



## Recommendation 197 (1959)<sup>1</sup>

# Participation of the Council of Europe in the World Refugee Year

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Having regard to [Resolution No. 1285](#) of 5th December 1958 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the proposal to hold a World Refugee Year;

Noting that this proposal has two aims, namely:

- a. to focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from Governments, voluntary agencies and the general public for its solution;
- b. to encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions on a purely humanitarian basis and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves;

Believing that European countries should seize this opportunity of giving renewed proof of their solidarity by associating themselves with this project and by a joint contribution to it,

Recommends that the Committee of Ministers:

1. Invite the Governments of member countries to co-operate in arrangements for World Refugee Year, as suggested in the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly;
2. Open a Special Council of Europe Fund for World Refugee Year to receive special contributions to finance the Council's activities in this connection;
3. Urge Governments of member countries, when paying their contributions, to ask national committees to pay in to the Special Council of Europe Fund a certain percentage of all amounts raised with the Council's assistance;
4. Make a concerted approach to the most important immigrant-receiving countries overseas in the hope of securing larger immigration quotas and improved prospects of resettlement ;
5. Approve the following action programme which is to constitute the Council's contribution to World Refugee Year :

*propaganda through the media of press, radio and television;*

*co-operation with national television stations in producing short films made of cuttings from existing reels;*

*organisation, in conjunction with the Council of Europe Special Representative for National Refugees and Over-Population, of a travelling exhibition and subsequent sale by auction of original paintings on refugee themes produced by contemporary painters;*

*creation of a symbolic drawing, to be reproduced in various forms, for sale in member countries;*

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1. This Recommendation was adopted by the Assembly at its 7th Sitting, on 24th April 1959 (see [Doc. 973](#), Report of the Committee on Population and Refugees).



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*preparation of documentary material likely to arouse the interest of schools in World Refugee Year;*

*sale of "first-day covers" on the day of issue of new Council of Europe stamps;*

*possible preparation of several modest refugee re-classification schemes of interest to the member countries where this problem is most serious.*