



Documentation of the Simulation of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*



Conference B

13 - 17 April 2025

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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Committee Staff

Director	Mariana G. Marañón Laguna
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Agenda

1. Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees
2. Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (In favor - Against - Abstention)
UNHCR/1/1	Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees.	55 in favor, 7 against, 5 abstentions
UNHCR/1/2	Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees.	46 in favor, 16 against, 5 abstentions
UNHCR/1/3	Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees.	41 in favor, 16 against, 7 abstentions
UNHCR/1/4	Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees.	54 in favor, 8 against, 5 abstentions
UNHCR/1/5	Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees.	41 in favor, 12 against, 7 abstentions
UNHCR/2/1	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	50 in favor, 3 against, 8 abstentions
UNHCR/2/2	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	42 in favor, 7 against, 9 abstentions
UNHCR/2/3	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	47 in favor, 8 against, 5 abstentions
UNHCR/2/4	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	46 in favor, 8 against, 7 abstentions
UNHCR/2/5	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	46 in favor, 8 against, 6 abstentions
UNHCR/2/6	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	39 in favor, 16 against, 6 abstentions
UNHCR/2/7	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	35 in favor, 16 against, 8 abstentions
UNHCR/2/8	Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness	43 in favor, 10 against, 8 abstentions

Summary Report

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees
2. Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The session was attended by representatives of 76 Member States and no Observers. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of 2, 1, beginning discussion on the topic of “Preventing and Responding to Gender Based Violence Against Refugees.”

By Tuesday, the Dais received seven working papers dealing with community-led-and-informed education on gender-based violence and human rights for girls, women, boys, and men, reducing stigma against survivors of gender-based violence, expansion of sexual and reproductive healthcare services, ending forced child marriage and child female mutilation, and technological and data infrastructure. Debate followed in the spirit of international cooperation, coalition-building, and inclusion, with delegates eager to resolve these complex issues and advance their Member States’ policies and views on Monday and Tuesday.

On Wednesday, five draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The committee adopted five resolutions following voting procedure, none of which received unanimous support from the body. The resolutions represented the collaborative spirit of the body aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence against refugees. On Wednesday, delegates also began work on the other topic in the agenda, “Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness,” with the body producing eight working papers, all of which were adopted as draft resolutions with no amendments, and with no unanimous support from the body.



Code: UNHCR/1/1

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence against Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Guided by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals) created at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to reduce Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in refugee communities,

Emphasizing the importance of providing support to survivors of GBV,

*Reaffirming the groundwork laid by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) *Policy on the Prevention, Risk Mitigation, and Response to GBV* (2020),*

Noting that, according to the Centre for Refugee Research of the University of New South Wales, only 1 in 10 GBV cases among refugees are reported due to fear, shame, or lack of access to legal aid,

*Recognizing the prior efforts of the UNHCR, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the World Health Organization (WHO) in eliminating GBV through various documents, such as the *International Bill of Rights* (1966) and the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* (1977),*

*Bearing in mind the *Convention on the Status of Refugees* (1951) and the *Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees* (1967), which recognizes that they have the right to housing, work, and education while displaced,*

Stressing the use of digital monitoring systems to prevent GBV and support survivors, as well as recognizing the need for sustainable funding to continue and expand programs,

1. *Trusts* the UNHCR to host a conference of experts, international, and regional leaders from all willing and able Member States, to look into adapting the WHO's *Psychological first aid: Guide for field workers* (2011) toolkit to cover the aid of refugees and survivors of GBV under the UNHCR's protection;
2. *Proposes* all willing and able Member States to further the incorporation of international human rights law concerning minority groups into legal systems of Member States similar to Canada, Estonia, Germany, Tanzania, and Switzerland, among others;
3. *Advocates* for all willing and able Member States to reform discriminatory language in laws to have more inclusive terminology so that any survivors of GBV can receive proper treatment and care, as is following the *International Bill of Rights* (1966);
4. *Urges* all willing and able Member States to implement safe zone centers modeled after the Nigerian-based Sexual Assault Referral Centers to ensure GBV survivors have essential resources, such as medical, psychosocial, and legal support by:
 - a. Inviting collaboration with international organizations and UNHCR programs to create new medical resource solutions that are trauma-informed and care-focused;
 - b. Advocating for the training of protection officers and field workers to recognize signs of GBV, such

as physical signs of abuse, verbal abuse, economic dependency, and isolation, and how to appropriately respond;

5. *Welcomes* the coordination of all willing and able Member States with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as the Red Cross, and health professionals to offer trauma-informed care for refugees currently living within UNHCR-led facilities or as part of UNHCR-led protection programs;
6. *Further recommends* the establishment of community-based support networks that provide accessible psychological assistance to GBV survivors, facilitated by trained professionals and local leaders, by:
 - a. Reiterating the creation of safe spaces within refugee camps or host communities where survivors can seek confidential support;
 - b. Insisting on the recruitment and training of community members as peer counselors and mental health aides;
 - c. Calling upon the UNHCR to support all willing and able Member States in creating in-person training programs to support refugees in adapting to new digital tools such as chatbots;
7. *Strongly encourages* the integration of educational campaigns within refugee communities aimed at raising awareness of GBV through using digital systems, promoting gender equality, and preventing violence through culturally sensitive approaches;
8. *Further invites* all willing and able Member States to create specialized housing for refugees so that survivors don't experience retraumatization when looking for safe housing;
9. *Supports* refugees on a path towards self-employment and entrepreneurship, providing refugees with employment opportunities to help them achieve economic stability and independence, following in the example of ROSE Estonia (Road to Self-Employment for Ukrainian refugees in Estonia), the Cesty Initiative of Czechia, and the Ignite Program of Australia;
10. *Further requests* an implementation of a government-protected digital monitoring system to identify risks early, track abuse patterns in shelters and online spaces, and ensure faster support for survivors who are multilingual to bridge language gaps by:
 - a. Prioritizing that digitally powered health information systems, under human control, for real-time access to patient data and predictive care, be established by all willing and able Member States to protect refugee survivors of GBV;
 - b. Considering the creation of multilingual helpline tools like chatbots that offer vulnerable groups immediate access to health information, legal guidance, and emergency support;
 - c. Endorsing anonymous hotline, website, and physical reporting systems for the refugees who want their identity hidden, similar to Estonia's and Tanzania's Personal Data Protection Acts and Germany's Federal Data Protection Act;
 - d. Ensuring those without access to technology can report their incident and drop it into a secure location;
 - e. Drawing attention to the economic, technological, and social barriers of underdeveloped Member States, calling upon the UNHCR/UN Capital Development Fund Joint programme for Financial Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities to create demand-driven financial

plans;

11. Asks all willing and able Member States to monitor perpetrators of GBV and prevent them from reoffending by the following means, but not limited to:

- a. Offering mandatory courses for the perpetrators to highlight the severe harm and lasting impact that GBV has on survivors;
- b. Informing the perpetrator's employer to help ensure that GBV is prevented within the workplace environment;
- c. Keeping track of the perpetrators via monthly interviews with the perpetrator's colleagues, friends, and family members to assess whether their behavior has improved.



