

STRENGTHENING PROTECTION CAPACITY

(GCR Paras 1340, 46. 47)



Key Challenge: A mechanism to ensure that AGD, Women and Girls and addressing SGBV are reflected in the Strengthening Protection Capacity Co-Sponsorship Group and Pledges

“When I brought up the fact that the children were becoming malnourished I was told that as yet there is not evidence for that, and until there was, no-one would do anything. It made me so angry”. (Refugee woman, CBO, August 2019)

Barriers to Protection experienced by girls and women which could be addressed by Pledges include:

- The lack of simple, user-friendly data collection systems which reflect an age, gender and diversity approach, (including the incidence of SGBV) means that ‘evidence’ is not collected on the key issues which affect refugee communities.
- That many refugee hosting countries have not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention leaves refugee populations feeling insecure and lacking clear pathways through which to claim their human rights.
- Increased and heightened risks of child and forced marriage
- Harassment and sexual abuse by authority figures leading to a serious under-reporting of SGBV faced by refugee women and girls and creating a culture of pervasive impunity for perpetrators.
- Lack of quality age, gender, disability and diversity disaggregated data is not collected, or when collected, is often not utilised.
- Key stakeholders are often untrained in the collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data.

- Key stakeholders often do not have access to accurate gender disaggregated data when formulating policies, program planning and implementation.
- Some member states do not include a focus on refugee women and girls in their national women's machinery or do not have dedicated women's ministries.
- INGOs, NGOs and other key agencies often do not have a gender focal point and relevant policies in place to address the protection needs of women and girls, and diverse groups of refugees.

Pledges which could be made include:

That all refugees who are victims of criminal acts, including survivors of all forms of sexual and gender based, have access to functioning and accessible justice systems.

That concerted campaigns be undertaken in refugee hosting countries to ensure that all women, refugee and host community, feel safe to report cases of SGBV, including child and forced marriages and that perpetrators be prosecuted.

That support and resources be provided to women's CBOs for shelters and long-term solutions for women and girls who have to leave violent relationships, and that refugee women and girls be leaders in designing and implementing these services.

That countries who have not yet signed and ratified the 1951 Convention undertake to do so.

That a rigorous system of gender, age, disability and diversity disaggregated data collection be developed for all refugee situations reflected in the four pillars of the comprehensive refugee response framework, to identify needs in the areas of education, health, shelter, livelihoods, access to justice and incidents of SGBV, and to inform responses to these.

That simple, user-friendly data collection systems which reflect an age, gender, disability and diversity approach, (including the incidence of SGBV) be developed and training provided to all key stakeholders to ensure that they are used in all settings.

That systems be developed to ensure that all stakeholders have access to this data and that it is reflected in all policies, program planning and implementation.

That all member states have a women's mechanism in place and that this include a focus on refugee women and girls.

That all key stakeholders, INGOs, NGOs and other key agencies have a gender focal point and relevant policies in place.

A detailed Gender audit report of the 2nd Preparatory meeting with further recommendations for Pledges is available at <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/resources-5cc1a4e94.html>

Progress reports on the field consultations undertaken as part of the Refugee Women and Girls Key to the Global Compact on Refugees Project, led by UNSW, in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Australia will be available from October 2019 at

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/our-research/research-centres-networks/forced-migration-research-network/projects/refugee-women-and>

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