



# Message from the High Commissioner to the 2014 Annual Consultations with NGOs

## Women's Leadership and Participation

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME YOU to the 2014 Annual Consultations between UNHCR and its highly valued NGO partners. That the number of participants at the Consultations continues to grow year after year is testament to the importance of our partnership. This year more than 240 national and international NGOs will be represented by over 460 participants. We will have many opportunities to discuss regional and global issues of mutual concern, such as the protection of children and youth, livelihoods and self-reliance, and the very topical subject of protection at sea.

Finding real complementarities is key to achieving our common goal of protecting people of concern. This sounds straightforward enough, but it is a goal that often seems to elude us. Good partnership can make a huge difference in the impact of our work. The Structured Dialogue between UNHCR, NGOs and the Red Cross movement that I convened in 2012 helped us all to focus on collaborative approaches and partnership principles in practice. I am pleased with the joint efforts to implement the Dialogue's recommendations at field level, and encourage everyone to continue to improve partnership dynamics and look at complementarities rather than differences.

*The Partnership Section would like to thank the many colleagues who have contributed to the preparation of these consultations. We would especially like to thank the speakers and moderators of the sessions, including Jessie Thomson for her role as the Rapporteur of the Annual Consultations with NGOs and the Rapporteur of UNHCR's Executive Committee, Guillermo Reyes, for attending.*

UNHCR has also been working with partners to make its leadership and coordination of refugee operations more predictable, transparent and inclusive, ensuring that NGOs and UN agencies are more involved in assessments, strategy development, monitoring and coordination. We want to make sure that in situations that involve both refugees and internally displaced people, refugee coordination arrangements are pragmatically applied so that partners can easily find their way, resources are optimized, and refugees benefit.

Nearly 40% of UNHCR's expenditure is now implemented by partners. Donors require UNHCR to report in detail and ensure financial accountability. The requirements we then pass on to our partners must be carefully calibrated, taking into account the unavoidable risks we have to share in difficult operating environments. We continue to work with all parties to ensure the optimum balance, never losing sight of our accountability to refugees and others of concern.

The theme of this year's Consultations, "Women's Leadership and Participation", provides an opportunity to look at the improvements we still need to make to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women. As we all too often see in our daily work, forced displacement exacerbates the many risks that women and girls are exposed to and can raise further barriers to fulfilling individual potential and participation. However, displacement situations also produce remarkable examples of courageous leadership by women, preserving and strengthening families and communities in their darkest times. Many of you are such women.




UNHCR and our partners support different activities to mitigate protection risks for women and girls and to help them play a constructive role in their communities, whether in flight or upon return. The Women Advocates Project (Mujeres Promotoras) in Ecuador trains and empowers women to reach out to communities in urban areas; in Bangladesh, female community leaders, volunteers, and support group members are trained in leadership; in Colombia, UNHCR is working with partners and Government to protect women leaders at risk because of their community work or as a consequence of land disputes. In Afghanistan, an all-female Afghan theatre project promotes women's rights; in Chad, women participate in skills training, micro-financing, and income-generating activities. Many more of these initiatives are needed to empower an even larger number of displaced women.

The education of girls is vital to progress. In many parts of the world, however, it is still a struggle to get girls into school and to help them stay, especially

during the transition from primary to secondary education. UNHCR and partners are using targeted strategies to increase the enrolment of girls, and we are beginning to see the results of these efforts. Education is important to protect girls and to prepare them for the future. Without the education of girls, women's leadership and participation will remain an empty promise.

For the first time we will be using technology to make the Consultations more inclusive and interactive. The use of social media systems including Twitter and Tumblr will give an immediate voice not only to those attending the Consultations but also to partners, people of concern and colleagues wherever they may be in the world.

I am looking forward to these two-and-half days of discussions and I trust they will deepen our mutual understanding as partners and strengthen the way we work together, with the aim of better serving people in need of protection and assistance.

  
António Guterres

### Tuesday 17 June 2014 | International Conference Center (CICG)

#### 09h00 – 10h15 Welcome coffee and Informal Regional Meetings

Informal regional meetings have been organized at the outset of this year's Annual Consultations, intended to give NGOs from each region the opportunity to meet with colleagues from the respective UNHCR Regional Bureau, in an open and informal discussion. The Africa region will meet in Room 18 and Americas in Room 22. Other Bureaux will have their own dedicated areas in the lobby for these meetings.

#### 10h45 – 13h00 PLENARY SESSION *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

##### Room 2

#### INTRODUCTION

Kemlin FURLEY, *Chief, Partnership Section, UNHCR*  
Daniel ENDRES, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*  
Nan BUZARD, *Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*

#### OPENING REMARKS AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

Luz Mery MESA, *Asylum Access, Ecuador*  
António GUTERRES, *High Commissioner for Refugees*

#### 13h00 – 14h30 LUNCH *(free) – DÉJEUNER (libre)*

There will be one side meeting taking place between 13h30 to 14h30:

*Room 6: Asylum & refugee protection based on sexual & gender nonconformity – Improving status determination*

More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings.

#### 13h30 – 14h30 SIDE EVENT *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

##### Room 3

#### Women's leadership, faith and protection

Since June 2011, the Annual Consultations have benefitted from an annual exchange on the challenges faced by national faith-based organizations, their unique strengths and contribution to the protection of populations that UNHCR serves, and how UNHCR and INGOs can better partner with them.

The High Commissioner's 2012 Dialogue on Faith and Protection gave new impetus to UNHCR's own thinking about partnership with religious leaders, faith-based organizations and local religious organizations and spurred a number of follow-up initiatives that were spotlighted at last year's Annual Consultations.

This year's side event will be another opportunity to report on progress made in follow-up to the HC's 2012 Dialogue on Faith and Protection, as well as the interesting 'ripple effects' it has set in motion.

