

## **Kathleen Newland**

Director of Migrants, Migration, and Development and Refugee Protection Programs, and Member of the Board of Trustees

Kathleen Newland is Co-Founder of the Migration Policy Institute and directs MPI's programs on Migrants, Migration, and Development and Comprehensive Protection for Refugees. Her work focuses on the relationship between migration and development, governance of international migration, and refugee protection.

Previously, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, she was a Senior Associate and then Co-Director of the International Migration Policy Program (1994-2001). She sits on the Board of the International Rescue Committee, and is a Chair Emerita of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. She is also on the Board of the Foundation for the Hague Process on Migrants and Refugees and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND).

Prior to joining the Migration Program at the Carnegie Endowment in 1994, Ms. Newland worked as an independent consultant for such clients as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank, and the office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. From 1988-1992, Ms. Newland was on the faculty of the London School of Economics. During that time, she also co-founded (with Lord David Owen) and directed Humanitas, an educational trust dedicated to increasing awareness of international humanitarian issues. From 1982 to 1988, she worked at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. She began her career at Worldwatch Institute in 1974.

Ms. Newland is the author or editor of seven books, including the first *The State of the World's Refugees* for UNHCR in 1993, *No Refuge: The Challenge of Internal Displacement* for the United Nations in 2003, and *Diasporas: New Partners in Global Development Policy* for MPI in 2010. She has also written 11 shorter monographs as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

Ms. Newland is a graduate of Harvard University and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. She did additional graduate work at the London School of Economics.

### **A Humanitarian's Quiet Path to Change**

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*The Washington Post*  
Diplomatic Dispatches  
By Nora Boustany

March 15, 2002

As a 16-year-old exchange student in India, she recalls, she hopped on a third-class train car from Calcutta to Varanasi and stared at parched lands and hollow-eyed drought victims pushing their babies at arriving passengers before going off to die.

"I had never seen dead people before, I had never seen people about to die," said Kathleen Newland, though she had grown up in the Deep South and had seen real poverty. "It was an intense experience, the bread lines in Calcutta, the people fleeing the countryside, and that really changed my life."

Newland is now co-director of the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington group that analyzes movements of people worldwide. As she sat this week in her sun-flooded office, the afternoon light softening a peaches-and-cream complexion, she reflected on the path that has led her to her

professional mission in life. The daughter of a naval officer, she grew up in shipyards, going to nine schools around the country before graduating from high school. In college, she organized anti-war marchers in Washington as the Harvard University treasurer of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee and chaired the Radcliffe Moratorium Committee.

She remembers her father's friends, also naval officers, bringing pots of soup and trays of brownies to feed the protesters she sometimes brought home to sleep on the floor.

"That taught me a lesson about what is right and wrong and that patriotism does not mean blind loyalty and that loving your country is wanting it to be the best," she said. "Despite my humanitarianism and anti-war activities, I have a very strong sense of country and I am very patriotic."

Known for quiet diplomacy, Newland is one of a group of well-spoken women in Washington who have pushed the issues of women, children and refugees to the forefront of the federal government's policy concerns. Along the way, she has traveled widely, witnessing scenes of desperation in the world's far-flung refugee camps, in Somalia, along the Thai-Burmese border, in northern Kenya and in Afghanistan.

Newland does her work "with great style, in her presentation, in her person, in her diction," said Robert P. DeVecchi, an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. "She knows her stuff, she is well versed in the issues and she is never confrontational or coarse. This is almost a secret weapon.

"At the same time, she is not a pushover. She stands by her guns, but you don't feel you are being challenged," he added.

Lately, she has been active as volunteer chair of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. The group is particularly concerned about women in detention, undocumented immigrants and asylum-seekers who have fled persecution in their own countries and have been locked up in the United States.

At any given time, Newland says, there are several thousand such people in Immigration and Naturalization Service facilities and county jails. Often their children are picked up with them and held in juvenile detention facilities with young people who have committed violent crimes.

