



UNCHR Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

Wednesday, 29 June 2011

14:00 – 15:45

International Conference Center Geneva

## Survivors, Protectors, Providers: UNHCR Regional Dialogues with Women and Girls

*Moderator*

**Ms. Erika Feller**, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)

*Speakers*

**Dr. Eileen Pittaway**, Director, Centre for Refugee Research,  
University of New South Wales

**Refugee and IDP women  
representing the regional dialogues:**

**Ms. María Cecilia T. O.**

**Ms. Luz María O. Z.**

**Ms. Jemimah Alice N.**

**Ms. Christine A.**

**Ms. Manal M. A. D. A.**

**Ms. Shireen A. Y.**

**Ms. Marie Claire M.**

**Ms. Jane M. A.**

**Ms. Seida S.**

**Ms. Manchula M.**



**Exhibition:  
Photos and drawings from the Regional Dialogues**

28 – 30 June 2011

International Conference Centre Geneva

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**60**  
YEARS • ANS

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**Survivors, Protectors, Providers:  
UNHCR Regional Dialogues with Refugee Women and Girls**

**BACKGROUND NOTE**

UNHCR has recently staged a series of dialogues with over 1000 refugee, asylum-seeking, internally displaced and resettled women and girls in seven locations around the world. Held in both urban and camp settings, the Regional Dialogues took place between November 2010 and May 2011 in India, Colombia, Jordan, Uganda, Zambia, Thailand and Finland.

The Dialogues build on the Five Commitments to Women and Girls made by the High Commissioner following similar dialogues held in 2001 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. As part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations this year, the Dialogues underscore UNHCR's commitment to give female refugees a voice.

The broad geographical reach of this project has allowed the daily struggles of refugee women and girls to be shared from around the globe. The Dialogues provided participants with human rights training and a platform to share problems and develop solutions during several days of situational analysis workshops. A parallel workshop with men and adolescent boys enabled them to engage in the process and make suggestions for the improved protection of women and girls in their communities. Participants analysed their protection problems, developed concrete solutions and, on the final day, came together to present the outcomes of their consultations to UNHCR staff, implementing partners, government officials and other relevant stakeholders. The Dialogue process was facilitated with the cooperation of the Centre for Refugee Research at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Ten women who participated in the Dialogues have been selected to travel to Geneva and represent their community before NGO participants at UNHCR's Annual Consultations with NGOs in June 2011. This session will allow participants to hear some of their stories related to the ten core protection areas discussed during the Dialogues: 1) individual documentation; 2) women's representation in leadership; 3) sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); 4) shelter; 5) sanitary materials; 6) health issues; 7) legal remedies; 8) education; 9) economic self-reliance; and 10) general violence.

The outcomes of the Regional Dialogues will also feed into the intergovernmental event at ministerial level of Member States of the United Nations, to be held on 7 and 8 December 2011. It is hoped that participating States will make forward-looking pledges at the ministerial event, which will address some of the most pertinent issues facing refugee women and girls.

The session will be complemented by an exhibit of photos and drawings from the Regional Dialogues, which will be on display at the International Conference Centre Geneva, for the duration of the NGO Consultations.

- See reverse side for timing and further details -