The session will include:

- An update on the follow-up to the HC's 2012 Dialogue on Faith and Protection
- A presentation/discussion on faith based protection activities to address GBV
- A presentation/discussion on the role of religious women in protection activities
- The launch of UNHCR guidance on faith literacy

**Moderator:** Helen STAWSKI, *Islamic Relief*

**Speakers:** Fulata MOYO, *World Council of Churches*

Jane WINFIELD, *Anglican Consultative Council, Anglican Communion*

Jose RIERA, *Special Adviser to the Director of the Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

## 14h30 – 15h45 THEMATIC SESSION

### Room 2

#### Partnership: From structured dialogue to structured action: strengthening partnership between UNHCR, the IFRC and NGOs

*(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

*NB: Please note that this session will run from 14:30 until 15:45. After a short coffee break, the session specifically focused on implementing partnerships will commence at 16:15.*

UNHCR continues to strengthen strategic partnerships with the IFRC and NGOs to provide protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern. UNHCR works with more than 900 NGOs in its various operations, and relies on this broad range of partnerships to deliver its mandate. Partnership requires nurturing and continuous care and investment. UNHCR strives to ensure that partnership principles are applied and respected throughout its work. The 2012 High Commissioner's Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership was an opportunity to review good practice, expectations and challenges in our partnerships. The Dialogue produced several joint recommendations relating to better information-sharing, joint planning, consultation fora, advocacy for IDPs, refugees and stateless persons, advocating together for protection, capacity strengthening, urban refugees, more effective problem resolution, and reporting on partnership.

This year's session will include a short overview of progress made in implementing those recommendations, some reflections from the field, and some discussion of the directions in which we hope partnership will develop.

Participants, including those on Twitter, will be invited to contribute to a discussion on improving partnership. We will seek your feedback on general awareness and implementation of the Principles of Partnership and the Dialogue's recommendations, particularly at field level. We will endeavor to jointly identify opportunities to support improved field-level partnership dialogue.

A separate meeting will take place on Thursday 19 June, from 8h00 to 9h00 in Room 19, for participants who would like to learn more about the Structured Dialogue and how they might contribute to its implementation at the global, regional and field levels.

**Moderator:** Johan CELS, *Head, Governance and Partnership Service, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Daniel ENDRES, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*

Azmat KHAN, *Foundation for Rural Development*

Melissa PITOTTI, *International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*

#### **FOR THE PARTNERSHIP SESSION ONLY**

**15h45 – 16h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ**

## 14h30 – 16h15 REGIONAL SESSION

### Room 3

#### Bureau for EUROPE *(interpretation in English-Russian)*

This session will interactively explore two main themes:

#### Empowerment and leadership of women of concern in Europe

In Europe, UNHCR has worked in close cooperation with NGO and government partners to promote Age, Gender and Diversity mainstreaming, to enhance the participation of all persons of concern and to

empower women in particular. In this session, we aim to take the European discussions on participation and empowerment to a global level through an interactive discussion.

Questions framing the discussion will include:

- What do the concepts of *participation*, *empowerment* and *leadership* for women of concern mean in practice?
- To what extent are examples from Europe relevant in the global context?

**Moderator:** Diane GOODMAN, *Deputy Director, Bureau for Europe, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Razieh NIKOOMANESH, *AkiDwA*  
Maria PISANI, *Integra Foundation*  
Emir PRCANOVIC, *Association Vasa Prava*

### Access to protection in Europe: the challenges of push-backs at the borders of the European Union and our responses

Civil society actors and UNHCR are becoming increasingly concerned that several European Union countries have adopted measures at their borders to control irregular entry, effectively preventing people in need of international protection from entering and requesting asylum and subjecting them to risks of inhuman or degrading treatment.

While recognizing the need of state authorities to control their borders, mechanisms should be in place to ensure that this is done in a protection sensitive manner, respecting fundamental rights including the principle of *non-refoulement*, whilst allowing people in need of international protection to enter the European Union and obtain access to fair and effective asylum procedures.

Our session brings together representatives of UNHCR and NGOs from around Europe to share their experiences, exchange monitoring and reporting practices, and explore areas for enhanced cooperation. We aim at strategic collaboration in advocacy with governments to put an end to “push-backs” and ensure access to international protection in Europe. Particular emphasis will be placed on access to asylum by women, children and the elderly.

**Moderator:** Vincent COCHETEL, *Director, Bureau for Europe, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Bill FRELICK, *Human Rights Watch*  
Ignacio DIAZ DE AGUILAR, *Expert Lawyer, Spain*  
Pirl ERÇOBAN, *Mülteci-Der*

## 14h30 – 16h15 THEMATIC SESSION

### Room 4

### Achieving self-reliance: paving the way for safe, lawful and sustainable livelihoods *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

As the average time that refugees spend in displacement grows, so does the need for the refugee-serving community to address the routine exclusion of displaced persons from safe and sustainable livelihoods. Without a legal right to work, access to formal markets, financial products and development opportunities, refugees and other persons of concern are unable to rebuild their lives in exile. Although employment rights are clearly articulated in the 1951 Refugee Convention and other international legal instruments, access to safe and lawful livelihood opportunities for displaced persons are, in practice, either extremely limited or denied altogether. As a result, the displaced are forced to find work in the unregulated informal sector, exposing them to a range of protections risks and rights violations.

Rights-respecting livelihood interventions provide the basis for self-reliance, durable solutions and the fulfillment of human rights. A truly comprehensive response to displacement must, therefore, involve interventions that will serve the livelihood needs and labor rights of the displaced.

This session will seek to enhance our understanding of the challenges preventing access to safe and sustainable livelihoods, with special focus on the distinct barriers preventing women’s meaningful participation in livelihoods and self-reliance. The discussion will advance best practices in advocacy and

programming, exploring practical, market-oriented approaches that link livelihoods and self-reliance with the issues of rights and protection. Positive examples of women's leadership and inclusion in livelihood advocacy and programming will receive special comment.

The session will be broken into three parts: a panel discussion, break-out sessions in which participants will be asked to exchange insights regarding the various dimensions of livelihood programming, and a question and answer session.

**Moderator:** Alexander BETTS, *Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford*

**Speakers:** Faith NIBBS, *Forced Migration Innovation Project*  
Betsy LIPPMAN, *Chief, Operations Solutions and Transitions Section, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*  
Jessica THERKELSEN, *Asylum Access*

16h15 – 16h45 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

16h15 – 18h30 THEMATIC SESSION

Room 2

### Partnership: Enhancing implementing partnership

*(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

*NB: Please note that this session will commence at 16:15 following on from the session “From Structured Dialogue to Structured Action: Strengthening Partnership between UNHCR, the IFRC and NGOs.*

UNHCR continues to maintain strategic partnerships with NGOs to undertake its mandate for providing protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern. Collaboration has grown significantly in terms of substance and resources.

In 2013, the funds UNHCR allocated for assistance and protection through joint partnerships surpassed US\$ 1.15 Billion (39% of UNHCR's total annual expenditure of US\$ 2.97 billion). The number of partners playing a significant role in achieving goals and results has reached a record high of 944 across the globe, of these, 567 were national/local NGOs and 166 were international NGOs.

