GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES | Supported by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

Guidance for Stakeholders on Including Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons in their Delegations to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection and Solutions 2026

UNHCR welcomes and strongly encourages States and other stakeholders to include forcibly displaced and stateless people as full members of their delegations to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection and Solutions 2026 (HCD).

Their inclusion in a delegation should provide opportunities for meaningful participation throughout the process. This means engaging delegates as experts and partners in preparing for the HCD, enabling them to contribute substantively during the Dialogue, and involving them, where relevant, in follow-up.

Meaningful participation should be considered before, during and after the HCD. The considerations below provide practical guidance for stakeholders on how to support the meaningful participation of forcibly displaced and stateless delegates at each stage, while recognizing their expertise, agency and independent voice.

I. Before the Dialogue: Select, prepare and engage delegates early

- **Select based on expertise:** Consider delegates' thematic, professional, community and policy expertise alongside their lived experience. Selection should be relevant to the issues the delegation intends to advance at the HCD and should take account of age, gender and diversity.
- **Draw on existing representative structures:** Where available, engage refugee- and stateless-led organizations, networks and existing national participation or advisory mechanisms in identifying potential delegates.
- **Engage delegates early and substantively:** Identify forcibly displaced and stateless delegates sufficiently early to enable them to contribute to preparations for the HCD. Wherever possible, involve them in relevant national and regional 75th Anniversary dialogues and in developing the delegation's priorities, messages and expected outcomes for Geneva. Where appropriate, support delegates to consult their communities or networks before the HCD and report back afterwards.
- **Agree on the delegate's role:** Discuss with delegates how they can contribute to the delegation's preparations and engagement, including the priorities or policy issues on which their expertise can add value. Be transparent about what has already been decided and what remains open to their influence.
- **Address financial and practical barriers:** Ensure that participation does not place a financial burden on forcibly displaced and stateless delegates. Stakeholders should cover costs associated with participation, including visa-related costs, travel, accommodation, meals and local transportation, as applicable, and consider other barriers such as loss of income, childcare or accessibility-related costs.
- **Prepare together:** Ensure delegates have relevant information on the HCD and the delegation's priorities, while enabling them to inform preparations with their own expertise and perspectives. For State delegations, ensure coordination between the Permanent Mission, relevant authorities in the capital and the delegate.

II. During the Dialogue: Enable substantive and equal participation

- **Include delegates as full members of the delegation:** Forcibly displaced and stateless delegates should have equitable access to relevant delegation meetings, briefings, bilateral engagements and other opportunities associated with the HCD, rather than participating only in activities specifically designated for refugees.
- **Create opportunities for influence, not only visibility:** Support delegates to contribute substantively to discussions and policy engagement based on their expertise. Their participation should not be limited to delivering personal testimony or sharing their displacement story.

- **Enable different forms of participation:** Meaningful engagement does not necessarily require a formal speaking role. Delegates may contribute through dialogue sessions, bilateral meetings, advocacy, networking, moderation, facilitation, thematic discussions or other roles relevant to their expertise and objectives.
- **Respect delegates' independent voice:** Forcibly displaced and stateless delegates should be able to express their own views and perspectives and should not be expected to represent or endorse the positions of the stakeholder supporting their participation. Any differences in views should be approached through dialogue rather than limiting the delegate's participation or expression.
- **Discuss communications arrangements:** Ensure delegates understand any practical arrangements relating to media, accreditation and communications. Any advice concerning public communications should primarily seek to support informed decision-making and identify potential protection risks.
- **Ensure delegates can participate without out-of-pocket expenses:** Make appropriate arrangements for meals, local transportation and other participation-related expenses during the HCD.

Ensure safe and equitable participation

- **Address participation costs and barriers:** Cover visa, travel, accommodation and other reasonable costs associated with participation. Consider barriers including loss of income, childcare, accessibility, language and interpretation requirements and other circumstances that could prevent equitable participation.
- **Apply the Do No Harm principle:** Discuss potential protection risks with the delegate and support them to make informed decisions about their participation. Risks may relate to travel, legal or protection status, visibility, public advocacy, data protection or engagement with authorities.
- **Ensure safe and accessible travel:** Consider protection risks and communication barriers when arranging flights and stopovers for forcibly displaced and stateless delegates, particularly for people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, women, and girls.

III. After the Dialogue: Close the feedback loop and sustain engagement

- **Debrief together:** Hold a post-HCD debrief with delegates to discuss their experience, what worked, what could be improved and any agreed follow-up.
- **Communicate how contributions were taken forward:** Where delegates contributed to delegation positions, commitments or other outcomes, provide feedback on how their inputs were reflected and what happens next.
- **Sustain engagement beyond Geneva:** Continue involving delegates, refugee- and stateless-led organizations and participation mechanisms in the implementation and monitoring of commitments emerging from the HCD and in preparations towards the Global Refugee Forum 2027.

Practical arrangements

Stakeholders including forcibly displaced or stateless people in their delegations should:

- ✓ inform UNHCR at hqgcr@unhcr.org that their delegation includes participant(s) with lived experience, so that they can be connected to relevant HCD preparatory and participant activities, including an online training programme;
- ✓ ensure delegates are appropriately accredited and registered in accordance with HCD procedures;
- ✓ cover and facilitate visa, travel, accommodation and other participation-related arrangements; and
- ✓ share relevant preparatory opportunities organized for delegates with lived experience.