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April 20, 2011

Dear Distinguished and Honoured Participants at our second  
Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Research Workshop,

Welcome to York University and thank you for attending our *2011 Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Research Workshop*. It is a distinct honour and pleasure to have you with us for our second Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Research Workshop.

As you know, we will be examining a limited number of highly challenging and pressing legal issues and concerns in international refugee law today. I should like to thank, in particular, all of those on our international Research Workshop programme for preparing their papers, their commentaries, and for providing supporting background materials for our Research Workshop for each of our four panel sessions. I should also like to thank Professor James C. Hathaway for agreeing to be our keynote speaker at this year's Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Research Workshop, that will also help to celebrate and mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *1951 Geneva Convention* and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*. We are very fortunate, indeed, to have Professor Hathaway, certainly one of the foremost distinguished legal scholars in the field, with us on this occasion. We are also very grateful to the UNHCR for agreeing to participate with us at our second Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Research Workshop and for recognizing our Research Workshop as one of the events that is being held this year to mark the historic anniversaries of these two seminal international refugee and statelessness rights instruments. We should like to extend our special thanks to Dr. Agnes Hurwitz, Senior Research Officer, with the UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and to Rana Khan, UNHCR Canada, for being with us on this occasion. And, we are grateful especially to Chief Justice Allan Lutfy, Federal Court (Canada), and greatly honoured to have him serve as the Chairperson for our international Research Workshop.

We are providing all our international Research Workshop participants with a folder that contains some of the essential materials needed for our Research Workshop, including, the programme, list of participants, the paper abstracts, map of the York University main campus, and information on the City of Toronto. The folder also contains two evaluation forms, one for each day of our Research Workshop. Could you please take a few minutes at the end of each day to fill out our evaluation form and leave it with one of international Research Workshop staff.

Your folder also contains a list of all of our international Research Workshop key contacts here at York University. If you have any questions or concerns or should you require our assistance with anything please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to assist you in any way we can and to make your stay here at York University as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.

Please note that all of the papers and other relevant supporting materials and documents for our international Research Workshop are found on our new 2011 CIIRL website at <http://www.yorku.ca/ciirl/>. You will find this material on both our public and the private "password protected" portions of our new website. If you do not have your user ID and password could you please contact our website designer and manager, Sanja Begic-Robinson, at [begic@yorku.ca](mailto:begic@yorku.ca).

Once again, it is a great honour and privilege to have you with us for our 2011 Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Research Workshop and to be working with you on some of the most pressing issues and concerns in international refugee law today.

With Many Thanks and Very Best Wishes,

Dr. James C. Simeon, Assistant Professor  
Chair, 2011 Critical Issues in International Refugee Law  
Organizing Committee

