

'Let refugees live and work here'

KUALA LUMPUR: Refugees and undocumented migrants can be self-sufficient if they are allowed to live and work in a particular country through a regulated programme.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative to Malaysia, Richard Towle, said refugees were being exploited because of their unregulated situation.

"The problem of refugees and unregulated migrants in the region is their invisibility. There is no way they can be counted, and when they cannot be counted one cannot control who is where and who is who."

He said there were about 150,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Malaysia.

Towle said if refugees could live and work in Malaysia through a regulated programme they would be self-sufficient.



Richard Towle