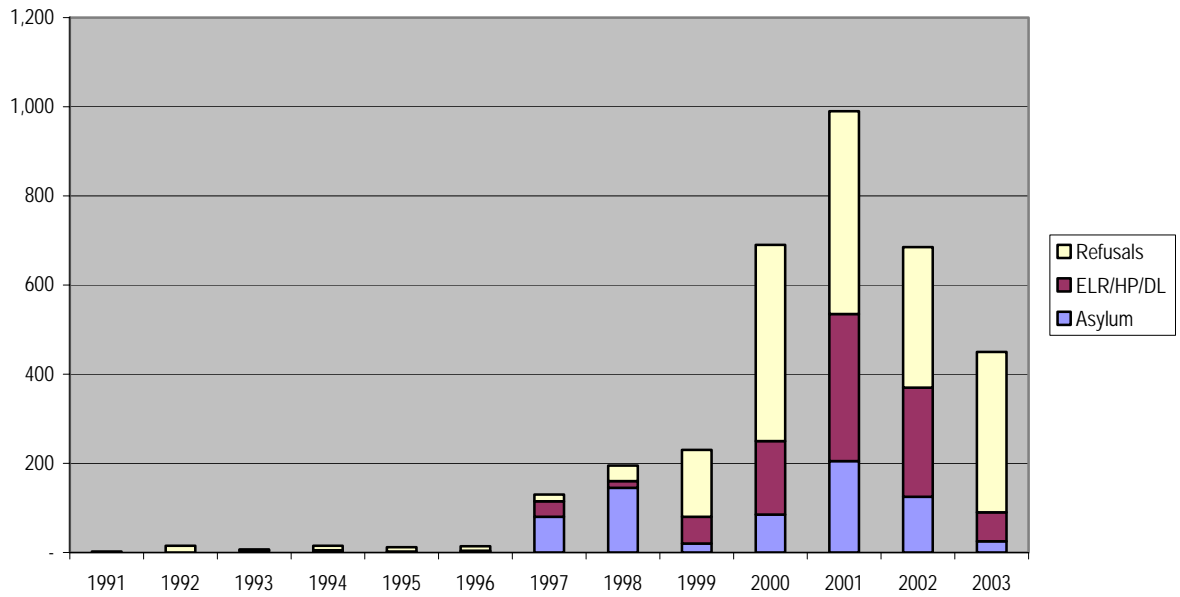


⁸ UNHCR (2002) 'Refugee population and major changes, 2002' from *Annual Statistical Report: Rwanda*, Geneva, UNHCR, 23 July 2003. Available from: <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opendoc.pdf>

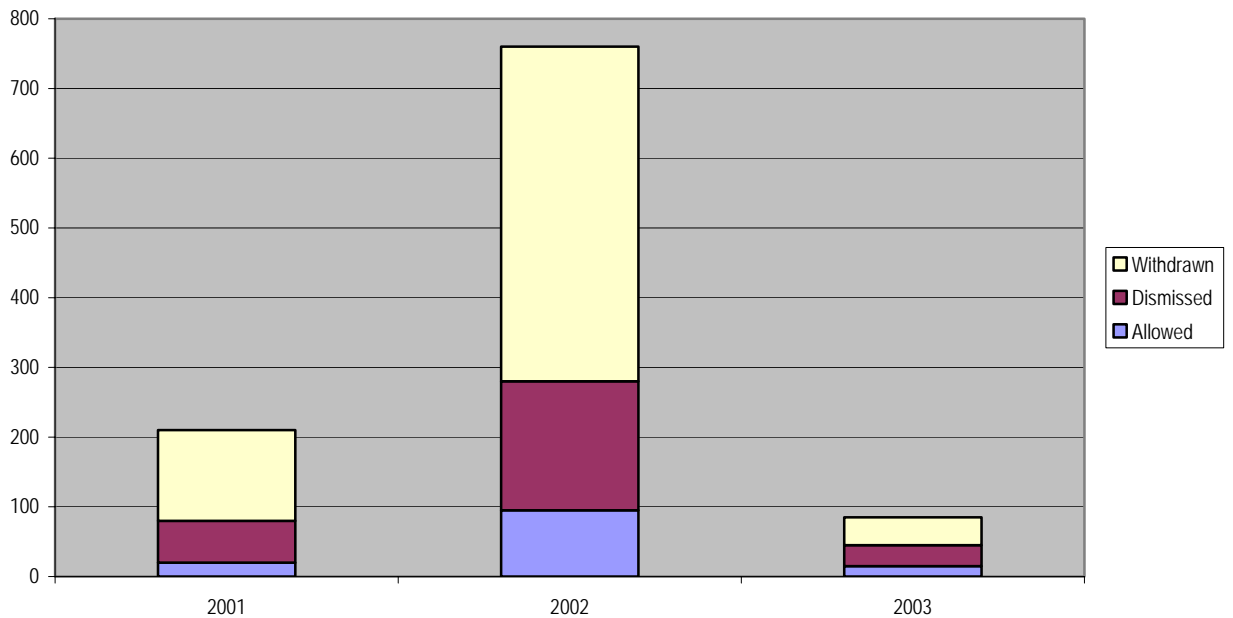
⁹ Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave replaced Exceptional Leave from 1 April 2003.