Code: UNHCR/1/2

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence Against Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Reaffirming the importance of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979), which recognizes gender-based violence (GBV) as a form of discrimination and a violation of human rights,

Further reaffirming the commitments under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), stated by General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), titled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, particularly SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 10 (reduce inequalities),

Recognizing United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/153 (2004), “Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandates” and its call to keep on addressing the ongoing refugee crisis, affecting more than 43 million people worldwide unable to live a decent life and access essential services,

Considering the *United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention’s* Article 1, defining a refugee as someone ‘owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the Member State of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that Member State; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the Member State of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it’,

Acknowledging reports by the UNHCR’s Center of Impact, which highlight the importance of financial sustainability across current and future refugee support centers and programs to reduce the number of GBV cases,

Endorsing the UNHCR GBV Prevention and Facilitation Package (2023) and calling attention to the women’s empowerment handbook that is codified within it that discusses measures to limit the spread of GBV cases worldwide,

Noting with deep concern that conflict-related sexual violence rose by 50% from 2023 to 2024 and women and girls accounted for 95% of all cases based on UN Women 2024 *The Gender Snapshot* report,

Aware of the fact that perpetrators of GBV, such as traffickers, smugglers, and other transnational criminals, spread their violence and influence across international borders, especially along irregular migration routes, as 90% of women who fled from Northern Africa to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea were raped due to this region’s increased political instability, war and conflict,

Recognizing the impact that GBV has on refugees all across the globe as well as the importance of survivor-led initiatives, such as mental health, psychosocial support, trauma-informed intervention and support groups,

Recalling the *Strategic Plan 2022–2025* of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which intends to eliminate GBV and commits to actively combating avoidable maternal mortality and its commitments to ensuring universal healthcare and access to family planning,

Recognizing that Member States may prioritize the allocation of limited national resources to their citizens, while still exercising discretion to humanely and equitably address the urgent needs of refugee populations,

Further recalling the UNHCR *Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan* (2025-2026) that lays out a two-year guide for the reintegration of displaced migrants and refugees back to their host Member States,

Reaffirming the importance of a naturalization process for refugees to gain citizenship if their host Member State is able to accommodate them and the refugee's state of origin shows no signs of improvement over a large period, as often refugees do not return to their states of origin due to ongoing conflicts, fear of persecution, or a lack of resources,

Highlighting the crucial role of UNHCR's *Population Registration and Identity Management Ecosystem* (PRIMES) in facilitating secure and efficient identity management for persons of concern and patterns of GBV,

Bearing in mind that, according to official reports from UNHCR, more than 75% of worldwide refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income Member States,

Considering the response of the Spotlight Initiative, which addresses all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and GBV and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 76/304 (2022) on "International cooperation for access to justice, remedies and assistance for survivors of sexual violence," which recognizes all forms of violence against women and girls assuring refugees and internally displaced persons subjected to GBV have access to justice, reparations, legal support and humanitarian aid,

Recalling the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation's *Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation* (2016), which enables Southern-driven partnerships to implement development cooperation programs and projects by exchanging technical and financial support between Southern partners,

Recognizing Article 1 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), which defines a child as 'any person under the age of 18',

Highlighting the negative impact of the practice of child-forced marriage (CFM) in restricting girls from quality education and financial independence, particularly in underserved communities,

Acknowledging that women who experience GBV often face additional barriers to mobility, safety, and social reintegration, which can be mitigated through structured educational support and cross-border collaboration,

Acknowledging that the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in 2020, found that GBV-trained law enforcement in Mexico saw an average of 28.4% improvement in overall effectiveness in handling GBV cases,

Noting the importance of law enforcement staff attending sensitivity training and workshops to enhance their ability to effectively address gender-based violence and human trafficking,

Stressing the link between GBV, economic insecurity, and marginalization in policy-making through the prioritization of education for all GBV-prone refugees such as women and girls,

Acknowledging that access to quality education is paramount in empowering women and girls to break generational cycles of GBV and gain access to job opportunities and economic independence,

1. *Encourages* Member States to align national legislation and policies addressing GBV with the principles and standards outlined in international frameworks to strengthen legal protection and access to justice for survivors, particularly but not limited to:
 - a. CEDAW (1979), often referred to as the "International Bill of Rights for Women," which led Member States to reform laws advancing women's rights, promoted equal access to education, and created ministries on women's affairs, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
 - b. *The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence* (2011), which encouraged parties to develop laws, policies, and support services to end violence against women and domestic violence;
2. *Invites* Member States to uphold General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its related SDGs, stating SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 10 (reduce inequalities) to ensure accessible, equitable, and quality education for all through:
 - a. Creating a training on violence prevention and trauma-informed approaches for professors and mentors to ensure the closing of gaps in school-related environments between marginalized and urban-rural communities;
 - b. Promoting knowledge-sharing platforms for vulnerable populations to increase school enrollment rates;
 - c. Considering uplifting female survivors and those at risk of GBV to non-governmental and other leadership roles regarding the conversation of GBV prevention and response;
3. *Calls upon* willing Member States with lower rates of GBV within their female population to aid Member States with higher rates of GBV willing to receive help by following the *Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation* (2016) model that encourages peer-to-peer learning and technology exchange between South-South Member States, including:
 - a. Briefing relevant officials on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's *Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action* (2018) to enhance their cultural awareness of regional practices;
 - b. Establishing an annual summit inviting educators, advocacy leaders, healthcare officers and law enforcement staff from Member States with low and high rates of GBV to promote inclusive dialogue and the sharing of ideas and solutions for combating this problem;
 - c. Collaborating with local Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and government programs in developing GBV-prevention and GBV-support programs;
4. *Recommends* the improvement of the PRIMES through collaboration with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, which would enhance the registration process by integrating a *Psychological Vulnerability and Wellbeing Screening Tool* aimed at identifying refugees at high risk of trauma-related distress by:
 - a. Embedding basic mental health screening questions into the PRIMES Registration protocol to detect psychological vulnerability;