The commission is working on a bill, the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act, which would require the government to appoint attorneys and guardians for refugee children.

Newland said she has concerns about the U.S. refugee resettlement program, which came to a complete halt after Sept. 11 and was restarted only with added layers of scrutiny that slow the process. Of 7,000 people who were travel-ready before September, only about 4,000 to 5,000 have moved, she said.

It's a tough time to be working on immigration issues, given the new fears that terrorists may gain entry to the United States as asylum-seekers. But caring for refugees in war zones can be easier than before.

"The constituency for humanitarian and refugee work is much broader and complex now than 20 years ago," said Paula Newberg, a former colleague of Newland's and a special adviser to the U.N. Foundation. There is broad agreement in government today that war cannot be waged without concern for civilians displaced by it.

The author or editor of five books and 11 articles, Newland has also served as adviser to a task force set up by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to help reform the United Nations, to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and to the International Labor Organization.

Despite the depth of the problems, "things can be done," Newland said with emphasis. "The international community has become much more organized. The hard part is political, prevention. The humanitarian part is always going to be the palliative."

Smooth black pebbles and stones collected during her travels adorn cabinet tops in her office at the institute. "I have an obsession with rocks, the calmness they bring," said Newland, who loves to cook and relies on the opera and the artwork on her walls to maintain balance in her life.

She stays away from the theater, she said, because there is "enough drama and turbulence" in her profession.

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### [Climate Change and Migration Dynamics](#)

By Kathleen Newland

Climate change is a new driver of human migration, and is expected by many to dwarf all other factors in its impact. But while there is growing concern about climate change, far less agreement exists about what kinds of effects will be felt where, by whom, and precisely when. Human displacement is a result of a complex mix of factors, and some of the more commonly repeated predictions of the numbers of people who will be displaced by climate change are not informed by a full understanding of the dynamics of migration. This report analyzes the salient mechanisms of displacement: sea level rise, higher temperatures, disruption of water cycles, and increasing severity of storms. It also examines the ensuing migration responses and proposes recommendations to offset the severity of displacement.

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### [Voice After Exit: Diaspora Advocacy](#)

By Kathleen Newland

Today's diaspora organizations, communities, and individuals increasingly seek to influence government, media, private sectors, and other prominent groups in their countries of origin and of settlement – but despite their growing voice, success requires smart policy. This report, the sixth in our series on diaspora engagement, provides an overview of diaspora advocacy by looking at five issues: who participates in diaspora advocacy, who or what are the “targets” in these efforts, what means are used to advance these causes, what are the issues on which they focus, and the effectiveness of the efforts.

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### [Mobilizing Diaspora Entrepreneurship for Development](#)

By Kathleen Newland and Hiroyuki Tanaka

Diasporas are in a unique position to have a positive effect on the economy of their countries of origin – the key is for those countries to seize the opportunities. This report, the fifth in a series examining the role of diasporas in development policy, documents how diaspora entrepreneurs often are motivated to contribute to job creation and economic growth in their native lands. But, as the report outlines, many developing countries have met only limited success in attracting diaspora investors and entrepreneurs. The study offers some key findings and policy options.

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### [Heritage Tourism and Nostalgia Trade: A Diaspora Niche in the Development Landscape](#)

By Kathleen Newland and Carylanna Taylor

Diasporas can play an important role in promoting trade and tourism in their countries of origin, particularly since it is difficult to introduce and establish unfamiliar goods and new tourist destinations in the international market. This report, the fourth in a series examining the role of diasporas in development policy, examines how nostalgia trade and heritage tourism can involve diaspora populations in transactions that ease the integration of their homeland economies into an increasingly connected global economy, while also helping diasporas to maintain their ties to their countries of origin or ancestry.