¹⁰ Sources: Home Office Annual Asylum Statistics, 1996-2002, Quarterly Asylum Statistics, quarters 1-4, 2003. Available from: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

Decisions on Rwandan asylum applications, 1991-2003



Outcome of Rwandan adjudicator appeals, 2001-2003



Real lives

This section provides links to several accounts from Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Anysie's story

Anysie from Rwanda, who is a client at the Medical Foundation, talks about her experiences of persecution in Rwanda, her flight and settlement in the UK.

<http://www.torturecare.org.uk/about/aboutStoriesAnysie.htm>

Elizabeth Josephs' story

This online video essay is by Elizabeth from Rwanda, who is now living in Leicester. In the video she talks about perceptions of refugees and asylum seekers and how they are just ordinary people.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/videonation/articles//leicester_ordinarypeople.shtml

Mowlid's story

An asylum seeker from Rwanda talks about the experience of coming to Southampton, English classes, and thoughts of family in Rwanda. This story is available as part of the schools' Refugee Week competition materials.

<http://www.southampton-city.ac.uk/refugeeweek/Profiles.pdf>

Musa Hassan Ali's story

Ali talks about his experiences in Rwanda, his flight to Uganda and then to the UK. He is now resident in Newcastle and talks about his work as volunteer coordinator for the West End Refugee Service.

http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/livingtogether/content_objectid=13550644_method=full_siteid=50081_headline=-Why-this-man-needs-asylum-name_page.html

- For real life stories from Rwandan survivors still in Rwanda or in other countries around the world, the following site is a good starting point:

Survivors Fund

This website is part of the SURF Memory and Remembrance initiative to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. The site features 74 online life histories of Rwandan survivors: widows and children.

<http://survivors-fund.org.uk/remember/>

Resources

This section contains references for useful resources on the Rwandan population in the UK. If you would like to suggest a resource to be included in the list, please contact esme.peach@kcl.ac.uk.

Organisational websites are listed in the [contacts and links](#) section.

- If you are looking for resources on the events in Rwanda and on the Rwandan refugee population outside the UK, visit Forced Migration Online's resources page on Rwanda at <http://www.forcedmigration.org>.

Audio-visual

Plays

I have before me a remarkable document given to me by a young lady from Rwanda

By Sonja Linden (Ice and Fire Productions)

The play charts the relationship between a young Rwandan woman and a British poet working at a refugee centre in the UK. The play was inspired by the author's experiences of working with refugees at the Medical Foundation. The play has been performed at a number of venues since 2002.

You can find out more about Sonja Linden's work at

<http://www.torturecare.org.uk/about/aboutServicesWrite.htm>.

A Woman's Place

Produced by Pillion Productions

This play was devised and performed by women living in London as political refugees. The play centres around four women, one of whom is a refugee from Rwanda. The play was first performed at Oxford House in London.

For more information, email pillionproductions@yahoo.co.uk.