- b. Training registration officers in psychological first aid;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to prioritize GBV discussion of policies alongside issues of food insecurity while focusing on providing immediate relief and social empowerment to female refugees, since UN Women recognizes the link between food insecurity and vulnerability to conflict-related sexual violence;
6. *Recommends* training female GBV survivors to take part in the host Member State's efforts to help other women in order to ensure survivor-centered care, build trust, and bridge the gap between female refugees and relevant officials by:
- a. Utilizing the existing framework provided by the Global Compact on Refugees aiming to provide a multi-stakeholder and partnership approach to improve the lives of refugees and their host communities;
 - b. Developing mentorship programs that match newly arrived female refugees with members of their own community who have been settled in their host Member State for an extensive period of time, by:
 - i. Fully equipping the women chosen as mentors to deal with the sensible issues the female refugees may face;
 - ii. Ensuring they are informed about existing resources in their host Member States and know where to refer the female refugees depending on their needs;
 - c. Making use of the UNFPA's Women and Girls Safe Spaces Initiative where they can meet with their peers, share their experiences, and receive information;
7. *Further encourages* the expansion of the Assisted Voluntary Return, Reintegration, and Information Programme through the Reintegration and Local Settlement Section of the Division of Operational Support, of the UNHCR, to bolster efforts for returning refugees to their state of origin as a means of protecting the territorial sovereignty and national security of host and transit Member States by:
- a. Including the Transformation and Change Service (TCS) on a joint supervisory board with representatives from host Member States and states of origin to establish guidelines and procedures for the refugee repatriation process;
 - b. Continuing to assess refugees on a case-by-case basis with programs like the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures to determine if they have a reasonable concern about their departure, such as if:
 - i. Their repatriation would pose a significant threat to their health and safety;
 - ii. The duration of their stay, at the discretion of each individual Member State, in their host country would outweigh the benefits of re-starting their lives back in their home Member State;
 - c. Incentivizing refugees by offering grants from host Member States to travel back to their home states and ensuring financial stability upon arrival in their state of origin;
 - d. Providing reintegration assistance by UNHCR to individuals returning to their state of origin through the re-development of employment in post-conflict zones and mental health counseling;

8. *Welcomes* willing and able Member States to grant a pathway of citizenship, while upholding national sovereignty, to refugees who have experienced GBV and have fled to other Member States given that:
 - a. The refugee has resided in the host Member State for an extended period and in that time has been constituted under the internationally recognised definition of a refugee;
 - b. The refugee has been active in boosting the economy of the host Member State;
 - c. The refugee has demonstrated respect for the host state's culture and language and has committed no offense toward the Member State;
 - d. The refugee passes the host Member State's legal checks and is officially registered to be in the Member State;
9. *Further encourages* the implementation of legal frameworks such as the *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework*, adopted during the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016), that provide refugees the ability to be self-sustaining, which in turn allows GBV survivors to leave situations in which GBV is prevalent, including:
 - a. Encouraging host Member States to provide refugees with the opportunity of economic growth via employment and implementation of property succession bills, similar to the *Ugandan Succession Bill of 2021*, in which women and girls have the legal right to inherit land and property, ensuring that widows and daughters cannot be disinherited;
 - b. Calling on Member States to prioritize grassroots efforts to ensure that refugees have access to safe facilities, electricity, and other basic needs;
10. *Recommends* Member States to educate relevant officials about GBV and initial signs of GBV as well as what policies also contribute to the issue in many Member States by:
 - a. Expanding initiatives such as *It's Time: Canada Strategy To Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*, which educates relevant officials on the issue of GBV;
 - b. Supporting and continuing working with fellow Member States to help spread awareness of violence against refugee women;
11. *Recommends* further enhancing the European Union-UN Spotlight Initiative by promoting the implementation of multi-sectoral response hubs and expanding survivor-centered education and awareness efforts through the following actions:
 - a. Inviting regional organizations, such as the African Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to consider adopting this model to strengthen their own GBV prevention and response framework;
 - b. Expanding the reach of multi-sectoral response hubs that provide coordinated legal, medical, and psychosocial services for GBV survivors in displacement setting;
 - c. Encouraging monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness and replicability of these hubs;
 - d. Collaborating with the HER Shield initiative to train local volunteers and community leaders to hold workshops on GBV identification, specifically targeted towards GBV-affected individuals to:

- i. Endorse collaboration with state or non-state actors, specifically NGOs and international organizations (IOs), in providing supportive services in nations with limited access to GBV-support services for refugees;
 - ii. Create safe, multilingual, multicultural formal discussion spaces where survivors can share their stories anonymously or openly;
 - iii. Build partnerships with mental health professionals to ensure that survivors have continued access to psychological support as they participate in such platforms;
 - iv. Promote representation and scenario-based learning to create a deeper, lived-experience understanding of GBV manifestations;
12. *Encouraging* willing Member States to consider adopting educational campaigns that distribute monthly information pamphlets on ways to alleviate mental health-related disorders for survivors of GBV to schools and community health centers in rural areas through:
- a. Using multiple media channels (e.g. radio, social media, advertisement) to discuss GBV survivors' experiences on an international broadcast scale by:
 - i. Curating survivor testimonials and expert panels in both urban and rural contexts to bridge the geographical divide;
 - ii. Live-streaming events on global awareness that give voices to GBV survivors willing to share their stories on the international scene;
 - b. Expanding United Nations humanitarian missions to be more dedicated towards building awareness and educating members of communities on the risks and harms behind GBV;
13. *Recommends* the expansion of UNHCR's efforts to prevent GBV by:
- a. Expanding the UNHCR *Girl Shine* project, a program that focuses on the education of young girls in order to prevent GBV and human trafficking through a curriculum in refugee camps that addresses trust, social and emotional skills, and hygiene;
 - b. Including refugee girls in UNFPA's *Adolescent Girl Initiative*, which works to prevent CFM through increased access to education, reproductive health information, and mentorship opportunities;
 - c. Establishing child protection mechanisms through decentralized frameworks, allowing provincial authorities and private sector actors to actively engage in safeguarding minors from trafficking and exploitation;
14. *Draws attention to* the growing need for Member States to either ratify, or cease being a persistent objector of, Article 1 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which establishes the legal age of marriage to be set at 18 years old or older so that girls have the opportunity to receive quality education and achieve financial independence;
15. *Proposes* multilateral cooperation with United Nations programs such as UNHCR Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Program and NGO projects such as Ford Foundation's *The Future is Hers* initiative and International Rescue Committee to:
- a. Expand separate female and male educational groups that further spread awareness about GBV, as women are at greater risk and educating men separately could lower the rates of GBV;