As discussed during the 2012 and 2013 Annual Consultations, UNHCR has been working in consultation with NGO partners, including field and network reference groups, to review and revise the whole framework of cooperation with implementing partners, including policies and procedures, types and formats of agreement between UNHCR and NGOs, terminology used, mechanisms for joint management of agreements, joint monitoring of projects and mutual establishment and review of the partnership, with the intention of enhancing partnerships and mutual collaboration.

As well as outlining the strategic directions for UNHCR partnerships, this session will include an update on the progress made and future plans for the development and completion of the framework. We will solicit feedback from NGOs on ways forward and on the various components of the framework developed since the 2012 Annual Consultations. These include the new partnership procedures to identify qualified and interested NGOs for project partnerships, partnership agreements to undertake joint projects, changes in the transfer of funds from UNHCR to NGOs, and new approaches to the joint monitoring of programmes.

Participants are strongly encouraged to read the background materials for this session and to bring constructive ideas on how some of the challenges in partnership can be addressed.

**Moderator:** Mark HETFIELD, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)*

**Speakers:** Steven CORLISS, *Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*  
Fatima SHERIF-NOR, *Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service, UNHCR*  
Oswald KASAZI, *Relief to Development Society (REDESO)*  
Melissa PITOTTI, *International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*

**16h45 – 18h30 REGIONAL SESSION**

**Room 3**

**Bureau for EUROPE (continued)** *(interpretation in English-Russian)*

The session continues.

**16h45 – 18h30 THEMATIC SESSION**

**Room 4**

**Promoting leadership, engagement and participation of displaced adolescents and youth in humanitarian situations** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

The specific needs, capacities and resources of displaced adolescents and youth are often overlooked in humanitarian situations. Few humanitarian organizations have programmes specifically targeted at young people and there is often limited funding and fewer dedicated staff. Adolescents and youth are at a critical juncture in their lives as they transition through childhood to adulthood. They have unique talents, skills and resources which – if effectively nurtured and channeled – can assist them not only in the transition to adulthood, but also to make considerable contributions to their own communities, and to the humanitarian response more broadly. Without specialized programmes and targeted support, the skills and talents of young people risk being wasted and a generation of young people lost.

The aim of the session is to explore how humanitarian organizations can better engage with and promote greater participation of adolescents and youth, as well as supporting them as leaders and partners.

Through the inclusion of women speakers on the panel, the presentation of case studies on women's leadership and participation, and by encouraging participation from young women during discussions prior to and during the Consultations, the session will look inclusively at the engagement, participation and leadership of both female and male young people.

UNHCR will present their recent adolescent and youth programming experiences through a multi-media presentation which will hear the voices of young people who participated in their programmes.

The session is intended to be led by young people as much as possible. This includes young people as panel speakers; encouraging their participation during the session; the presentation of relevant case studies by young people; as well as providing the option for young people to participate remotely through various ICT options (e.g. Skype/ Twitter/ Tumblr).

**Moderator:** Seema MANOHAR, *Save the Children International*

**Speakers:** Nigina ABDULMOQIM, *Youth Ambassador, Refugee Education Trust Afghanistan*  
Joseph MUNYAMBANZA, *COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa*  
Marwa WAHHOUD, *Right to Play Lebanon*  
Nick SORE, *Youth and Adolescents Consultant, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**19h00 - 20h30 RECEPTION – UNHCR Cafeteria,  
UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)**



## Wednesday 18 June 2014 | International Conference Center

There will be two side meetings taking place between 08h00 to 09h00:

*Room 5: Civil society initiatives on regional protection*

*Room 6: Torture for profit*

More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings

### 09h00 – 10h45 REGIONAL SESSIONS

#### Room 2

##### **Bureau for AFRICA** (*interpretation in English-French*)

The first part of the session will provide an update on the key issues in the region including the ongoing emergency situations in the Central African Republic and South Sudan; the latest developments in Kenya in relation to the crisis unfolding in urban areas; and the implications of the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coming into force of the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention.

The discussions will highlight some of the challenges and implications of responding to these situations including current protection dilemmas, the scope and coherence of programme interventions; resource mobilisation and Regional Response Plans; and partnership and coordination.

The second part of the session will concentrate on the Bureau's on-going comprehensive, durable and transitional solution strategies as well as resettlement and issues arising from the changing political and economic landscape in the region. This will include an update on the Angolan, Rwandan and Somali refugee situations and the status of refugees from Burundi who are aiming to attain Tanzanian citizenship. This discussion will also touch upon the challenges of resource management for durable solutions and protracted situations, with already scarce resources channelled to respond to emergency situations.

A special speaker will highlight the role of women in evolving situations across Africa, as agents of positive change and progressive community development.

**Moderators:** George OKOTH-OBBO, *Director, Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Liz AHUA, *Deputy Director (West and Central Africa and the Great Lakes), Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*  
Ann ENCONTRE, *Deputy Director (East and Horn of Africa), Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*  
Noriko YOSHIDA, *Deputy Director (Southern Africa), Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*  
*National NGO (to be confirmed)*

#### Room 3

##### **Bureau for AMERICAS** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

##### **“With our own hands” – Women's furtherance of protection in the Americas**

As statistics often report, women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced displacement and statelessness. The Americas is regrettably no exception to this trend. Women and girls of concern to UNHCR are subject to discrimination, violence and abuses before, during and after displacement. Gender persecution, domestic violence, survival sex, human trafficking, social isolation and harassment are only few of a hideous catalogue of individual or group violations that women have to unreasonably bear. Nevertheless, past or actual trauma and mistreatments and daily challenges do not hinder women's own resilience and response to protection needs. To the contrary, they prompt coping mechanisms to be developed. Women form protection networks to face these gaps, and this enables them to look forward towards solutions.

This session aims at presenting and discussing women's protection responses and remedies to the scourge of forced displacement and statelessness as well as difficulties encountered as refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in the Americas. How do women react to the peculiar challenges they meet? What is the contribution that UNHCR and the civil society can bring to attend their specific protection needs? What successful stories and/or good practices can be replicated elsewhere to strengthen protection for women and girls in the Americas? What lessons learnt (positive and negative) should be taken into account when

considering the adoption of protection responses for women and girls? These and similar questions will guide reflections and provide a background for presenting best practices to overcome protection gaps.