World Music

By Steve Waters

The focal figure of this play is an MEP that strives to draw attention to the plight of the survivors of a civil war between two ethnic groups. Although the events of the play are fictional, they are closely related to the histories of Rwanda and Burundi. *World Music* was first performed at the Crucible in Sheffield. The script of the play has been published and can be purchased online.

Films and documentaries

Although ICAR is still in the process of identifying films and documentaries about Rwandans in the UK, there are many films and documentaries that relate to events in Rwanda and Rwandan refugees elsewhere in Africa, from the well-known documentaries by Fergal Keane to the films by Anne Aghion, such as *Gacaca, Living Together Again in Rwanda?* (2002) and *In Rwanda we say: the family that doesn't speak dies* (2004).

A good starting point to identify relevant films and documentaries on Rwanda is the **Refugee Studies Centre Library**, which has a good collection of videos on Rwanda. You can search their online database at:

<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/cgi-bin/rsc/rsc.pl>

The **Human Rights Watch Film Festival** that comes to the UK has also shown films about Rwanda. Information on the 2004 festival that featured two films about Rwanda is available at <http://hrw.org/iff/2004/> and an archive of information on the films featured in the 1997 – 2003 festivals can be accessed at <http://hrw.org/iff/2004/archive.html>.

Publications

ICAR is still in the process of identifying publications that focus on Rwandan refugees in the UK. The absence of research on this population may be attributed to the fact that the Rwandan population in the UK is quite small.

If you are looking for publications on events in Rwanda and on the Rwandan refugee population outside the UK, visit Forced

Migration Online's resources page on Rwanda at <http://www.forcedmigration.org> or search the Refugee Studies Centre library catalogue at <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/cgi-bin/rsc/rsc.pl> or visit the Africa Book Centre's online catalogue http://www.africabookcentre.com/acatalog/index.html?http%3A//www.africabookcentre.com/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_Rwanda_63.html&CatalogBody

Online resources

See also the publications section for documents that are available online.

UK policy on Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers

Home Office Rwanda Country Report, Country Information and Policy Unit, October 2003.
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.asp?Pagel=191>

Home Office Rwanda Bulletin 1/2002, Country Information and Policy Unit, Asylum and Appeals Policy Directorate, August 2002.
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.asp?Pagel=3077>

Report on Political Situation and Human Rights in Rwanda, Report of a British-Danish joint fact-finding mission to Rwanda in March 2002, Country Information and Policy Unit, Asylum and Appeals Policy Directorate, 25 April 2002.
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.asp?Pagel=4221>

Country information summaries and guides

Amnesty International
Annual Report 2003 (covering events in Rwanda between January and December 2002)
<http://web.amnesty.org/report2003/Rwa-summary-eng>
Reports on Rwanda
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/eng-rwa/reports>

BBC

Rwanda country guide
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1070265.stm

CIA

World Factbook – Rwanda (last updated 18 December 2003)
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rw.html>

Essex University Children and Armed Conflict Unit

Rwanda Country Profile
http://www.essex.ac.uk/armedcon/world/africa/central_africa/rwanda/default.htm

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK

Rwanda country profile (last updated 11 July 2003)
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&id=1007029394365&a=KCountryProfile&aid=1020338066458>

GESource - Geography and Environment gateway for UK higher and further education

World Guide – Rwanda
<http://www.gesource.ac.uk/worldguide/html/1003.html>

Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council

Rwanda country profile
<http://www.db.idpproject.org/Sites/IdpProjectDb/IdpSurvey.nsf/wCountries/Rwanda>

Holocaust Memorial Day UK

In January 2004, Rwanda was the theme for the Holocaust Memorial Day. The website provides a detailed theme paper written by experts that provides an overview of events in Rwanda, educational resources, such as FAQs and assembly ideas, bibliographies, contacts and links relating to events in Rwanda and Rwandan survivors.
<http://www.holocaustmemorialday.gov.uk>
<http://www.holocaustmemorialday.gov.uk/2004/sections/theme/index.asp>

Human Development Indicators for Rwanda (UN)

http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/indicator/cty_f_RWA.html

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Collated HRW resources on Rwanda
<http://hrw.org/doc?t=africa&c=rwanda>

Background information: 'Rwanda: Lessons Learned - 10 Years After the Genocide'