- b. Expand socially and culturally informed GBV services in order to further educate individuals on initial signs of GBV and build trust within communities;
 - c. Invite local female leaders to the Global Refugee Forum to talk about their experiences;
- 16. *Proposes* multilateral cooperation with United Nations Groups such as the UNHCR MHPSS Programme, UNFPA core funding mobilization, the European-UN Spotlight Initiative, and IOM Camp Coordination and Camp Management and NGOs such as Doctors without Borders to:
 - a. Expand psychosocial support and trauma-informed care for survivors of GBV;
 - b. Allocate resources such as Dignity Kits and rape treatment kits distributed by UNFPA for the training of local professionals and refugee community members to deliver survivor-centered care;
- 17. *Expands* community programs in border regions such as UN Women's Leadership Empowerment Access and Protection implemented in Uganda and HIAS Colombia's Economic Inclusion Program in partnership with Member States that will focus on:
 - a. Empowering refugee women by providing them with the necessary tools for economic growth;
 - b. Reducing their vulnerabilities by creating international programs for Member States to coordinate in helping survivors of GBV, such as:
 - i. Financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, and subsidized loans for refugees planning on remaining in their host Member State to keep them from experiencing poverty;
 - ii. Legal assistance in the form of pro bono work through an international network of immigration, civil rights, and financial lawyers to assist refugees in need;
 - iii. Psychological support for survivors of GBV to treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, and Substance abuse, as well as healthy communication strategies for processing trauma;
- 18. *Supports* the development of the HER Shield initiative (Humanitarian Empowerment & Refugee Protection Against GBV) to set up a legal accessible framework so that every survivor can voice their experience with GBV by providing a free and accessible multilingual database to track GBV cases and offer a platform for survivors of GBV to voice their stories by:
 - a. Offering specialized legal training for local teachers, lawyers, judges, law enforcement personnel, and volunteers about GBV-affected individuals and refugees with the help of grant writing and fundraiser support to ensure the proper handling of GBV cases and preventative measures by creating a mechanism with standardized protocols for the identification and referral of GBV cases by always performing the same process when identifying survivors so they will be able to share information and to protect training border officials and service providers to be more specialized and provide a better service;
 - b. Ensuring ease and success of the database by encouraging collaboration between Member States to maintain accurate information, as well as hiring local youth-led initiators with an interest in technology, to help further the success rate of the program;
- 19. *Highlights* the importance of Member States who are willing and able to contribute funds to GA4 and UNHCR, which work together to appropriate funds for the programming by:

- a. Including a “Dollar Donation” Initiative, which would run indefinitely and urge UNHCR supporters to donate a dollar to the HER Shield initiative;
 - b. Establishing an interest income fund in the name of UNHCR that is dedicated towards UNHCR’s GBV-related initiatives;
 - c. Requesting willing Member States to contribute to United Nations funds to support the HER Shield initiative;
20. *Suggests* Member States and relevant NGOs integrate survivors of GBV into civil society through awareness-based initiatives that pertain to education by facilitating partnerships between policymakers and regional grassroots, so that they can contribute to legislative reforms and provide an accurate lens on national strategies at the grassroots levels;
21. *Emphasizes* the need to train law enforcement personnel on how to deal with matters that arise in incidents of GBV modeled after Argentina’s Micaela Law, which implements GBV training for relevant executive, legislative, and judicial public servants, by:
- a. Ensuring legal representation for survivors of GBV;
 - b. Creating workshops to train law enforcement and border security personnel in sensitivity training on how to engage with survivors of GBV;
 - c. Linking screened cases to professional mental health services through referral dashboards within PRIMES;
22. *Encourages* the creation of international academic bridge programs for women affected by GBV, coordinated through a partnership between UN Women, UNESCO, and higher education institutions in willing Member States, by:
- a. Providing scholarships, visas, housing, and reintegration support for accepted participants, especially in Member States with advanced educational infrastructure;
 - b. Expanding scholarships such as the *Flight Against Domestic Violence Scholarship* and other opportunities extended to young women to promote educational growth;
 - c. Developing trauma-informed services, including counseling and peer mentorship in coordination with NGOs experienced with working with GBV survivors in host Member States;
 - d. Facilitating online or in-person workshops for female teenagers and women who are finishing their school studies on financial and economic independence to:
 - i. Learn about banking systems, opening a personal bank account, and managing their finances;
 - ii. Receive advice on resume building, career readiness, and job opportunity searches;
 - e. Expanding the access to technical and vocational training for women and girl refugees to enhance the transition from education to employment, aligning with UNHCR’s Strategy for Refugee Education 2030;
23. *Recommends* Member States to address access to equitable and comprehensive education for women and girls from an early age, partnering with grassroots and international organizations as well as expanding existing programs by:

- a. Facilitating in-person workshops and lessons in the native language(s) of the young refugees in collaboration with organizations and intergovernmental bodies such as Girl Up, UN Women, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, Malala Fund, Girl Shine, She's The First, and Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) to:
 - i. Enhance academic and interpersonal skills after school;
 - ii. Address specific regional and national needs and gaps in access to education;
 - iii. Support their advancement toward the next grade level;
 - iv. Build well-equipped and capable women who can get professional opportunities; and thrive in their respective futures;
- b. Providing women and girl refugees with more access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and resources through replicating existing programs such as iamtheCODE, the first African-led initiative to extend STEM education to women and girls in marginalized communities, such as in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, and SciGirls, a partnership with higher-education institutions to equip them with the required skills for the workforce.



