

**Module 8:
Vulnerable Groups**

Levels of care, levels of obligation



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Survival and development

Best interests of the child

Non-discrimination

Participation

Why is the CRC so useful?

- The 1989 CRC is the most **widely ratified** convention in the history of the world!
- Children can be an entry point into wider discussion about refugees' rights and human rights in general;
- The CRC has **NO** derogation clause, so it applies all the time to every child everywhere.

Protection of refugee women

- Women share protection problems experienced by all refugees;
- Refugee women and girls have a right:
 - Not to be sexually and physical abused, exploited
 - Not to be discriminated against
 - To participation

Protection problems during displacement

- Physical/sexual attacks and abuse before/during flight, in countries of asylum, after repatriation;
- Spousal abuse and abandonment;
- Armed conflict, coerced recruitment into armed forces;
- Sexual exploitation and prostitution;
- Lack of recognition and lack of documentation.

The rights of refugee women

- 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol;
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols;
- ICCPR and ICESCR;
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Participation promotes protection

- Participation of refugee women and children in programming can:
 - Provide a form of protection;
 - Build the values and sense of community that help reduce protection problems.
- Programming without participation of all groups of refugees cannot be effective.

Key message 1

- Sexual and gender-based violence generates severe protection problems for women and adolescents;
- It occurs at family, community, and state levels;
- Is based on unequal gender relationships;
- It also occurs by those actors that are supposed to assist refugees but who exploit them instead.

Key message 2

- Programming should involve their participation and should support family, community, and other networks of care providers;
- Programme design needs to be responsive to other daily demands made on women.

Group work

How can we improve protection for refugee children and women:

- Within our own organisations?
- Within our existing programmes?
- Through linkages between our organisations?

Choose one area to work on