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/03/29/rwanda8308.htm>

Hutchison/Tiscali

Country facts: Rwanda

<http://www.tiscali.co.uk/reference/encyclopaedia/countryfacts/rwanda.html>

INCORE (International Conflict Research, a joint initiative between the University of Ulster and the United Nations University) Conflict Data Service

Guide to internet sources on conflict and ethnicity in Rwanda

<http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/cds/countries/rwanda.html>

InfoPlease

An information service providing authoritative answers to all kinds of factual questions since 1938—first as a popular radio quiz show, then starting in 1947 as an annual almanac, and since 1998 on the internet.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107926.html>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Details of the ICRC's activities in Rwanda and links to reports and articles by other organisations.

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmla/rwanda?OpenDocument>

UNHCR

Features statistics, maps, research papers, evaluations and details of UNHCR programmes. Items relating to Rwanda can be identified using the search function.

<http://www.unhcr.ch>

University of Pennsylvania, African Studies Center

Rwanda page: provides a comprehensive list of online resources

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Country_Specific/Rwanda.html

US Committee for Refugees

Information from the World Refugee Survey 2003, news and reports and real life testimonies can all be accessed from the Rwanda country information page.

<http://www.refugees.org/world/countryrpt/africa/2003/rwanda.cfm>

US Department of State

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2003: Rwanda (published February 2004)

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27744.htm>

Other political and cultural resources

Languages of Rwanda

Visit Ethnologue.com at

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Rwanda

Maps of Rwanda

Visit ReliefWeb, a project of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at

http://www.reliefweb.int/w/map.nsf/Country?OpenForm&Query=Af_Rwanda

Political leaders and heads of state of Rwanda

Visit Zarate's Political Collections at

<http://www.terra.es/personal2/monolith/rwanda.htm> and Regents of the World at

<http://www.info-regenten.de/regent/regent-e/>

Rwandan flag

Visit Flags of the World at

<http://flagspot.net/flags/rw.html>

News sources

AllAfrica.com – Rwanda news

<http://allafrica.com/rwanda/>

IRIN News.org

From the United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

http://www.irinnews.org/frontpage.asp?SelectRegion=Great_Lakes&SelectCountry=Rwanda

OneWorld.net - Rwandan news

This is an international news site with a focus on human rights and development issues

<http://www.oneworld.net/article/country/646/>

Reuters/AlertNet - Rwandan country information and links

<http://www.alertnet.org/thefacts/countryprofiles/219581.htm>

Information portals

Amahoro

Provides a database of articles and books.

<http://www.amahoro.nl/a1/a/amahoro.asp?id=H22&l=EN> and

<http://www.amahoro.nl/a1/a/amahoro.asp?id=H2&l=EN>

Contemporary Africa Database

This database features information on Rwandan people and institutions.

<http://africadatabase.org/cgi-bin/s1?words=Rwanda&Submit=Search&restrict=africa&config=cad>

ReliefWeb: Rwanda

This is a project of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 'serving the information needs of the humanitarian relief community'. Includes up-to-date news postings, and activity reports and statements from humanitarian agencies.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/ByCountry/Rwanda?OpenDocument&Start=172&ExpandView>

Remembering Rwanda - The Rwanda 10th Anniversary Memorial Project

This Canadian-based project aims to both document the genocide and ensure international recognition of the anniversary, and to engage in public education on Rwanda and other genocides. The site includes a photo gallery, a list of internet resources and bibliographies on the Rwandan genocide.

http://www.visiontv.ca/RememberRwanda/main_pf.htm

Rwanda Information Exchange

The objective of this site is to provide a window into Rwanda and other countries of the Great Lakes Region. It draws on information from a number of sources, including government, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society groups, and news agencies.

<http://www.rwanda.net/index.htm>

Contacts

This section aims to provide contact details for organisations whose work relates to Rwandan refugee and asylum-seeker issues in the UK. It also features some contacts for other UK-based organisations that work extensively in Rwanda and on Rwandan issues.

The list will be updated as other useful links and contacts are identified. If you would like to add details of your organisation to these pages then please email esme.peach@kcl.ac.uk.