### [Learning by Doing: Experiences of Circular Migration](#)

By Kathleen Newland, Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias, and Aaron Terrazas

Increasingly, policymakers are considering whether circular migration could improve the likelihood that global mobility gains will be shared by migrant-origin and destination countries alike — as well as by migrants themselves. This MPI Insight examines the record of circular migration, both where it has arisen naturally and where governments have taken action to encourage it.

### [The Iraqi Refugee Crisis: The Need for Action](#)

Co-authored with Kelly O'Donnell

Report, January 2008

As border restrictions both within and outside Iraq tighten and sectarian violence persists, the options for Iraq's estimated 4.5 million internally and externally displaced appear bleak. MPI's report on the Iraqi refugee crisis examines the situation in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, as well as the response of the United States and select EU Member States.

### [Bridging Divides: The Role of Ethnic Community-Based Organizations in Refugee Integration](#)

By Kathleen Newland, Hiroyuki Tanaka, and Laura Barker

Migration Policy Institute and the International Rescue Committee, June 2007

Almost 2.4 million refugees and asylees from at least 115 countries entered the United States between 1980 and 2006. Despite declines in refugee admissions, the United States continues to resettle more refugees than any other country. A new study released for World Refugee Day on June 20 examines how organizations founded by refugees are helping others who have escaped violence and persecution abroad adjust to life in the United States.

### [Circular Migration and Development: Trends, Policy Routes, and Ways Forward](#)

Co-authored with Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias

Policy Brief, April 2007

Circular migration, the temporary or permanent return of migrants to their countries of origin, is seen as offering benefits to countries of migrant origin, to destination countries, and to migrants themselves. The most common policy route to encourage circulation has been to ensure that migrants maintain ties with their countries of origin, by providing financial incentives to return or by enforcing strict measures to prevent their remaining permanently in destination countries. Experience from many countries shows that this conventional set of policies has not, and in all probability will not, work on its own. Effective circular migration arrangements call for policies that strengthen ties to countries of both origin and destination. An environment that helps migrants to reach their goals—as manifested for instance by accumulated savings, newly acquired skills, and successful business ventures—is most likely to foster temporary or permanent return.

### [Beyond Remittances: The Role of Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in Their Countries of Origin](#)

Co-authored with Erin Patrick

Published by the Department for International Development (UK), July 2004

This paper examines the role of diaspora in poverty reduction through four main areas of focus: policy and practice toward diaspora by countries of origin; diaspora economic, social and political engagement in countries of origin; donor engagement with diaspora; and recommendations to maximize the contribution of diaspora to development and poverty reduction. The report includes case studies of China, India, the Philippines, Mexico, Eritrea, and Taiwan, which are used to illustrate six contrasting patterns.

### [US Immigration Since September 11, 2001](#)

By Elizabeth Grieco, Deborah Meyers, and Kathleen Newland

Fact Sheet No. 1, September 2003

### [No Refuge: The Challenge of Internal Displacement](#)

Co-authored with Erin Patrick and Monette Zard

October 2003

### [Migration as a Factor in Development and Poverty Reduction](#)

Migration Information Source, June 1, 2003

MPI Co-Director Kathleen Newland provides a concise overview of the impact of rich country migration policies on poor country development.

### [Troubled Waters: Rescue of Asylum Seekers and Refugees at Sea](#)

Migration Information Source, January 1, 2003

Danger often awaits people who set out by boat, seeking safety from upheaval or persecution. MPI

Co-Director Kathleen Newland examines how governments, the shipping industry, and international bodies have succeeded — or too frequently, failed — to cast a line to those in need.

[Introductory Article to "September 11: Has Anything Changed?"](#)

Co-authored with Erin Patrick, Joanne van Selm, and Monette Zard  
*Forced Migration Review*, June 2002

[Refugee Protection and Assistance](#)

*Managing Global Issues: Lessons Learned*  
(Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001)

[A Nation Displaced: Afghanistan](#)

Co-authored with Erin Patrick  
*WorldView Magazine*  
Fall 2001, Volume 14, Number 4