

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

YOUTH MANIFESTO

WE, A GROUP OF DISPLACED YOUTH CHANGEMAKERS,

HAVE COME TOGETHER TO VOICE OUR CALL TO THE LEADERS ATTENDING THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM. BUILDING ON THE EFFORTS OF OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALLIES, WE EMPHASIZE THAT OUR VOICES ARE POWERFUL AND ESSENTIAL.

We are profoundly affected by global issues and wish to share our visions for the future. We want our voices not merely to be heard but to be a decisive factor in global change.

WE ARE GENUINE AND TRANSPARENT ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES.

We want a fundamental change in the way that young refugees are supported. We want our demands to incite action.

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS,

SEXISM, VIOLENCE OF ANY FORM, RACISM AND LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE AS YOUNG REFUGEES FACE.

No one is an expert in refugee issues more than refugees themselves. We bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and a determination to shape our own futures. By including our voices in decision-making processes, we can co-create effective solutions that address the unique challenges we face.

OUR VOICES MATTER, AND IT'S CRUCIAL THAT YOU

CONSIDER OUR URGENT CALL FOR CHANGE.

We call on you to work closely with young people, to support policy changes, gather funding, and put programmes into place that will bring a more inclusive and brighter future for all young refugees. Young people are change-makers and innovators who can bring impactful solutions to the table.

OUR CALL FOR ACTION ON LEGAL & POLICY REFORM

All human beings have the right to a dignified, safe life and deserve a healthy, sustainable future devoid of fears. Access to documentation and the freedom of movement are essential rights that can be powerful instruments for bringing about positive societal change.



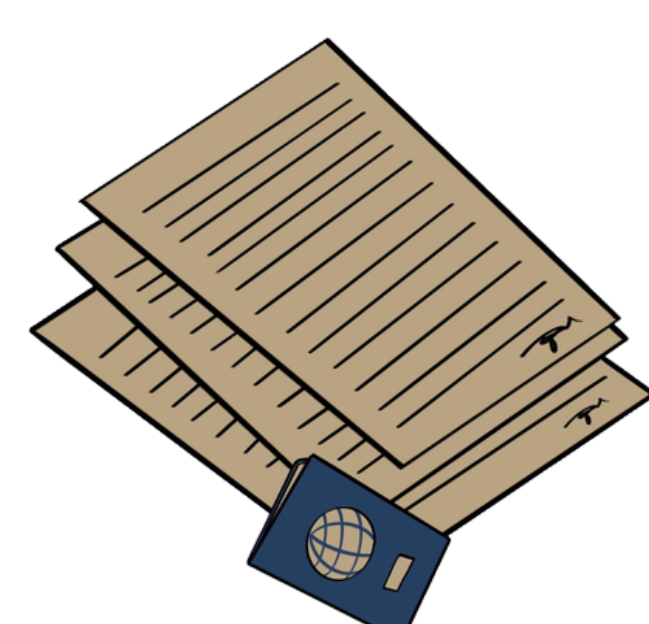
WITHOUT DOCUMENTS, LEGAL RECOGNITION, AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT,

we are deprived of basic rights and lack opportunities to pursue education, work legally, or fully integrate into society. Lack of access to documentation and restrictive policies leaves us vulnerable, confined to camps and detention centers, and curtails our potential. Even when we have access to documents, encampment policies restricting our freedom of movement hinder our access to basic human rights, well-being, and future prospects.

INCONSISTENCIES IN LAWS AND REGULATIONS, COUPLED

WITH A LACK OF COORDINATION AND TRANSPARENCY,

mean that we, the young refugees, face extended bureaucratic processes. This makes it challenging to obtain vital information and identification documents. While governments express commitment to international refugee conventions and pledge to implement efficient protection systems, providing refugees with information about access to services, the actual implementation often falls short, exacerbating the vulnerability of young refugees.



WE DEMAND THAT HOST COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS AND

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TAKE CONCRETE MEASURES TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION, ENSURE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR REFUGEE YOUTH IN ALL OUR DIVERSITY.

We demand a systemic change in government policies concerning refugees, aligning them with international commitments and prioritizing the well-being of displaced youth from all backgrounds. We wish to be actively involved in identifying our needs and to have our rights both respected and clearly communicated during and after the asylum process. We want to be able to access housing, employment, medical and psychological assistance and educational opportunities without delay. We urge a reduction in processing times for asylum cases, enabling us to begin anew without constant fears of rights infringement. Only through such measures can we attain autonomy and self-reliance in our host countries, fostering a more equitable and inclusive society for everyone.



OUR CALL FOR ACTION ON EDUCATION

WE CALL FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE.

ENSURING THAT EVERY YOUNG REFUGEE CAN ACCESS QUALITY EDUCATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, IRRESPECTIVE OF GENDER, AGE, OR BACKGROUND.

Education and employment should not be privileges but fundamental rights for all young individuals.



WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING YOUNG FEMALE REFUGEES.

especially those who entered into early marriages, to continue their education. Gender equality and diversity should be at the heart of all commitments, recognising the distinct challenges that girls and young women encounter.

DECISION-MAKERS NEED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

Education and employment aren't mere aspirations; they are the bedrock of hope, a gateway to the future, and a revival of dreams that were once stifled.

We urge governments, NGOs, humanitarian organizations, the global community, and other educational and private institutions to:

- Allocate durable financial and material resources to guarantee inclusive and equitable educational opportunities for all refugees.
- Ensure that young refugees in camps and urban settlements receive the necessary documents, enabling them to access education.
- Prioritise gender equality and diversity in all commitments and initiatives, offering refugee girls accessible, high-quality education tailored to their environment and experiences.
- Support young mothers and their children, ensuring they can complete their education and receive adequate psychological care.

● Combat violence against refugee girls and young women by promoting gender-transformative education. Actively prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse with specialized mechanisms, policies, and interventions.

● Establish laws and policies that empower young refugees to secure employment and support themselves.

● Implement evidence-based education and entrepreneurship programmes, including programmes that address gender-based violence.

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A WORLD WHERE EVERY YOUNG

PERSON, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES, CAN THRIVE.

The power of youth voices cannot be understated. As this manifesto demonstrates, we are not passive recipients of policy decisions. We are active, informed stakeholders, equipped with unique insights and demands stemming from our lived experiences. It's not merely about granting us a seat at decision-making tables out of inclusivity; it is a strategic necessity to ensure more effective, comprehensive, and lasting solutions. By amplifying our message and opening doors of opportunity for young refugees, we are paving the way for transformative change. We firmly believe that our active participation and engagement will drive this essential change, shaping a brighter and more inclusive future.



MANIFESTO DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTORS

This Youth Manifesto was collaboratively crafted through online workshops with displaced youth advocates, representing diverse backgrounds and ages. Although there were many issues they wished to address, these dedicated youths collectively voted on the top 2 calls to action. Below are the names of a few youth champions who were integral to this process and have given their consent to be recognized publicly. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each individual and partnering organization for their collective insights and experiences that shaped this vital document.

YOUTH ADVOCATES

- Hawa, 25
- Anton, 20
- Hasan, 24
- Rahildaris, 23
- Oricia, 24
- Sarah, 22
- Zawadi, 20
- Damien, 20
- Leidy, 23
- Paul, 17
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- Anthoan, 18
- Maher, 21

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



GOODDLER
FOUNDATION



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

TRANSFORM
EDUCATION
hosted by UNGEI



GRYN
GLOBAL REFUGEE
YOUTH NETWORK

REFUGEE
EDUCATION
COUNCIL

DESIGNED BY A YOUTH-LED AGENCY

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