



**HOME RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
WORKING PAPERS
Number 92**

**The Concept of 'Home' in Human Rights Discourse with Special
Reference to the Needs of Displaced People
Robert A. Destro**

Paper delivered at Home Renaissance Foundation IV Experts Meeting: 'The Home and Displaced People',
The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., 22-23 September 2022

The Concept of 'Home' in Human Rights Discourse with Special Reference to the Needs of Displaced People

Robert A. Destro

HRF Presentation Summary

Professor Destro spoke with reference to his considerable experience as a lawyer working within this field, but recognised that finding definitions in such a complex area can mean missing the human point of view. Experiences of displacement from homeland have personal as well as geo-political ramifications as we are seeing so vividly in the Ukraine. Professor Destro outlined his recent experience of migration in the context of Nigeria and the many factors making internal displacement such a problem for both people and government.

It is important to consider migration not only from the migrant point of view but also from the received point of view. Developing from this is the whole question of what constitutes a welcoming receiving community as well as the best migrant disposition. It is seen best in terms of relationships. When you are at home you are not a guest. You have responsibilities to the household as well as the benefits of being at home. Treating migrants as permanent guests does not lead to integration. There are many barriers to this integration including negative stories of migrant settlement, but recognising the local factors is vital. Subsidiarity means allowing the "bottom-up" work of host communities to be supported, but not controlled, by the "top-down" mechanisms of the larger state.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.