### Part I – Panel discussion on women’s protection networks

**Moderator:** Stefano FELICIANI, *Senior Protection Officer (SGBV), UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Marta JUAREZ, *Director, Bureau for Americas, UNHCR*  
Esmeralda LOPEZ, *US Committee for Refugees and Migrants*  
Cristina LUIS FRANCISCA, *Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitiana*  
Claudia Maria MEJIA DUQUE, *Corporación SISMA Mujer Colombia*

### Part II – Market place discussions on women as actors for integration towards comprehensive solutions strategies

**Moderator:** Karina SARMIENTO, *Asylum Access Ecuador*

**Speakers:** Amparo PENAHERRERA, *Federación de Mujeres de Sucumbíos Ecuador*  
Enrique BURBINSKI, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)*  
Diana MARTINEZ, *Sin Fronteras Mexico*  
Diego LORENTE, *Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matias de Cordova Mexico*  
Luz Mery MESA, *Asylum Access, Ecuador*

## 09h00 – 10h45 THEMATIC SESSION

### Room 4

#### Protection at sea – Women’s perspectives *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

People forced to flee are often subject to dangers and suffering while on the move. Taking to sea in dangerous and unseaworthy vessels or stowed away, refugees and asylum-seekers around the world risk their lives every day in desperate attempts to find protection and safety. Recent tragedies have brought sharply into focus the ongoing global phenomenon of refugees and migrants risking their lives to make hazardous sea journeys.

The challenges of protecting persons of concern travelling irregularly by sea are complex and ever more urgent, as is the obligation to secure safe journeys and safe arrivals for those fleeing persecution and war. The situation of refugee women is particularly precarious due to increasing exploitation, abuse and violence *en route*. Women’s awareness of the risks entailed and their participation in the decision to undertake such a journey is less understood, as is their role and coping capacities during the course of the travel, including the process of search and rescue, disembarkation and processing for asylum.

The objectives of this session are to come to a better understanding of the feminine perspectives and motivations that compel refugee women to undertake hazardous journeys at sea, their participation in decision-making and the particular challenges that they face during and after the journey.

The discussions will contribute towards the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection at Sea in December 2014, which will present an opportunity to develop a broad consensus and understanding on rescue at sea, disembarkation, responsibility-sharing, and to craft comprehensive approaches to protection, both at sea and on arrival.

**Moderator:** Janice MARSHALL, *Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Katrine CAMILLERI, *Jesuit Refugee Service Malta*  
François CREPEAU, *Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants*  
*Speaker (to be confirmed)*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

## 11h15 – 13h00 REGIONAL SESSIONS

### Room 2

#### **Bureau for AFRICA (continued)** *(interpretation in English-French)*

The session continues.

### Room 3

#### **Bureau for AMERICAS (continued)** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

The session continues.

## 11h15 – 13h00 THEMATIC SESSION

### Room 4

#### **Monitoring places of immigration detention**

*(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Detention continues to affect thousands of men, women and children within the mandate of UNHCR. At times, their detention falls below international standards, may lack adequate due process safeguards, and be for prolonged periods. In this context, it is critical that monitoring bodies, NGOs, and UNHCR staff are actively engaged in and have the capacity to monitor and/or inspect places of immigration detention in order to ensure transparency, independent oversight, and that any deprivations of the right to liberty and security comply with the relevant safeguards provided in international law.

In 2014, UNHCR, together with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the International Detention Coalition (IDC), is releasing a new resource: *Monitoring Places of Immigration Detention: A Practical Guide*.

This session aims to highlight the importance of regular and ongoing preventative monitoring of places of immigration detention, and to give an overview of the new *Monitoring Guide* as a way to encourage more capacity for and engagement in immigration detention monitoring by UNHCR, its partners and stakeholders.

Individuals and groups are invited to share examples from their own regional or domestic contexts and to help identify positive practices with regard to monitoring places of immigration detention, and in particular regarding the protection needs of women in detention.

The session will be guided by the following questions:

- Why is regular access and preventative monitoring of places of immigration critical?
- What tools have been developed and used to support regular preventative monitoring?
- What are the relevant legal framework and standards around minimum conditions of immigration detention?
- How can training, capacity building, and partnerships be strengthened to ensure more regular access and preventative monitoring?

**Moderator:** Alice FARMER, *Human Rights Watch*

**Speakers:** Grant MITCHELL, *International Detention Coalition*  
Tanya NORTON, *Association for the Prevention of Torture*  
Reut MICHAELI, *Hotline for Migrant Workers*  
Junita CALDER, *Jesuit Refugee Service*  
Alice EDWARDS, *Senior Legal Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

13h00 – 14h30 LUNCH BREAK (*free*) – *PAUSE DÉJEUNER (libre)*

There will be one side meeting taking place between 13h15 to 14h30:  
*Room 4: "Just give them cash": gender and protection in cash-based interventions*  
More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings.

### 13h15 – 14h30 **SIDE EVENT** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

#### **Room 3**

#### **Protection services for all: integrating and empowering the diversity of refugee populations in sexual and gender-based violence programming**

A range of services have been put in place in both camp and urban settings to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). There is increasing awareness, however, that certain refugee populations – including refugees with disabilities, older people, male SGBV survivors, and sexual minorities – are often overlooked in SGBV programming. UNHCR, NGOs, and government actors all experience challenges protecting these often marginalized groups.

Overworked and under-resourced, many say that they help any refugee who walks in their doors. Field research shows, however, that until service providers adapt programmes that both recognize and address the specific needs of these overlooked groups, these refugees will face ongoing exposure to SGBV and its mental, emotional, and physical effects.

This session aims to foster discussion about how SGBV prevention and response mechanisms can better meet the needs of all survivors. It will highlight the diversity of experiences, needs and rights of refugee SGBV survivors, whether male or female. It will draw on recent research and emerging good practices in empowering and bridging protection gaps for refugees with disabilities, older people, sexual minorities, and male survivors of SGBV.

**Moderator:** Gregory GARRAS, *Senior Community Services Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Rachel LEVITAN, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)*  
Joan TIMONEY, *Women's Refugee Commission*  
Martine NAJEM, *Center for Studies on Ageing*

### 14h30 – 16h15 **REGIONAL SESSIONS**

#### **Room 2**

#### **Bureau for MENA** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)*

#### **Strengthening partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa: working together towards protection and solutions**

The MENA session this year will discuss the importance of partnership with NGOs towards strengthening the protection of refugees, IDPs and other persons of concern in the region, with a particular focus on the situation of women.

The session will focus on the complex humanitarian challenges prevailing in the region, including the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis and its impact on neighboring countries, as well as new and longstanding IDP situations, including those in Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

The situation of refugees in both urban and camp settings and the growing phenomena of mixed migration situations throughout the Middle East and North Africa will also be discussed.

