

Innovative partnerships with Women Refugee-led Organizations (WRLOs) advancing gender equality and protection from GBV

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is a significant protection risk in situations of displacement. Working directly with Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), especially those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women has proven to have multiple positive outcomes in addressing the root causes of GBV and in the promotion of equal rights for women and girls in all their diversity. Local partners, including Women-Led Organizations, play a vital role in humanitarian contexts to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV. In forced displacement contexts, Community-based Organizations (CBOs), including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls, play a pivotal role in leading programs to support displaced communities, providing essential services, local expertise and perspectives, effective networking, and implementing context-specific GBV prevention and risk mitigation strategies. Direct engagement with Women-Led Organizations is therefore essential for effective humanitarian response and sustainable development. Partnerships with local civil society and community groups, forcibly displaced and stateless women's groups as well as local and national women-led and women-focused organizations are equally important in strengthening national systems to address GBV.

Making strong actionable [Gender Equality and Protection from GBV](#) pledges that support survivors and persons at-risk of GBV to recover from harm and that include commitments to support the leadership of displaced women in driving policy discussions will enhance the protection of forcibly displaced women and girls.

Building up on concrete outcomes from the 2023 Women Deliver and Wilton Park Conferences, the following section sets out priority considerations for stakeholders and provides an overview of what pledges on innovative partnerships may include; to guide the development of concrete pledges, including under the [Call-to-Action](#) + (CtA+) Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Gender Equality and Protection from GBV.

Concrete commitments could focus on:

- Providing direct and flexible **funding, resources, and opportunities** to Women-Led Organizations including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women, for humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development work.
- Integration and inclusion of Women-Led Organizations including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women in **decision-making processes** at all levels and across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus including at the national level.
- Increasing **formal, long-term partnerships** with Women-Led Organizations including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women, providing support to movement building and facilitation of access to key policy and donor spaces for Women-Led Organizations; particularly those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women.
- Advocacy for the development of **policies that ease operating environments** to encourage the establishment and running of Women-Led Organizations including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women.
- Commitment to the promotion of gender equality across all spheres and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders through enacting and **enforcing legislation that guarantees equal rights** for women and girls.
- Supporting **learning, evidence-building, research**, and advocacy initiatives for and with Women-Led Organizations including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women.

Sample Pledges

Law and Policy

- By [year] the [relevant national authority] in [country] commits to identifying and removing legal, procedural and/or practical barriers hindering the establishment and registration of Women-Led Organizations, including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls, in [x location/nationally/sub-nationally].
- By [year] the [relevant national authority] in [country] commits to the inclusion of [number] Refugee Women-Led Organizations in [x location/nationally/sub-nationally] into National Gender and Equality and National Gender-Based Violence coordination forums.
- In [country], the [relevant national authority] commits to establishing a national Women-Led Organization network to facilitate network building, knowledge sharing, and capacity support amongst Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including those led by displaced and stateless women.
- By [year] the [relevant national authority] in [country] commits to including Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV); including those led by displaced and stateless women and girls, in the national multi-stakeholder annual budget review committee.

Programmes

- By [year] the [Donor] in [country] commits to providing USD [amount] in direct and flexible funding to Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including those led by displaced and stateless women and girls.
- In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to flexible, multi-year financing for [displaced women-led organizations, civil society, relevant entity] working on GBV and gender equality to promote sustainability and local responses across the nexus.
- In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to partnering with Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including those led by displaced and stateless women, on evidence-based gender transformative programs for GBV prevention / in relevant national and subnational campaigns on GBV.
- In [country] the [Government, civil society, donor] commits to involving Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including those led by displaced and stateless women in the development of more inclusive national policies in host countries, including national protection systems and services to improve refugee women's and girls' access to inclusive and quality GBV prevention and response services through [insert process/mechanism].
- In [country] the [Government, UN Agency civil society, donor] commits to supporting – financially and technically – the establishment of spaces and platforms for regular and ongoing coordination, exchange of experiences and building of solidarity among local and grassroots civil society organizations led by women and people from other marginalized groups through leveraging digital technologies to create and sustain regional and global virtual communities of practice, as well as organizing of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing workshops.

- In [year] the [UN Agencies, Financial Stakeholders] commits to ensuring that women meaningfully participate and lead in the process of the reform of the [Fund or Institution], called for by the UN Secretary-General during the [event].
- [UN Agencies, governments, INGOs] commits to prioritize the participation and leadership of diverse local Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV); including those led by displaced and stateless women in decision-making structures in humanitarian crises, including refugee camp committees and UN coordination clusters.
- In [country] the [Government] commits to proactively include Women-Led Organizations working on gender equality and protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including those led by displaced and stateless women in [frequency e.g., annual] context analysis, designing interventions, to adequately capture contextual impacts of intersecting humanitarian crises, such as the climate, food insecurity and refugee crises and their underlying drivers, such as the debt crisis.

Data and Evidence

- In [country] the [Academia] commits to supporting [Number] Refugee Women-Led Organizations with research and documentation to evidence the impact and value of their work, including in relation to their intersectional and multi-generational work.

