

## **Summary**

### **The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

This thesis concerns on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its role in the area of international humanitarian relief. The problem of forced displacement is not new, and neither are international efforts to alleviate the suffering of uprooted people. The purpose of my thesis is to analyse the influence of changes within international refugee law on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner. I would like to find if is the UNHCR useful and efficient in the course of protecting the refugees and seeking permanent solutions for them. Another question of this thesis is associated with the role of states. Are they providing effective aid or on the other side are they building the barriers to UNHCR or other humanitarian agencies?

The thesis is composed of seven chapters, each of them dealing with concrete issue of functioning of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Chapter One is introductory and describes an overview of the historical content of UNHCR. It evaluates UNHCR's predecessors and their attempts to solve the refugee problems.

Chapter Two is attending to foundation, organization and financing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The chapter focuses on international legal documents dealing with the refugee problems, too.

Chapter Three defines various categories of persons who are in need of the international protection. They are called "the persons of concern to UNHCR". This group includes refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, returnees and special category of the internally displaced persons.

UNHCR's protection mandate is to provide protection and durable solutions for refugees and other people who are concern of the Office. Chapter Four concentrates on these two main objectives and defines other subsidiary activities of UNHCR.

Chapter Five describes the position of the Office in the international system of humanitarian relief. It focuses on partnership with states, international and non-governmental organizations and refugees.

This thesis evaluates in the Chapter Six the role of European Union in the solving of refugee issue, partnership of EU and UNHCR and the establishment of common European asylum system.

Final Chapter Five analyses in detail functioning of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Czech Republic.

The main aim of the thesis is to prove that UNHCR is very important and indispensable agency which provides an international protection to the refugees and other people, affords professional skills and analyses to other organizations and participants of international humanitarian relief.