*Session 1: Syria situation*

**Moderator:** Najla Marie-Louise TABET CHAHDA, *Caritas Lebanon*

**Speakers:** Amin AWAD, *Director, Bureau for MENA, UNHCR*  
Reem RABAH, *Makassed Lebanon*  
Ayman AL MUFLEH, *Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation*  
Martin JONES, *Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights*

## Session 2: Situation in North Africa, Gulf and Yemen

**Moderator:** Najla Marie-Louise Tabet Chahda, *Caritas Lebanon*

**Speakers:** Amin Awad, *Director, Bureau for MENA, UNHCR*  
Sohal Al-Fulaij, *Kuwait Women's Cultural and Social Society*  
Hani Al-Wadeai, *Albena Yemen*  
Zeidane Meihimmid, *SOS Desert Mauritania*

### Room 3

#### **Bureau for ASIA and the PACIFIC** *(interpretation in English-French)*

The Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific embraces the opportunity provided by this year's theme to highlight the extraordinary role and contributions made by women to programmes and projects in favour of refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, stateless and other persons of concern in various parts of Asia and the Pacific. Inspiring examples and experiences of refugee women's leadership and contributions, shared live or through stories relayed from the field, will set the stage for lively discussions, prompting participants to envisage how to encourage more of these positive contributions, and promote an enabling environment for such initiatives to flourish.

The Asia session will provide a forum to exchange and value these experiences, and advance best practices. NGO participants are encouraged to share positive and inspiring examples of projects, mechanisms or structures inspired by women that have made a real difference to people of concern in their country and region.

Some of the following questions may spark off the debate:

- To what extent are women's structures in camp situations impacting positively on the functioning of the community, and on co-existence of refugee and host communities?
- What is the added value of women's participation and outreach activities in urban contexts?
- What is the role of education in encouraging women and girls to be more aware of their rights, and allow them to make a positive contribution?
- What does it take to eradicate discrimination and violence against women and girls?
- How can men and women work together to optimize the impact of humanitarian programs and durable solutions and interventions carried out by UNHCR and its partners?

The first part of this session will focus on examples and best practices in Asia where women have played a key role in finding solutions, improving their status and livelihood, accessing health and education, and protecting other women and girls. Part two will be open for the discussion of other outstanding issues related to operations in Asia and the Pacific.

**Moderator Part 1:** Indrani Sinha, *SANLAAP*

**Moderator Part 2:** Julia Mayerhofer, *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network Secretariat (APRRN)*

**Speakers:** Daisy Dell, *Director, Bureau for Asia, UNHCR*  
Katrina Jorene Maliamauv, *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network Secretariat (APRRN)*

### 14h30 – 16h15 THEMATIC SESSION

### Room 4

#### **Ensuring a more meaningful, predictable and complementary engagement in situations of internal displacement** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

The High Commissioner's 2013 Dialogue on Protection Challenges was aimed at generating fresh thinking on how the international community could more effectively address the needs of the growing IDP population. The dialogue provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders to discuss UNHCR's role and contribution to inter-agency efforts in situations of internal displacement. One key outcome was the Office's commitment to update its IDP policy and develop guidelines to strengthen its operational delivery in situations of internal displacement.

In March 2014, responding to the requests of its partners and other stakeholders at the 2013 High Commissioner's Dialogue, the Division of International Protection (DIP) and the Division of Programme Support and Management (DPSM) issued provisional guidance on UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement. This session is an opportunity for partners to provide feedback on the provisional guidance, including whether it adequately describes UNHCR's added value and contribution to the collective efforts in response to the needs of the internally displaced.

UNHCR's provisional guidance relies on a gender-sensitive, community-based analysis and approach to make its interventions more effective. A key finding of a 2013 study by the Special Rapporteur for the human rights of internally displaced persons emphasizes empowering IDPs, and more specifically, viewing women as leaders and agents of change, to develop and implement comprehensive strategies for situations of displacement.

Accordingly, the following themes will frame the discussion:

- Ensuring a more meaningful, predictable and complementary engagement by UNHCR and its partners in situations of internal displacement
- Promoting a gender-sensitive, community-based approach to humanitarian action in situations of displacement, with specific emphasis on women as leaders and agents of change.

**Moderator:** Alfredo ZAMUDIO, *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)/Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)*

**Speakers:** Louise AUBIN, *Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*  
Melanie TEFF, *International Rescue Committee*  
*National NGO (to be confirmed)*

16h15 – 16h45 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

## 16h45 – 18h30 REGIONAL SESSIONS

### Room 2

**Bureau for MENA (continued)** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)  
The session continues.

### Room 3

**Bureau for ASIA (continued)** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)  
The session continues.

## 16h45 – 18h30 THEMATIC SESSION

### Room 4

**Mental health & psychosocial support: guidance and case examples of integrated programming** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

Conflicts and natural disasters, exposure to violence, loss of or separation from family members and friends, deterioration in living conditions, inability to provide for one's self and family, lack of access to services and other forms of stress can significantly impact a person's mental and psychosocial well-being.

The estimated prevalence of common mental disorders such as depression or anxiety doubles during and after humanitarian crises (from a baseline of 10% to about 20%). People with severe mental disorders often do not have access to much needed services and are at increased risk for violence and abuse.

Mental health problems can impact physical health and impair a person's ability to function and take care of day to day tasks such as livelihoods, housework and raising children, which has immediate and long-term consequences for children, families and communities. The global impact of mental disorders, coupled with an alarming shortfall in accessible treatment options and qualified staff in many of the world's

nations, results in an urgent need to develop context-appropriate, accessible and sustainable services for mental health and psychosocial support.

However, often such services are not routinely included in development and humanitarian programmes. It is imperative that governments and multilateral agencies elevate the prioritization, quality and availability of mental health services and activities, by allocating appropriate resources specifically targeted for mental health and psychosocial support and by integrating mental health within other programmes and services.

This session will provide an overview of global mental health and psychosocial support guidelines and outline implementation examples from refugee settings in various countries from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. There will also be time for discussion and questions about the development and implementation of mental health and psychosocial interventions for refugees, and the links with women's empowerment and female leadership.