Links to publications are incorporated in the resources section.

Rwandan community organisations

Ipfundo

Ipfundo is a self-help group for survivors of the Rwandan genocide living in the UK. It seeks to act as a forum where survivors can offer each other support. Ipfundo also works closely with Survivors Fund on projects such as annual memorial events.

C/o Survivors Fund (SURF)
10 Rickett Street
West Brompton
London
SW6 1RU
T 020 7610 2589
F 020 7610 3851
E info@survivors-fund.org.uk
<http://www.survivors-fund.org.uk/>

Rwandan Aid

Provides services for clients from Rwanda and the Great Lakes region. Services include interpreting and referrals in education, housing, immigration, health, and welfare benefits. The organisation provides English classes and counselling services for mothers.

47c Waldran Park Road
Lewisham
London
SE23 2PU
T 020 8291 6637
E rwandanaid@hotmail.com

Rwandan Women's Association (Bolingocentre)

The Rwandan Women's Association offers advice and information for Rwandan, Congolese, and Burundian women refugees and asylum seekers and their dependents. Advice and referral services cover issues relating to health, immigration, welfare rights, housing, training and employment.

170 Harold Road
London
E13 0SE
T 020 8472 2785
F 020 8472 2805
<http://www.multikulti.org.uk/agencies/french/london/21780/>

Umubano

Umubano is a Rwandan community organisation that was set up in 1998 to respond to problems that Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers are faced with when they arrive in the UK. The organisation aims to bring together all the Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers living in the UK to support and advise them in their settlement process. Umubano has around 200 members, who all came to Britain in the mid-1990s to escape the genocide in Rwanda. The organisation is engaged in community development work and produces a quarterly newspaper. It also engages in awareness-raising about the causes of displacement and works to contribute towards conflict resolution and peace building in the Great Lakes Region. Umubano has a youth section with 31 members which is involved in various initiatives aimed at rediscovering Rwandan youth culture through poetry, training

in African ballet and other art forms. It also organises seminars relevant to young people in the Rwandan diaspora. Umubano also has a women's section with 12 members. The section runs a project for Rwandan children to help them preserve the Kinyirwandan language and other cultural activities.

c/o Praxis
Pott Street
London
E2 OEF
T 020 7749 7615
F 020 7729 0134
E umubano@yahoo.com
<http://www.refugeesonline.org.uk/umubano>
<http://www.praxis.org.uk/Groups.aspx>

UK based organisations with a Rwanda focus

There are a number of UK-based organisations whose work focuses on Rwanda and/or the Rwandan diaspora.

ActionAid

ActionAid is one of the UK's largest development agencies, working in more than 40 countries worldwide. It aims to work with poor and marginalised people to eradicate poverty by overcoming the injustice and inequity that cause it. ActionAid has been working in Rwanda since 1994, largely through local community groups. Initially they focussed on providing emergency relief to people displaced by war. Subsequently they began work on resettlement and rehabilitation projects with former refugees and genocide survivors.

Hamlyn House
Macdonald Road
Archway
London
N19 5PG
T 020 7561 7561
F 020 7272 0899
E mail@actionaid.org.uk
<http://www.actionaid.org/worldwideactivities/africa/rwanda/rwanda.shtml>

All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region and Genocide Protection, House of Commons

The Group is a voluntary organisation, founded in 1998 by its current Chair, Oona King MP. It has over 100 members, comprising MPs and Peers from all the main political parties and seeks to influence the policies of the British government, EU, and national governments in the Great Lakes region to promote sustainable peace, justice and development in the region and to ensure a balanced and effective response to any crises that may occur. The Group organises both regular public speaker meetings and private meetings with ministers and officials. It coordinates written and oral parliamentary questions and debates, provides briefings on the Great Lakes region and related issues, and information for non-governmental organisations and on parliamentary business, and organises joint meeting with other all-party groups.

