

**ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs  
15 – 17 JUNE 2016**

International Conference Center Geneva

***BACKGROUND PAPER***

**Session title:** **People on the move** - progress toward better international cooperation and the September 19 UNGA meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

**Date:** 15 June 2016

**Time/Room:** 12:00 – 13:00 - Room 6

**Background information:** This food for thought discussion will highlight progress toward securing better international cooperation in addressing and responding to large movements of people - particularly in light of the UNGA High-Level Plenary Meeting on Refugees and Migrants (UNGA Meeting) on 19 September. Speakers will focus on the experiences of youth in mass movements and how international cooperation can make meaningful differences in their lives. Regions highlighted will include Europe, Middle East, Africa and Central America.

**Moderator:**

Ellen Hansen, UNHCR

**Panellists:**

- Anita Bay Bundegaard, International Global Director/Director of Geneva office, Save the Children
- Diego Lorente, Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matias de Cordova (representing the Mexican perspective)
- Aime Kalangwa, Globe Advisory Committee (representing the Youth/African perspective)
- Elizabeth Ferris, Senior Adviser, UNGA plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants

**Objective and Scope:**

*"Life should not be based on luck."*

As we look towards the UNGA Meeting and the potential establishment of an international cooperation on responsibility-sharing for refugees, it is an excellent opportunity to consider how international agreements, such as those negotiated

at the General Assembly, can impact on individuals. Within this context, and given this year's NGO Consultations focus on "Youth" it is important to consider particularly how youth are affected when they move across international borders to seek safety. All too often, safety and survival is dependent on luck and being in the right - or wrong - place at any given time. This can especially be the case for refugee youth, who may be less well-equipped to navigate the often dangerous journeys taken to seek safety, particularly if they are travelling on their own.

As agencies and organizations providing assistance and protection to refugee youth, we have the responsibility to consider how protection mechanisms for youth on the move may be better systematized by all.

The panel aims to capitalize on our panellists' expertise and experience, and frame the discussion around the following two key questions:

1. What happens in large scale movements to youth in particular? What can we learn from youth perspectives in terms of their experiences of movement, their vulnerabilities during movement, and their ability to access assistance, shelter and protection?
2. How would international agreements or frameworks which may arise out of the UNGA Meeting, serve to address the protection problems they have witnessed impacting children and youth on the move?

We will hear from regional experts who have worked closely with refugee youth in transit, as well as a youth representative who has experienced serious protection gaps during his travel, first hand. Panellists will share their identified recommendations for improving assistance and help to refugee youth on the move.

**Outcomes:**

The proposed outcomes and audience "takeaways" of the panel are as follows:

1. NGOs will have a better understanding of the Global Compact for responsibility-sharing of refugees, and how it has the potential to augment refugee protection.
2. NGOs will be encouraged and inspired to consider how they can improve and/or be more active in responding to the needs of youth on the move.
3. NGOs will have a better awareness as to how information their NGOs may have with respect to people on the move, could potentially feed into UNHCR's advocacy efforts towards the UNGA Meeting.