

**UN “Protecting the Persecuted: The Successes and Challenges of Safeguarding Refugees,
Internally Displaced Persons, and Stateless Persons.”**

October 26, 2011



Ambassador David Robinson

Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State

Ambassador David Robinson is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and is currently the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. He previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Guyana from 2006-2008, Deputy Chief of Mission in La Paz, Bolivia from 2003-2006, and Deputy Chief of Mission in Asuncion, Paraguay from 2000-2003. Other overseas postings included the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Iceland. In addition, he has served in a number of positions at the State Department in Washington, including as Special Coordinator for Venezuela policy.

Ambassador Robinson was born in Hartford, CT and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. He also holds master's degrees in theology and national security strategy. He is married to Donna Lewis Robinson. They have two children.



Vincent Cochetel

Regional Representative for the United States and Caribbean
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr. Cochetel joined UNHCR in 1986, initially working as a legal/protection officer in various duty stations, mainly in Eastern and Western Europe. He subsequently managed UNHCR field offices in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Mr. Cochetel participated in several emergency missions in Asia, West Africa, and Europe (North Caucasus). In September 2002, he was appointed at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva as Head of the Investigation Unit of the Inspector General's Office.

In May 2005, he became Deputy Director of UNHCR's Division of International Protection Services and Head of the Resettlement Service. Before joining UNHCR, Mr. Cochetel worked for two years with the European Commission of the European Communities and then for the European Court of Human Rights. Mr. Cochetel has written articles on numerous refugee issues and contributed to the drafting of several UNHCR training manuals related to staff safety, emergency management, protection, and durable solutions. Mr. Cochetel graduated from the Law Faculty of Tours (France), Paris II and Paris XI universities.



Sarnata Reynolds

Program Manager for Statelessness
Refugees International

Sarnata Reynolds is the Program Manager for Statelessness at Refugees International. In this position she researches, documents, and advocates for the human rights protection of stateless people. Sarnata is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center where she is currently teaching a seminar on statelessness and taught human rights fact-finding in the past. She is a member of Peace Brigade International's National Lawyers Committee on Human Rights. Prior to joining RI, Sarnata served as the Advocacy and Policy Director for Refugee and Migrants' Rights at Amnesty International USA, where she analyzed how U.S. law and policy adversely impacted the human rights of uprooted people and advocated for practices in conformity with international human rights law and standards. During her tenure she e, which focused on U.S. immigration detention. Previously, Sarnata spent eight years litigating asylum and deportation cases before the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Courts and the Executive Office for Immigration Review. She is the author of published court opinions and multiple articles analyzing the interaction between international human rights, the U.S. constitution, and immigration law. Sarnata completed her Women's Studies degree magna cum laude at the University of Minnesota and the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She completed her law degree at the University of Minnesota, and studied European Union law at University College Dublin.