The Group's website provides links to two briefing papers on Rwanda, from July 2003:

http://www.appggreatlakes.org/downloads/brief_rwanda_03.doc

and July 2001:

http://www.appggreatlakes.org/downloads/brief_rwanda.doc

APPG on the Great Lakes and Genocide Prevention

Office of Oona King MP
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA
T 020 7219 1165
F 020 7219 2798
E pallism@parliament.uk
<http://www.appggreatlakes.org/>

Never Again, The Rwanda Project

Never Again, an international student network, was founded at the Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution's 2001 Symposium at The Hague. Never Again aims to alert the international community to both the causes and effects of genocide and facilitate the exchange of ideas between young people - those who have lived through genocide and those who wish to learn from them. The 'Rwanda Project' is a collaborative effort that brought together students from Rwanda, Europe, North America and Asia. Participating students in the UK are from University College London, London School of Economics and

Political Science, and the School of Oriental and African Studies. The visiting participants - members of Never Again, UK and Never Again, North America - were paired up with members of Never Again Rwanda - host students from the National University of Rwanda, to research specific issues together in Rwanda. The key aims of the project were to draw international attention to the Rwandan genocide and express remembrance, to encourage youth co-operation through collaborative research, to work to support the aims and objectives of existing organisations in Rwanda, to conduct research into the genocide from a wide range of academic disciplines, and use a compilation of the findings to enhance understanding in home countries.

<http://genocidewatch.org/NeverAgain.htm>

Holocaust Memorial Day UK

The government Holocaust Day theme in January 2004 was Rwanda. Many events around the UK focused on the Rwandan genocide and post-conflict situation. The website provides educational resources (such as FAQs and assembly ideas) bibliographies, background papers, contacts and links relating to events in Rwanda and Rwandan survivors.

<http://www.holocaustmemorialday.gov.uk>

Oxfam GB

Oxfam was founded in 1942. It is a development, relief and campaigning organisation that aims to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. The agency has worked in Rwanda since the 1960s. It provided aid and emergency relief following the genocide and currently works with local communities, civil society organisations and the Rwandan government to promote conflict management approaches to poverty reduction, reconciliation and decentralisation initiatives.

Oxfam House
274 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 7DZ
T 0870 333 2700

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/where_we_work/rwanda/programme.htm

Rwandan Development Trust (RDT)

RDT assists development projects initiated inside Rwanda, particularly projects relating to education and health. It does not seek to initiate projects itself but to channel funding to initiatives established locally in Rwanda. Its main aim is to support self-help activities that aim to overcome problems caused by ethnic tension and poverty. The financial assistance given by the trust ranges from the purchase of necessary medical equipment for use in hospitals to sponsoring development schemes such as income generating projects which have been carefully planned by the intended beneficiaries. Successful applications to the trust are those projects that are considered to have good potential for encouraging the reform of family units, stabilising community relationships, and producing incentives for individuals to maintain development.

PO Box 566
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3WZ
T 020 8290 5103
F 020 8290 5106
E 70374.416@compuserve.com
<http://www.charitynet.org/~rwanda-dt/>

Rwandan Embassy UK

The embassy website features information about Rwanda, its history and the genocide, including explanations of the genocide laws and organisation of the Gacaca courts. It also features links to news stories relating to the country and its diaspora as well as the latest embassy newsletter. The site also includes archived online news reports and other reports relating to industry and the economy.

Uganda House,
58-59 Trafalgar Square,
London, WC2N 5DX
T 020 7930 2570
F 020 7930 2572
<http://rwanda.embassyhomepage.com/index.htm>

Rwanda United Kingdom Goodwill Organisation (RUGO)

Formally launched in 1997, RUGO aims to advance the education and training of the people of Rwanda and the relief of poverty and sickness through the provision of community

based projects. Their work includes support for educational institutions in Rwanda, the development of scholarship programmes for Rwandan students in the UK, and social and cultural events in the UK.

E ruغو_info@yahoo.co.uk
<http://www.rugo.org/index.shtml>

Rwandan Youth Information Community Organisation

rYico is a charitable organisation that aims to work in partnership with the youth of Rwanda. Inspired by a research programme, the organisation aims to provide and promote the opportunities that young people need to build a peaceful and successful future. The organisation has organised numerous events in Brighton in April 2004 to reflect on the events of 1994.