Code: UNHCR/1/3

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence against Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Referring to the Charter of the United Nations (1945) Article 1 on the solving of international problems of social, cultural, economic and humanitarian matters, and encouraging and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of religion, race, sex, or language,

Observing the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (CRC), which calls for equal protection of human rights for all children, regardless of their nationality or citizenship status,

Guided by United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which highlights the importance of protecting women and girls during conflict and displacement, emphasizing their participation in peace-building,

Acknowledging the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act of 2015 (VAPP 2015), which addresses violence against individuals, specifically gender-based violence, by providing legal support for survivors,

Taking into consideration the UNHCR briefing note (2024) on warning the devastating spikes in risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) for women and girls forced to flee that a lot of GBV that occurs in refugee camps is not reported by the media, the plight of many women and girls is not known to the world,

Concerned that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a form of GBV, is performed unethically and often leads to infection, infertility, and immense psychological and other physical damages,

Referring to the Refugee Women's Rights Ambassador Program using them for raising awareness for Child Forced Marriage (CFM) and FGM,

Guided by the fact that GBV disproportionately affects refugee women and girls and causes significant physical and physiological damage,

Stressing the physical, psychological, and economic consequences of survival sex, and recalling the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (2023) (UNTF) as a means to address and prevent its harmful aftermath,

Further recognizing that the risks of GBV are exacerbated in humanitarian crises and conflicts, which create mass numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Taking into account that FGM remains prevalent due to its status as a cultural practice despite existing regional and international framework that seeks to reduce its rates,

Understanding that CFM is another form of GBV in which girls are forced into non-consensual unions,

Mindful that CFM occurs as consequence of climate crisis and conflict, addressed by United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 on "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since instability correlates to increases in child forced marriage,

Deeply concerned about the increased risk of intimate partner violence that girls subjected to CFM face,

Noting with deep concern that women and girls in refugee camps face extreme vulnerability to GBV,

Contemplating that GBV laws alone are insufficient without enforcement mechanisms and culturally sensitive outreach,

1. *Encourages* Member States to implement culturally-informed practices that honor the transition to womanhood through the following measures:
 - a. Partnering with local leaders, elders, teachers, and men's groups to speak out against GBV and to adopt a norms-based approach in which alternatives are offered to display the transition of girlhood to womanhood, which align with international human rights standards;
 - b. Promoting media campaigns and community storytelling that advertises cultural practices that uplift women in a culturally relevant fashion;
 - c. Expanding access to shelters, psychological services or legal aid for a survivor, especially in rural areas;
2. *Urges* all Member States to provide education on the potential and consequential harm of many traditionally influenced practices such as FGM and CFM, to victims as well as practitioners by implementing the following measures:
 - a. Incorporating pertinent subject material into educational programs and courses for members of all genders;
 - b. Introducing the information into common media outlets by using culturally sensitive language responsive to each Member State's population to increase accessibility;
 - c. Addressing the topic in town meetings regularly held in Member States most vulnerable to the dangers of FGM and CFM, which will reach the local elders of communities and the older generation;
 - d. Establishing mandatory FGM training for those who are part of outreach groups to ensure culturally sensitive and productive communication with populations vulnerable to the practice of FGM, to:
 - i. Propose clinical and ethical training on responding to FGM in medical and nursing schools, with an emphasis on trauma-informed care and reporting protocols;
 - ii. Embed legal response training within police and judicial academies to improve law enforcement and accountability;
 - iii. Support the creation of survivor support teams to provide legal aid, physiological and psychological care;
3. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to protect refugee girls' right to childhood by continuing to uphold SDGs, which address global challenges that interfere with the paths geared towards resilience and sustainability;
4. *Supports* the further promotion of SDG 2 (zero hunger) to eliminate the potential linkage between starvation or marriage, with a specific focus on climate crises, acknowledging that parents are often willing to marry off their daughters if it ensures they do not starve;

5. *Stresses* its readiness to promote SDG 5 (gender equality) to address the need to protect girls' right to childhood, especially those in displacement sites who often face the severe consequences of climate instability and lack of appropriate resources;
6. *Endorses* Member States to create executive & administrative state boards aiming to oversee the enforcement of implemented laws via community awareness programs and establishing enforcement procedures, modeled such as that of *Kenya's FGM Board (AFGMB)* and *End FGM European Network (EFGMEN)*;
7. *Recommends* Member States to accede to the CRC (1989), which acknowledges that all children shall attain essential rights and freedoms, such as protection from violence, without discrimination;
8. *Directing attention* to the *Kampala Convention* (2009), passed by the African Union, that reaffirms the protection of displaced persons, particularly focusing on the protection of refugee women and girls;
9. *Asks* Member States to integrate the VAPP 2015 into their human rights policies, which hold perpetrators of all forms of GBV accountable through legal measures;
10. *Firmly convinced* that the Refugee Women's Rights Ambassador Program will raise awareness and build leadership within refugee communities by:
 - a. Training displaced women as ambassadors to advocate for girls' rights and serve as liaisons between humanitarian staff and survivors;
 - b. Equipping ambassadors with education on legal rights, first aid, and psychological first response;
 - c. Including adolescent girls in youth-led panels to voice their needs and influence solutions;
11. *Requests* the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to further expand the scope of their joint program on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation via community engagement, provision of care to FGM survivors, to other amenable Member States in addition to the 13 Member States where this program has been successfully launched;
12. *Advises* the launch of "Girls not Brides" regional media initiative to advocate the success stories of girls who have escaped CFM;
13. *Suggests* Member States to increase awareness of existing national gender-based violence hotlines respectively through rigorous campaigning, further effectivizing its utilization and encouraging its efficiency and efficacy;
14. *Underlines* the need for Member States to strengthen collaboration with UN Women to expand the *Women Peace and Security (WPS)* Agenda that would implement GBV prevention training sessions in all Military/Conflict zones;
15. *Draws attention* to Member States to enhance the UN Women's *Oasis* program in Jordan to conflict-affected Member States by improving cash-for-work opportunities through the introduction of microfinance opportunities, specifically micro credit via the lending of small amounts of money at low interests to new businesses, introducing capital, facilitating a steady flow of income for GBV victims;
16. *Advocates* UNHCR's collaboration with the World Bank in providing funding to conflict-affected regions through the promotion of peace and development projects such as the Response-Recovery-Resilience for Conflict-Affected Communities in Ethiopia (2022-2026) to improve the quality of GBV response services and provide mental health and psychosocial support;

