



## Media Release

2 June 2005

# Remembering refugees

Church communities around New Zealand are being asked to remember refugees during the week of 20-26 June which is New Zealand's Refugee Week.

Refugee Week is an ecumenical event designed to encourage the celebration of the contribution refugees make to New Zealand and promote understanding, compassion and recognition of the needs and challenges facing refugees.

This year the week begins with World Refugee Day on Monday 20 June when countries around the world will take the opportunity to show support for the world's refugees. The theme for this year's event is **Courage**: not just the courage refugees show in enduring the dangers and violence of the crises that made them refugees, but also the courage they show in rebuilding their lives and contributing to society in difficult or unfamiliar circumstances.

RMS Refugee Resettlement, which resettles refugees accepted by New Zealand through the United Nations, has prepared a pack of resource materials for use by church communities which would like to participate in Refugee Week. The pack includes liturgical resources and education information for use in both services and newsletters. The pack is available on the RMS website [www.rms.org.nz](http://www.rms.org.nz) in the News and Events section or can be obtained from the RMS Secretariat in Wellington ph: 04 471 1932; email: [secretariat@rms.org.nz](mailto:secretariat@rms.org.nz)

Church communities are also being asked, where possible, to have a special collection for RMS. The money collected will go to the work RMS does in giving practical support to refugees as they establish a new home in a strange land. RMS also has a \$20 donation line for individual donations, 0900 444 22 (children should check with their caregivers first).

**Ends**