**Moderator:** Inka WEISSBECKER, *International Medical Corps*

**Speakers:** Pieter VENTEOGEL, *Senior Mental Health Expert, Division of Programme Support & Management, UNHCR*  
Andrea NORTHWOOD, *Centre for Victims of Torture*  
Sharune VERGHIS, *Health Equity Initiatives*

## Thursday 19 June 2014 | International Conference Center

There will be two side meetings taking place between 08h00 to 09h00:

*Room 5: Girls' education – A cornerstone for women's participation*

*Room 6: Women's participation in drug abuse treatment among Afghan refugees in Iran*

More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings.

### 09h00 – 10h45 THEMATIC SESSIONS

#### Room 2 **Campaigning to end statelessness**

*(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

A key challenge for UNHCR and NGOs is to find effective ways to reduce and prevent statelessness caused by arbitrary deprivation of nationality, state succession, discrimination against women and technical gaps in nationality laws and inadequate documentation procedures.

In 2014, UNHCR is launching a ten year campaign to eliminate statelessness. Resolving large-scale, protracted situations of statelessness is crucial to achieving this objective. The goals of this ambitious campaign can only be achieved with the full engagement of a strong network of stakeholders, including UNHCR, civil society actors and government champions.

This session will discuss opportunities for collaboration between NGOs and UNHCR to end stateless within a decade. Examples of initiatives being taken around the world will frame the discussion including a personal story of overcoming statelessness and details of how one NGO is trying to resolve the issue of statelessness in the Dominican Republic.

**Moderators:** Chris NASH, *European Network on Statelessness*  
Mark MANLY, *Head, Statelessness Section, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Lara CHEN, *Stateless Network, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)*  
Bridget WOODING, *Observatory Caribbean Migrants*  
Radha GOVIL, *Statelessness Section, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*  
Laura VAN WAAS, *Tilburg University Statelessness Programme*

#### Room 3 **Understanding community-based protection**

*(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

NGOs, UNHCR, and others are joining forces in this session to further explore what is working in community-based protection (CBP). CBP puts the capacities, agency, rights and dignity of persons of concern at the centre of programming. It generates more effective and sustainable protection outcomes by identifying protection gaps through consultation and strengthening local resources and capacity.

The objective for the session is to provide an overview of CBP and to identify and build on CBP mechanisms by looking at what organizations, especially national NGOs, are doing in support of refugee communities. The participation and leadership roles of women will be highlighted in the discussion.

**Moderator:** Mark CANAVERA, *Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*

**Speakers:** Preeta LAW, *Senior Protection Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*  
Nils CARSTENSEN, *Local to Global Protection*  
Jackie LOO, *International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)*  
Joseph MUNYAMBANZA, *COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa (CIYOTA)*  
Ashok Gladston XAVIER, *OFERR, Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

### 11h15 – 13h15 THEMATIC SESSIONS



## Room 2

### Advocating for protection

*(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Although displacement can tear apart the fabric of a community, it can also serve as an opportunity to facilitate positive social change and enlarge the protection space within which communities and those assisting them work. Upheaval and the need to survive in an unfamiliar environment, often under difficult economic and security conditions, means that traditional gender roles may be challenged and both men and women forced to take on roles that were not previously socially acceptable. For example, economic necessity and family separation may require women to work outside the home for the first time and become the main bread winner for their family. Displacement may therefore provide the space and the opportunity for increased women's leadership and participation. Humanitarian actors should take this issue into account when advocating together to address protection concerns and fill protection gaps in areas such as livelihoods, child protection, education, and the prevention of sexual and gender based violence, amongst others.

The session on Advocating Together for Protection will build upon discussions which took place at the 2013 Consultations, where UNHCR and NGOs examined how to advocate better for protection at the global, regional and field level. The session will consider the application of the Principles of Partnership and the Guidance Note on Advocating Together for Protection, so as to strengthen collaboration in developing advocacy strategies, and practical next steps partners can take together to promote women's leadership and participation. It will also feature partnerships with important actors beyond the humanitarian sector.

The panel for the session will be moderated by the UNHCR Director of International Protection with speakers who have been at the forefront of strengthening protection and enabling gender empowerment in their communities. They will share their experiences, explain how their work resulted in positive social change and a strengthened protection environment, and discuss best practices so as to inject fresh thinking into how UNHCR and NGOs can work more effectively together and with others to support such movements in displacement settings.

**Moderator:** Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Iman BIBARS, *Ashoka Arab World*  
Solomon Wasia MASITSA, *Legal Advice Centre (Kituo Cha Sheria)*

## Room 3

### Refugee resettlement as an international protection tool in humanitarian emergencies: Syria and beyond

*(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

A tremendous gap consistently exists between resettlement needs and the resettlement spaces available globally. UNHCR estimates that 691,000 people are in need of resettlement in 2014, not including Syrian refugees. During an "average" year, approximately 80,000 places are made available for refugees to start their lives anew as a result of the lifesaving opportunities that resettlement provides. However, as we all know, this is not even close to being an "average" year. Unprecedented humanitarian emergencies, from Libya, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, to Syria, have produced staggering outflows of refugees at a pace the world has not seen in decades. As these crises continue to unfold, it is particularly important that NGOs concerned about the well-being of refugees reexamine the vital protection role that resettlement can play for some of the world's most vulnerable refugees. These crises also necessitate that we consider what role different humanitarian admission programs can play in the broader protection framework and how these programs could influence resettlement and refugee protection in the future.

This session will provide an opportunity to engage in a robust dialogue about these issues, including highlighting how resettlement and humanitarian admission programs affect women-at-risk, as well as the leadership roles women in play in resettlement contexts. The overarching aims of the session are that participants will learn about:

- What projects and initiatives in resettlement contexts have been especially good at promoting women's leadership and participation?
- How has resettlement been used as a lifesaving protection tool for refugees in humanitarian emergencies? (lessons learned from Shousha/Salloum and Syria)

- How are resettlement and humanitarian admission programs being utilized in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. What has worked well, and what are the challenges?
- What can NGOs do to become more engaged on resettlement issues in general, and more specifically, in promoting an array of programs and opportunities for admission to third countries for refugees in need of urgent protection?

The session will consist of a conversation with the panelists, followed by a facilitated discussion with participants.

**Moderator:** Naomi STEINBERG, *Refugee Council USA*

**Speakers:** Shane BRISTOW, *Saint Andrew's Refugee Services*  
Aurvasi PATEL, *Senior Resettlement Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*  
Rachel WESTERBY, *International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)*

13h15 – 14h30 LUNCH BREAK (*free*) – PAUSE DÉJEUNER (*libre*)

There will be two side meetings taking place between 13h30 to 14h30:

*Room 4: Life can change: securing women's housing land and property rights*

*Room 5: Rohingya*

More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings.