17. *Calls upon* the facilitation of access to monetary compensation through the UNTF for international survivors and at-risk individuals of Survival Sex with the objective of:
 - a. Enabling forcibly engaged participants in Survival Sex, particularly those compelled to exchange sexual acts for basic necessities within refugee camps, to restore and enhance their economic autonomy;
 - b. Establishing comprehensive counseling programs delivered by qualified and trauma-informed professionals to support the psychological recovery and long-term mental well-being of victims;
 - c. Ensuring the provision of reparative justice through the disbursement of damages to survivors, as well as acknowledging and addressing the harm and violations they have endured;
18. *Trusts* Member States to incorporate reintegration strategies to displaced FGM survivors to exercise social cohesion by encouraging Member States to invest in income-generating programs for women and girls who escaped or survived FGM and CFM to help them reintegrate to society, including:
 - a. Accelerated education programs integrated with psychosocial support mechanisms;
 - b. Vocational training in non-traditional sectors with a focus on safety and skill development;
 - c. Emphasizing the importance of educational initiatives addressing the psychological and health consequences associated with this practice;
 - d. Promoting awareness of bodily autonomy as a fundamental component of human rights;
19. *Believes* in the need for the World Health Organization (WHO) to expand their Global Strategy to Prevent Healthcare Providers from Performing FGM to more Member States in order to prevent medicalization of FGM;
20. *Requests* Member States to implement protective programs regarding underage marriages subjected to the Member States law by:
 - a. Affirming that it is imperative to carry through with national and international organizations in order to create strong legal restriction on the matter;
 - b. Focusing on organizations like UNICEF's STAR Initiative and Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the International Rescue Committee and UNHCR's Mental Health and Psychological support program;
 - c. Implementing France's Exile Route specialized legal aid program to assist victims of GBV in refugee settings as a guide to the development of the protective response;
 - d. Partnering with United Nations agencies such as UNICEF and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and NGOs like Girls Not Brides to share good practice and access technical support;
 - e. Incorporating the Spotlight Initiative in South America as a model for Member States, which advocates for prevention, response and ending impunity, in order to spread awareness on stages of GBV and its repercussions;
21. *Supports* the urgent improvement of conditions in temporary refugee camps through ensuring the safe and sustainable living conditions as a renewed global standard, with supervision by the *Convention on the*

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) and United Nations personnel overseeing the:

- a. Implementation of a reliable electricity supply and specifically lighting in all refugee camps at all times;
- b. Establishment of safe spaces within camps, offering protection, counseling, and essential services for survivors of GBV;
- c. Training for camp staff to ensure they are equipped to prevent and respond to abuse.



Code: UNHCR/1/4

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence against Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Keeping in mind that overpopulated and resource-scarce living communities exacerbate gender-based violence, as highlighted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature,

Reaffirming the importance of mental health and psychosocial support as fundamental components of humanitarian protection, especially in refugee contexts where trauma, displacement, and gender-based violence (GBV) are prevalent,

Concerned by the lack of persistent and exhaustive training on GBV prevention across peace operations, which may lead to gaps in protection and transparency,

Recognizing the success of the already-present Technical and Vocational Education and Training Program (TVET) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) for employment assistance,

Acknowledging that, according to research done by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, refugee women and girls, particularly survivors of gender-based violence and other minorities, often face systemic barriers to healthcare, legal support, education, and reintegration due to a lack of identity and under-resourced systems,

Expressing satisfaction with the success of Colombia's Playhouses program in integrating refugees into host Member States' societies through sports and recreation,

Fully alarmed that, according to World Bank research, 20 percent of displaced women and girls are more likely to be subjected to intimate partner violence,

Bearing in mind that the World Health Organization's *World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants* (2022) asserts that refugees are more vulnerable to experiencing poorer health outcomes,

Acknowledging the stigma surrounding sexual and reproductive education despite its relevance and necessity, according to research by the National Institutes of Health,

Recognizing the need to make education more accessible to both those who have been displaced and are experiencing GBV and those who live in areas where people have been displaced,

Guided by the efficiency and success of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Gender-Based Violence Database in tracking and collecting data on such violence,

Emphasizing the *United Nations Charter* (1945) Article 1 on international cooperation on promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all regardless of their language, religion, race, or sex,

Affirming Article 3 of the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1981) on adopting appropriate measures to ensure the development and advancement of women for guaranteeing the exercise and enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing that existing legal frameworks and mechanisms are often inadequate to address the unique challenges faced by survivors of GBV and Child, Early, and Forced Marriages (CEFM), especially those that hinder their ability to report abuses and seek justice,

Highlighting the interconnectedness of GBV-refugee policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), SDG 16.3 (end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, all forms of violence against children), and SDG 3 (good health and well-being),

Calling attention to the high proficiency of women's shelters worldwide, ensuring access to essential services, such as clean water, electricity, internet, etc., while focusing on restoring women's self-sufficiency and independence,

Gravely concerned by the lack of monetary support, in which, according to the UNHCR budget for 2025, only 3% is dedicated to GBV,

Alarmed that sexual violence has increased by 50% in the past year, according to the UNHCR source *Amid Funding Crunch, UNHCR issues Urgent Call to Protect Women and Girls from Surging Violence* (2025), of which 95% of known cases were verified to be against women and girls,

1. *Encourages* Member States to provide support to other Member States to adopt and extend existing shelters modeled after Namibia's One Stop Centers for those experiencing GBV and dedicated safe spaces in all Member States through providing gender-separated facilities for survivors of GBV that have access to:
 - a. Functioning electricity within the complete shelter area;
 - b. Safe access to food and water for all refugees in need;
 - c. Sufficient and non-expired medical equipment;
 - d. Secure telecom and internet connections;
2. *Proposes* further expansion of the UNHCR's Member State operations in providing both mental and physical medical assistance for women in refugee camps and shelters through:
 - a. Ensuring aid to women in need of care by creating a medical pathway made of staff and volunteers that allows survivors of GBV to be seen for a check-up to identify their healthcare needs via:
 - i. An available list of possible illnesses and diagnoses;
 - ii. Mobile health clinics equipped with GBV referral pathways;
 - iii. Concise information assistance regarding the next steps and treatment plans;
 - iv. Provision of care in collaboration with the WFO and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Worker Rights Consortium and the Foundation for Civic Education and Social Empowerment;
 - b. Creating a hotline specifically for survivors to connect with first responders so they can be provided with the proper assistance and care that they need;