P.O. BOX 420
Brighton
BN1 4XP
T 07884 186684
E rYico2003@yahoo.co.uk
<http://www.ryico.org/default.htm>

Save the Children UK (SCFUK)

Founded in 1919 as a response to conditions in Europe immediately following the First World War, Save the Children currently works both in the UK and various parts of the world, undertaking both emergency relief and long-term development and prevention work to realise children's rights by campaigning for solutions to the problems they face and using the knowledge gained through its projects to educate and advise others. SCF provides emergency relief and carries out long-term work on issues of health, food security and supporting social services by tackling children's institutionalisation, supporting the development of child-focused HIV and child protection policies, reunifying demobilised child soldiers, and campaigning for children's rights.

17 Grove Lane
Camberwell
London, SE5 8RD
T 020 7703 5400
F 020 7703 2278
E enquiries@scfuk.org.uk
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/wherework/country.jsp?section=ectrlafrica&subsection=rwanda>

Survivors Fund (SURF)

SURF is a charitable organisation dedicated to aiding and assisting the survivors of the Rwandan genocide. It seeks to help survivors of the Rwandan genocide deal with and recover from the tragedies of 1994, supporting a wide range of services for victims in Rwanda, and assisting survivors in the UK. SURF was founded by a British citizen of Rwandan origin, other Rwandans based in UK, and concerned British individuals. Although its support to survivors dates back to 1995, SURF was formally established and registered in 1997. Funded by a variety of organisations and individuals, SURF aims to act as a channel to distribute financial assistance to other groups, individuals and charitable organisations. SURF's current projects focus on psychosocial support, shelter for orphans and widows, legal assistance and advocacy and livelihood sustainability. As part of the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, SURF has launched a Memory and Remembrance initiative to sustain the memory and the lessons of the genocide. The project will record, document, preserve and disseminate the personal life histories of the survivors of the Rwandan genocide in books, videotapes and cassettes. Working with local survivors partners, the project will focus particularly on documenting memories and life stories for those children whose adult carers are dying, or who are already orphaned. The testimonies are available online on the project's website.

10 Rickett Street
West Brompton
London
SW6 1RU
T 020 7610 2589
F 020 7610 3851
E info@survivors-fund.org.uk
<http://www.survivors-fund.org.uk/>

For links to organisations based in Rwanda or organisations working with Rwandan diasporas outside the UK, useful starting points are:

Prevent Genocide – links pages
<http://www.preventgenocide.org/rw/links.htm>

Forced Migration Online – organisations database

<http://www.forcedmigration.org:8080/live/WebSearchResults.jsp?category=Organizations+Directory&general=Rwanda&hitsPerPage=4>

African organisations in the UK

The Africa Centre

The Africa Centre, a charity established in 1961, aims to promote positive awareness about Africa, and to help to empower the African diaspora in the UK, and to support Africa's development aspirations. The Centre has a library, bookshop, bar and restaurant and hosts the Contemporary Africa Database, a participatory online project, designed to provide easily accessible and current information concerning prominent Africans, African organisations, and dates in the African calendar.

38 King Street
Covent Garden
London
WC2E
T 020 7836 1973
F 020 7836 1975
E: info@afriacentre.org.uk
<http://www.afriacentre.org.uk/>

African Education and Training Initiative (AETI)

AETi is a development charity involved in providing education and employment training for individuals and community organisations working with and on behalf of African communities in Greenwich and Bexley boroughs.

48-50 Artillery Place, Woolwich, London, SE18 4AB, T: 020 8316 5123, F: 020 8317 4172, E: info@aeti.org.uk
www.aeti.org.uk

Africa Educational Trust

The AET was founded in 1958 to support the anti-apartheid struggle and independence movements in Africa. During the 1970s and 1980s its work involved helping exiles and refugees in the UK to receive the qualifications and skills they needed to reform and develop their home countries. Refugee support

currently forms about 25% of their work, the remaining 75% being to support education and development projects in Africa.

38 King Street
London
WC2E 8JR
T 020 7836 5075/7940
F 020 7379 0090
E aet@cwcom.net
<http://www.africaed.org>

African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK)

Founded in 1963, ASAUK is a registered charity which seeks to promote lively debate in the academic study of Africa. It seeks to foster the dissemination of knowledge and public awareness of African issues, and to build and strengthen links with African universities and related institutions. It holds a biannual conference and sponsors workshops, symposia and conferences around the UK.