**13h30 – 14h30 SIDE EVENT** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

### Room 3

#### Alternative models for international protection of forced migrants

Panelists will discuss various recent initiatives that respond to humanitarian crises, where existing protection frameworks are either not applicable or practicable. These include the Nansen Initiative, Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration's Crisis Migration project, UNHCR's Guidelines on Temporary Protection or Stay Arrangements, and IOM's Migration Crisis Operational Framework.

Following an initial overview of the scope and objectives of each initiative, the panelists (with interventions from participants) will exchange on the different proposals – reflecting on their complementarities, distinctions and overlaps.

**Moderator:** Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Speakers:** Elizabeth FERRIS, *Brookings Institution*  
Jill HELKE, *IOM*  
Walter KAELIN, *Nansen Initiative*  
Susan MARTIN, *Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University*

**14h30 – 17h00 PLENARY SESSION** (*interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish*)

### Room 2

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

Nan BUZARD, *Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*  
Daniel ENDRES, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*  
Jessie THOMSON, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*  
Lucy KIAMA, *Refugee Consortium Kenya*  
Alexander ALEINIKOFF, *Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees*  
Guillermo REYES, *Rapporteur of the Executive Committee (Mexico)*

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**Tuesday 17 June 2014**  
International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

**13h30 – 14h30 • Room 6 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**  
(no interpretation)

**Asylum & refugee protection based on sexual & gender non-conformity:  
Improving status determination**

**Moderator/Speakers:**

Charlene MAY, *Legal Resources Centre*  
Neil GRUNGRAS, *Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration*  
Mandivavarira MUDARIKWA, *Legal Resources Centre*

According to Article 1 A (2) of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention read together with the 1967 Optional Protocol, the term “refugee” shall apply to any person who “...owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.” (Own emphasis)

Sexually and gender non-conforming persons belong to such a *social group* and in some parts of the world increasingly face persecution from private and public bodies, forcing those who can to flee and seek asylum in the hope that their receiving country will be more accepting towards their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and allow them to live without fear of persecution.

Our experience shows that sexually and gender non-conforming persons often flee rather than approaching their own government for protection. This is largely due to the presence of homophobic laws and policies or discriminatory belief systems. As of 2014, over 80 jurisdictions criminalize private, consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex. (Source: Humanity Dignity Trust)

This event will focus on the experiences of sexually and gender non-conforming asylum seekers and refugees who have reported experiencing various forms of discrimination and marginalization including xenophobia, transphobia, and homophobia. Of great concern is the fact that this persecution appears not to automatically qualify as a “*well-founded fear of persecution*” in the eyes of status determination officers who all too often declare their claims as manifestly unfounded, and in certain cases justify the finding by stating that they have found them to not be gay. The event will provide concrete approaches for NGOs, UNHCR and governments to improve status determination among sexually and gender non-conforming asylum seekers and refugees.

**Wednesday 18 June 2014**  
International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

**8h00 – 9h00 • Room 5 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**  
(no interpretation)

**Civil society initiatives on regional protection**

**Moderator:**

Anoop SUKUMARAN, *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network Secretariat (APRRN)*

**Speakers:**

James THOMSON, *Act for Peace*

Katrina MALIAMAUV, *Tenaganita*

Liv FEIJEN, *Senior Legal Officer, Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNHCR*

This side meeting will highlight recent civil society initiatives on regional protection, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network's "Vision on Regional Protection", a broad high-level statement that sets out what APRRN members think is achievable over the next 10-20 years.

This Vision is unique as it is the first time civil society actors, working with refugees and stateless persons from across the region, have come together to elaborate a common regional vision for protection. The extensive consultation and engagement phase, which was launched at last year's Annual Consultations, was specifically designed to reach-out to civil society actors, UNHCR and other key stakeholders in order to develop a common vision that would set the stage for the elaboration of a concrete Plan of Action for Regional Protection, which is currently under development.

Speakers in this session will highlight the value of exchanging on what's working and why, to further feed into the Plan of Action. The session will also acknowledge the complex challenges in the Asia Pacific region and explore how the Vision can be turned into reality through effective collaboration among a range of different stakeholders.

Members of APRRN's Women and Girls at Risk Working Group will highlight how displaced women are actively engaging in advocacy for refugee rights, and have contributed to strengthening responses to protection challenges at regional level. Findings from a recent workshop will illustrate how barriers to women participation can be removed to ensure that refugee and displaced women can fully enjoy their rights and their voices be heard.

The UNHCR Asia Bureau will present their perspective on the scope of UNHCR-civil society partnerships in advocating for regional protection, and the conditions for a successful implementation of the APRRN's Vision for Protection.

**8h00 – 9h00 • Room 6 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**  
(no interpretation)

**Torture for profit**

**Moderator:**

Reut MICHAELI, *Hotline for Migrants Workers*

**Speakers:**

Sadek KAREEMA, *Tahir Azzawi Foundation*

Azezet KIDANE, *Physicians for Human Rights*

Gerry SIMPSON, *Human Rights Watch*

The kidnapping and torture of refugees for ransom has become an increasingly attractive source of income. Despite years of awareness raising and advocacy at the international level, the ordeal of the victims continues as does the fight to eradicate this ever increasing phenomenon.

During this side event, we will hear from two extraordinary women who took leadership roles in support of refugees and will focus on the roles women have in the fight against the issue of torture for profit.

The panelists will introduce the recent Human Rights Watch report on state collusion in these crimes as well as briefing on the current situation in Libya with regard to refugees from the Horn of Africa.

The second part of the event will be a public film screening of the priced documentary *Sounds of Torture* ([trailer](#)), showing Ms. Meron Estefanos a renowned Eritrean-Swedish journalist and human rights activist, who interviews victims while they are being held hostage. In the film Ms. Estefanos travels to Sinai where she is confronted with the marks left by the many atrocities. After the screening she will be present for Q&A. You are invited to join us at the conference room of the Hotel Warwick Geneva, 14, rue de Lausanne, Wednesday, 18 June 2014, at 19:00.

**13h15 – 14h30 • Room 4**  
(no interpretation)

**“Just give them cash”: gender and protection in cash-based interventions**

**Moderator:**

Kevin SAVAGE, *World Vision International (WVI)*

**Speakers:**

Nils CARSTENSEN, *Danish Church Aid*

Natalia STRIGIN, *International Rescue Committee (IRC)*

Kerren HEDLUND, *Technical Advisor Cash-based Interventions,  
Division of Programme Support & Management, UNHCR*

With an increased appreciation of the role of markets in providing necessary goods and services, cash based interventions (CBIs) are increasingly showing their potential as an effective and efficient tool to meet humanitarian objectives while promoting persons of concern’s dignity, increasing their choice and flexibility and upholding their right to determine and prioritize their own needs. But like other interventions, CBIs hold potential protection risks, particularly for women, who are often targeted as the primary recipients of cash assistance.

