

Biography of Chris George

For the past 12 years, Chris George has been the Executive Director of IRIS, Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, the New Haven-based refugee resettlement agency that welcomed 530 refugees to Connecticut last year.

Chris has spent most of his professional life living in, or working on, the Middle East. Before returning to Connecticut in 2004, he worked seven years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Chris directed a legislative strengthening project with the Palestinian Parliament and later established an emergency assistance program for Palestinian nonprofits.

From 1994 to 1996, Chris was Executive Director of Human Rights Watch – Middle East. Prior to that, he worked with Save the Children for nine years (mostly in the West Bank and Gaza) and three years with American Friends Service Committee (mostly in Lebanon). Chris began his international career in 1977 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Muscat, Oman. Altogether, he spent more than 16 years living in the Middle East. He speaks Arabic.