ASAUK
c/o School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London
WC1H 0XG
T 020 7898 4390
F 020 7898 4389
E info@asauk.net
<http://www.asauk.net/>

Royal African Society

'Britain's primary Africa organisation.' Publishes [*African Affairs*](#) and organises meetings, discussions and other activities to strengthen links between Africa and Britain and encourage understanding of Africa and its relations with the rest of the world.

c/o School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London
WC1H 0XG
T 020 7898 4390
F 020 7898 4389

<http://royalafricansociety.org/>

Academics, researchers and other country experts in the UK

This list will be expanded shortly.

Dr Joseph Mullen

Dr Mullen is now retired. He was formerly Director of the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme at the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester and worked as the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN-IFAD) Country Portfolio Manager for Burundi and Rwanda from 1990-1992 and as their Post-Conflict Reconstruction Consultant in 1998. He has published a number of books and articles on issues of poverty reduction and ethnic conflict.

T 01323 749632

E chezmullen@onetel.net.uk

Linda Melvern

An author and investigative journalist, Linda Melvern has worked on the story of the genocide in Rwanda for ten years and published the first account of the role of the UN in the tragedy in *The Scotsman* in January 1995. Another exclusive account on the secret role of the Security Council appeared in the *London Review of Books* in December 1996. These accounts became the accepted version of events. Her book, "A People Betrayed. The Role of the West in Rwanda's Genocide" (Zed Books), was published in September 2000 and is in its fourth impression. A second book on the genocide was published in April 2004, "Conspiracy to Murder: The Rwandan Genocide" (Verso), and details in depth the planning of the genocide. Linda Melvern was also a consultant to the Military One prosecution team at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha. She is an Honorary Fellow, Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

E Linda@melvern.co.uk

Mark Pallis

Mark Pallis is the Coordinator and Policy Director of the House of Commons All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region and Genocide Prevention, and Co-director of Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance. He is also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of International Law and Justice, and continues to conduct research into the accountability of UNHCR in refugee status determination and the operation of refugee camps as part of the Institute's Global Administrative Law project. He has also worked as Research Associate at the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law in Cambridge, researching self-determination and state responsibility, and as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Forced Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo.

APPG on the Great Lakes and Genocide Prevention

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London, SW1A 0AA

T 020 7219 1165

E markpallis@yahoo.co.uk

<http://www.nyuiij.org/people/fv.html>

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

Rachel Hayman

Rachel Hayman is a doctoral student at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh. Her particular area of expertise is relations between donors and government in post-1994 Rwanda, and the politics of development cooperation in an aid-dependent state.

Centre of African Studies

University of Edinburgh

21 George Square

Edinburgh

EH8 9LD

T 0131 661 0426

E R.C.Hayman@sms.ed.ac.uk

<http://www.cas.ed.ac.uk>

Projects

This section aims to provide basic information relating to a number of current or recently completed UK projects and initiatives concerning Rwandan refugees and asylum seekers.

If you would like your project to feature in the list and ICAR's projects database, then please contact us at esme.peach@kcl.ac.uk.

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Never Again, an international student network, was founded at the Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution's 2001 Symposium at The Hague. Never Again aims to alert the international community to both the causes and effects of genocide and facilitate the exchange of ideas between young people - those who have lived through genocide and those who wish to learn from them. The 'Rwanda Project' is a collaborative effort that brought together students from Rwanda, Europe, North America and Asia. Participating students in the UK are from University College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, and the School of Oriental and African Studies. The visiting participants - members of Never Again, UK and Never Again, North America - were paired up with members of Never Again Rwanda - host students from the National University of Rwanda, to research specific issues together in Rwanda. The key aims of the project were to draw international attention to the Rwandan genocide and express remembrance, to encourage youth co-operation through collaborative research, to work to support the aims and objectives of existing organisations in Rwanda, to conduct research into the genocide from a wide range of academic disciplines, and use a compilation of the findings to enhance understanding in home countries.

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F 020 7610 3851
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<http://www.survivors-fund.org.uk/>