This session provides a forum for sharing experiences and lessons learned in relation to cash and protection, with a specific emphasis on women recipients of cash grants, changing household dynamics, and the effects on women’s protection and self-reliance. At the same time, the side event will aim to identify gaps, needs, and areas for further research as well as possibilities for shared learning.

The session will draw on the experiences of IRC in the Syria situation, the Local to Global project supported by Danish Church Aid as well as cash and voucher projects directly implemented by UNHCR, and participants will be encouraged to contribute their own case studies and share their own expertise and experience on cash, women, and protection.

**Thursday 19 June 2014**  
International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

**8h00 – 9h00 • Room 5 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**  
(no interpretation)

**Girls' Education – A cornerstone for women's participation**

**Moderator:**

Nick SORE, *Youth and Adolescents Consultant, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Co-Moderator:**

Sara GOTTFREDSON, *Associate Protection Officer for Gender,  
Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

**Speakers:**

Ita SHEEHY, *Senior Education Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Magali PONS, *Plan International*

Nigina ABDULMOQUIM, *Refugee Education Trust Afghanistan*

Marwa WAHHOUD, *Right to Play Lebanon*

Educating girls and women enables them to participate in decision making for their own lives as well as to play a leading role in their communities. Besides the positive effects for families and communities, many studies demonstrate that educating girls beyond the primary level helps delay marriages, lower birth rates, reduce infant mortality, lessens the likelihood of contracting HIV/AIDS and increases public health in general. Furthermore, girls' secondary education is associated with less exposure to domestic violence and forced sex.

A key objective of UNHCR's Global Education Strategy is to improve access to formal secondary education with a special focus on girls' enrolment. However, results demonstrate that we fall far short in responding effectively to this objective. For example, in 2013, 26% of refugee girls enrolled in primary education in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, while only 3.7% enrolled in secondary education. In Burkina Faso, the girls' enrolment rate decreased from 49% in primary education to 19% in secondary. These figures highlight the challenges in bridging the gap of enrolling and retaining girls as they progress through primary school and making the transition to secondary school.

This session will explore solutions to the obstacles which girls and women face in education. It will also focus on how to strengthen partnership and coordination between UNHCR and its non-governmental partners in order to achieve concrete and measurable results.

**8h00 – 9h00 • Room 6 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**  
(no interpretation)

**Women's participation in the treatment of substance use problems  
among Afghan refugees in Iran**

**Moderator:**

Abbas DEILAMIZADE, *Rebirth Society*

**Speakers:**

Zarin EIZADYAR, *Rebirth Society*

Monireh AREZOUMANDI, *Iranian Life Quality Improvement Association*

Pieter VENTEOGEL, *Senior Mental Health Expert, Division of Programme Support & Management, UNHCR*

Having to adapt to a new environment, culture and norms and challenges to former traditional roles in families and communities can increase the social and mental pressures on individuals and increase vulnerability to drug abuse in a refugee population.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is hosting one of the largest refugee populations in the world. Afghan and Iraqi refugees are given access to services including health care and education as well as labor opportunities. In recent years the provision of treatment for substance use problems for affected persons of concern has been increased.

The support that family members can provide to a patient is essential to effective recovery and they are encouraged to actively participate in the treatment. However, many female family members of Afghan refugees suffering from substance use problems do not participate in these treatments for various reasons.

Based on the experiences of Afghan women, this session will highlight the necessity of female family members accompanying the treatment process for substance use problems and the barriers to them doing so. The effects on female Afghan family members who participate during such treatment will be discussed, as will ways to encourage their participation.

**13h30 – 14h30 • Room 4**  
(no interpretation)

### **Life can change: securing women's housing land and property rights**

**Moderator:**

Vibeke RISA, *Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)*

**Speakers:**

Nyahn FLOMO, *Parley*

Lucy MCKERNAN, *Global Initiative for Economic Social and Cultural Rights*

Karine RUEL, *Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)*

Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights are vital to community survival and post-conflict recovery. Despite the recognition that discrimination against women in HLP rights is one of the biggest impediments to equality this is still a neglected area of humanitarian response.

The aim of the session is to describe the significance of HLP rights as a route to displaced women's empowerment and community leadership and to identify priority areas and discuss practical steps for humanitarians to adopt in their programming.

This is based on field experience combining legal assistance for women to claim their HLP rights with advocacy for women's leadership in land sectors and in post-conflict reconstruction. The discussion will also explore how to strengthen relationships with civil society actors.

**13h30 – 14h30 • Room 5 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**  
(no interpretation)

### **Protecting the human rights of stateless Rohingya**

**Moderator:**

Anoop SUKUMARAN, *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)*

**Speakers:**

Amal DE CHICKERA, *Equal Rights Trust*

Chris LEWA, *Arakan Project*

Stateless and persecuted within Myanmar, stateless and refugees outside Myanmar: the Rohingya community is in desperate need of international protection, assistance, and durable solutions. While global attention has focused on the Rohingya since the mass violence against them that started in June 2012, the history of their discrimination, exclusion and abuse stretches back many decades.



Myanmar has gone through encouraging political developments including a transition from a military regime. However, the treatment of vulnerable minorities including the Rohingya continues to be a cause for concern. The international community has to date failed to effectively use international legal frameworks to protect the Rohingya, whether inside Myanmar, in the region or beyond. The recent census which violated the international standards of allowing ethnic groups such as the Rohingya to self-identify is one example of failure in this regard.

While the root causes to the displacement of the Rohingya are to be found in Myanmar, countries with large Rohingya refugee populations such as Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand have also failed to protect the Rohingya, including those born on their territories. The issues to be addressed include the right to education and healthcare, freedom of movement and liberty, personal security (including protection at sea), access to asylum, basic services and nationality.

The Equal Rights Trust (ERT) has been working on the Rohingya issue for many years, focusing on the inequality, lack of citizenship and legal status of the Rohingya in Myanmar and countries of flight and promoting individual and shared state protection responsibilities.

During this side meeting, ERT's research findings on the human rights of the Rohingya in several countries will be presented as well as an update on the current situation in Myanmar.



# Programme of Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

## 17 - 19 June 2014

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