

**Invitation to “Safety for all” Working Group Workshop Monday 11th August 2008
Cape Town**

Dear all, you are hereby invited to the inaugural workshop of the Cape Town Civil Society “Safety for all working group”. This workshop will be hosted and facilitated by UN-OCHA and UNHCR as the first step towards establishing a working group of service providers, advocates and other civil society stakeholders to meet the needs and rights of Internally Displaced Persons and other foreigners affected by the recent spell of xenophobic violence in the Western Cape.

Background:

Following the recent xenophobic attacks in South Africa the United Nations agencies have been requested to provide technical advice and guidance to ensure effective coordination and assistance in line with relevant international humanitarian and human rights law, standards and principals.

As part of any emergency response the UN would typically assist in the establishment of a “Protection Working Group” to ensure that assistance is provided to beneficiaries in a principled, coordinated and sustainable manner using a rights based and internationally accepted framework. While this has been established in Gauteng Province it has not happened in Western Province. For this reason the UN agencies in Western Province would like to facilitate the establishment of a working group in Western Province with the provisional working title of the “Safety for all” working group. This could feed into and inform the “Safety and Security Forum” and allow Civil Society to more effectively coordinate its safety and security assistance to foreign nationals now and in the future.

Venue: Central Cape Town, to be confirmed

When: 9:30 am till 4:00 pm, Monday 11th of August 2008

Purpose:

To establish a working group through which civil society, with assistance from the United Nations in Western Province, can work together to improve coordination, communication and assistance to those effected by xenophobia in the Province.

Agenda:

Topic	Speaker	Time
Welcome and introductions	Gordon Denoon UNOCHA	9:30
Role of UNOCHA in emergencies and what it can offer	Gordon Denoon UNOCHA	9:40
Role of UNHCR and other UN agencies regarding protection in emergencies	UNHCR	9:50
Background on foreign nationals in Western Province	Braam Hanekom PASSOP	10:10
Current picture and protection	Black Sash	10:25
Current situation in camps	TAC	10:40
International Protection and rights based approach	Kara Pierson - UNICEF	11:00
Coffee Break		11:30
Civil society and "Safety For All"	Split into work groups	13:00
Lunch		14:00
Report backs for each group	Each work group to present	15:00
Where to from here?	Gordon Denoon UNOCHA	16:00
Close		

RSVP:

If your organisation is interested in participating in this working group please respond to Gordon Denoon (UNOCHA) on:

PH: 0734465888 or gordon.ocha@gmail.com or denoon@un.org

Once I have an indication of the numbers wishing to attend we will confirm the venue and timing of the workshop.

Kind Regards,

Gordon Denoon
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Regional Office for Southern Africa