

# Graca Machel

by Maureen Hyland

Born in Mozambique, Graca Machel has spent much of her life dedicated to children afflicted by war. In 1994, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed her to head a study into the effects of war on children. Graca spent two years travelling around conflict-affected countries, witnessing the impact on the lives of children.

Following her investigations Graca said:

*"I come from a culture where traditionally, children are seen as both our present and our future, so I have always believed it is our responsibility as adults to give children futures worth having. In the two years spent on this report, I have been shocked and angered to see how shamefully we have failed in this responsibility."*

Her report led to the establishment of a new world agenda for the protection of children caught up in war situations. As a global advocate for children afflicted by war, Graca Machel has received many awards for her commitment to their cause.



# People of Concern

by Maureen Hyland

Refugees are people who have been forced to flee their home country due to a fear of being maltreated because of their race, political beliefs or social standing if they remain in or return to their country. As well as refugees, there are millions of other people who are of concern to the United Nations Refugee Agency. These include asylum-seekers (people hoping to find protection in another country), returned refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs)—people who have been forced to leave their homes because of war, natural and man-made disasters or human rights issues but remain within their own country.



Newly arrived refugees at Christmas Island, Australia

The graph below shows the statistics regarding “people of concern” from the United Nations Refugee Agency between 1997 and 2006.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
Global “Population of Concern” 1997–2006