- c. Establishing an inclusive space of work by prioritizing hiring women from diverse backgrounds, including the refugee women community;
 - d. Ensuring 24/7 coverage with appropriate shift rotation so all survivors can receive appropriate care;
- 3. *Calls for* increased psychological aid provided to local GBV survivors as well as those in both refugee camps and shelters through:
 - a. Guaranteeing continuous access to protection while enhancing efforts to recruit volunteers, to promote psychological support, medical assistance, and essential services for all women and girls by:
 - i. Urging collaboration with NGOs and international bodies to secure funding and technical support for the maintenance of these spaces;
 - ii. Working with women from the refugee community to understand specific needs;
 - b. Recommending the establishment of Dignity Units, which would act as refugee-accessible crisis centers in resettlement areas, that would utilize:
 - i. Mobile psychological support teams;
 - ii. Vans staffed with social workers, therapists, and paralegals who would deliver hygiene kits, psychosocial first aid, and legal identity support;
 - iii. Paralegals to perform legal literacy workshops to inform survivors of their rights under CEDAW and their host Member States' laws;
 - iv. National health systems and NGOs to ensure access to trauma-informed care and dignity kits;
- 4. *Recommends* the expansion of Member States' prevention-based education programs for refugees regarding their reproductive health, including comprehensive sexuality and reproductive education by:
 - a. Providing translated and accessible scientific literature related to health risks, disease prevalence, and prevention;
 - b. Informing women of their options when it comes to pregnancy and childbirth;
- 5. *Proposes* the establishment of response-based Reintegration Resource Hubs in refugee-hosting Member States in collaboration with TVET to provide refugee survivors necessary vocational services, including:
 - a. Trauma-informed assessment of the survivors through specialized evaluations;
 - b. Confidential skills and interests assessment with survivors;
 - c. An evaluation of previous work experience and transferable skills;
 - d. An assessment of current psychological readiness for different types of work with considerations made for family responsibilities and childcare needs;
 - e. The provision of camp service opportunities and developing inclusive implementations that specifically support survivors in re-entering the job market while ensuring a safe and non-discriminatory work environment through:

- i. Forming women-led cooperatives in viable specific sectors such as crafts, services, etc., as a paid job;
 - ii. Developing peer support components within business structures;
- 6. *Collaborates* with the ILO on developing and implementing international labor standards related to GBV and women's economic empowerment through:
 - a. Introducing programs and initiatives preventing and responding to GBV in the workplace and promoting a culture of respect and zero tolerance;
 - b. Cooperating on initiatives providing financial services and advice, such as microfinance and impact investing, to support women's economic empowerment;
 - c. Ensuring survivors have access to comprehensive support services addressing barriers to employment, including childcare, legal assistance, and transportation;
- 7. *Invites* Member States to adopt and expand public campaigns and programs that aim to facilitate active engagement in community activities such as:
 - a. Sports and recreation programs such as Colombia's Playhouses program aimed at helping refugees, especially children, to integrate into a host Member State's society;
 - b. Law enforcement and economic empowerment initiatives to reduce exposure to violence and exploitation, such as the Violet Economic program in Ecuador to protect women's boarding barriers, which limit their social and economic rights;
 - c. School programs that incorporate emotional well-being and respectful relationships, for instance, the application of the Classroom Coexistence Program "Let's Be Friends" for Social Skills in Ecuadorian Adolescents, can prevent violence before it starts;
 - d. Local legal aid programs, which are coordinated with shelters and medical services, should provide trauma-informed legal support to ensure survivors are protected throughout the legal process;
 - e. Highlighting Ecuador's Public Defender's Office offers free legal advice and representation to migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, assisting with asylum applications and appeals;
- 8. *Calls upon* Member States to utilize culture-based programs, modeled after Germany's *Welcome Programme* and *Integrate Programme*, to educate refugees on the culture, customs, language, etc., to help best integrate them for life within the host Member State through:
 - a. Working on multilateral initiatives both with states and NGOs to provide and educate about sustainable female reproductive products;
 - b. Providing access to education, which would improve their quality of life through:
 - i. Providing more opportunities and contributing to the Member State's economy;
 - ii. Allowing them to support themselves;
 - c. Striving for long-term solutions for refugees and displaced people experiencing GBV as opposed to short-term refugee camps, seeing as:

- i. Short-term refugee camps lead to tensions between ethnic groups, which leads to increased conflicts;
 - ii. Refugee camps are often left outside of the purview of law enforcement, allowing for more GBV to run rampant;
- 9. *Encourages* the establishment of targeted programs, both globally and within Member States, to aid survivors of GBV to educate vulnerable refugee populations, and to protect children from sexual violence and early forced marriages by:
 - a. Establishing a refugee capacity-building fellowship program to integrate adequate curricula in regional educational institutions through:
 - i. Initiating courses on global and social issues in school curricula across Member States to raise awareness and foster empathy;
 - ii. Encouraging high school and university students to complete a set of volunteering hours as translators or interpreters for refugees, with the possibility of converting these efforts into academic credits;
 - iii. Promoting inclusive education as a tool for fostering comprehensive and open-minded perspectives, which are essential for the successful integration of refugee populations;
 - b. Forming a Global Sex Education Program (GSEP) to be overseen by the UNHCR and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that would have a safe, comprehensible, and inclusive curriculum:
 - i. Including all Member States in the data collection process and translation of the curriculum to guarantee well-rounded and sufficient data material, ensuring a universal understanding and agreement;
 - ii. Highlighting the prevention and response surrounding STDs, Pregnancy, and Menstrual cycles;
 - iii. Including multiple forms of accessibility, including both digital and written material;
 - iv. Implementing targeted protection programs to prevent CEFM amongst refugee populations;
 - v. Raising community awareness through culturally sensitive education campaigns on the harmful effects of CEFM;
- 10. *Supports* the elevation of female refugee voices through the creation of an education initiative, which will be present at refugee camps and shelters aimed at sharing GBV survivors' stories and opening up the conversation among women to de-stigmatize GBV through:
 - a. Partnering with NGOs, such as the Women's Refugee Commission, which advocates for gender equality and the rights of women in refugee camps and shelters;
 - b. Having women share their GBV experiences at camps and shelters encourages refugee women to share their stories as well;

- c. Creating a network among survivor women that encourages story-sharing and elevates the voices of refugee women;

11. *Recommends* the expansion of the United Nations Women GBV database in ways such as but not limited to:

- a. Adding more focus on robust health metrics as available through refugee and resettlement camp staff or authorities;
- b. Creating universal data collection forms regarding demographics, type of violence, injury details, date/time/location, and referrals given;
- c. Building a secure and anonymous digital system that utilizes a database accessible only to authorized health professionals within Member States, as well as recognized organizations such as the International Medical Corps, the Women's Refugee Commission (UNFPA), and Save the Children;
- d. Updating data collection parameters to include all forms of GBV as established by the UNHCR's previous collaboration with the San Remo Institute;
- e. Expanding the reporting mechanisms to shed light on the interconnectedness between CEFM and GBV;

12. *Urges* Member States to strengthen their legal frameworks and mechanisms to allow refugee survivors to report abuses, particularly in resettlement and refugee camps, ensuring accessibility, cultural sensitivity, and survivor-centered approaches through:

- a. Expanding and improving comprehensive mechanisms and legal apparatuses that especially address GBV against refugees, through:
 - i. Establishing clear, accessible, and confidential reporting pathways for refugee survivors of GBV, including designated reporting locations within resettlement and refugee camps;
 - ii. Providing legal aid and support to refugee survivors of GBV, ensuring access to justice;
 - iii. Calling for Member States to adopt the Spotlight Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean for their regions, which aims to eliminate GBV, including child marriage, through policy advocacy and legislative reforms of gender equality across the region;
- b. Establishing regional task forces comprising Member States, INTERPOL, European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinators, and NGOs to conduct joint investigations into GBV cases affecting refugees to:
 - i. Facilitate information sharing and collaborative efforts to dismantle trafficking networks and hold perpetrators accountable;
 - ii. Conduct joint survivor outreach programs to provide support and resources to refugee survivors of GBV;
 - iii. Support the Global Refugee Network to facilitate knowledge sharing, provide access to essential tools and resources, and empower refugees to report cases of GBV;

- iv. Strengthen rights and protections for refugees based on the 2017 and 2018 Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF);
- 13. *Recommends* the joint creation and expansion of training modules under the auspices of UNHCR in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, which would entail:
 - a. Effectively preparing humanitarian workers to recognize, prevent, and respond to GBV cases by:
 - i. Requiring all UNHCR staff and humanitarian aid workers, and strongly encouraging law enforcement and local authorities to attend workshops aimed at preparing them to effectively respond to GBV;
 - ii. Expanding on the currently existing GBV workshops created by UN Women to broaden the scope of areas which they reach;
 - iii. Cooperating with NGOs such as Refugees International, the European Network of Migrant Women, and the Sexual Violence Research Initiatives, all of which are aimed at preventing and responding to GBV;
 - iv. Increasing the amount of in-person local workshops to ensure personal connection and engagement within various communities, which would more effectively ensure proper training in regards to GBV;
 - b. Developing specialized modules that promote:
 - i. Understanding the types, root causes, and global prevalence of GBV;
 - ii. Developing and disseminating culturally sensitive information and resources on GBV prevention and response;
 - iii. Proper approaches to conflict-related sexual violence and its implications on the survivors;
 - iv. Recognizing risk factors and early signs of GBV;
 - v. Increasing cultural adaptation and survivor sensitivity through case studies on misconduct and lessons learned;
- 14. *Encourages* Member States to work toward recognizing and reducing the funding issues of the UNHCR to prioritize GBV response and prevention efforts through:
 - a. Working alongside General Assembly Fourth Committee to provide international protection to refugees within the bounds of the UNHCR mandate, budget, and donations, ensuring that appropriate attention is paid to GBV services financially;
 - b. Inviting Member States, corporations, and organizations to increase donations towards programs such as safe home, psychological care, and medical care;
 - c. Increasing staffing capacity on a regional and local basis to actively encourage funding for the United Nations Development Fund for Women.



Code: UNHCR/1/5

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence against Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Affirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) as the first internationally recognized document to lay the foundation for all basic human rights, including the right to seek asylum and refuge,

Reaffirming the protocols set on the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967) in the context of gender diverse individuals,

Acknowledging UNHCR's Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women (1991), ensuring that national laws criminalize all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV), providing legal remedies for survivors, guaranteeing that law enforcement and judicial bodies are trained to respond efficiently to GBV cases in refugee settings,

Noting Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), that national sovereignty is a core principle of international law and the United Nations and refers to a state's supreme authority over its territory and its people, with the right to govern itself free from external interference, as noted in the UNHCR mandate,

Evaluating the implementation of the many actions outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), involving mobilizing all parties involved in the development process, including academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and grass-roots and women's groups,

Bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and its complimentary Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) (2015), SDG 5, (gender equality) target 2, which entails "Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres",

Recalling SDG 5 (gender equality) target 3 to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation,

Stressing the need for culturally-sensitive consideration of the sexual and reproductive health rights of refugees and protection of refugees' rights, regardless of gender identity,

Acknowledging the United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/304 (2022), which recognizes all forms of violence against girls and assuring that refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) receive justice and support,

Expressing concern regarding current and past survivors of GBV lacking access to resources such as, but not limited to, legal representation, psychosocial therapies, and mental health, as set by the Center for Global Development,

Recognizing the importance of UNHCR's Policy on the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation, and Response to Gender-Based Violence (2020), which emphasizes a survivor-centered approach, legal reform, and empowering affected communities,

Advocating for GBV as a prosecutable war crime to hold perpetrators accountable, ensure justice for survivors, and present practical difficulties in evidence gathering, legal definitions, and ensuring equitable access to justice,

Encouraging legal reforms to eliminate child marriage while keeping in mind cultural traditions, as outlined in UN Women's *Legislating and Enforcing the Minimum Age of Marriage: A Comparative Study of Experiences and Lessons Learned in Ending the Legalization of Child Marriage* (2023),

Taking note that according to Global Gender Gap Report 2024, in 2024, 5% of global refugees are gender diverse with roughly 40% of them facing exclusionary policies in their host states, which points to the unique stigma surrounding gender-diverse refugees who, as a result, struggle to access existing resources for survivors of GBV,

Stressing the importance of gender disaggregated data collection to efforts in identifying at-risk populations, specifically that of migrants and diverse populations,

Recognizing that, according to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), many women remain in abusive relationships due to financial dependency, with 71% to 93% of refugee households relying on a single male breadwinner,

Endorsing higher education opportunities for refugees at risk of or impacted by GBV, utilizing Technical and Vocational Education and Trainings (TVET) across the border, from national education ministries and teacher training institutions to communities and classrooms,

Calling for the expansion of already-existing community-based educational initiatives to refugee camps throughout the UNHCR system, such as These Inspired Girls Enjoy Reading (TIGER) in the Zaatari Refugee camp and Refugee Education Integration Program (REIP) in the Kurdistan region in Iraq,

Viewing with appreciation UNHCR's education programs such as Instant Network Schools (INS), Dafi Scholarships, Educate A Child (EAC), and Accelerated Education (AE) programs, helping 26,300 young refugees in pursuing higher education, realizing their potential and expanding employment opportunities,

Commending the efforts of regional frameworks such as the *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Istanbul Convention* (2011), the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa Maputo Protocol* (2003), and the *ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children* (1993) for their efforts in progressing the women empowerment and justice landscape,

Recognizing the role of national institutions in using innovative technologies such as Denmark's KVINFO in promoting gender equality and education-based approaches to prevent GBV in refugee settings,

Having adopted UNHCR's *Guidelines on International Protection No. 2 "Membership of a particular social group"* (2002), which states, "It follows that sex can properly be within the ambit of the social group category, with women being a clear example of a social subset defined by innate and immutable characteristics, and who are frequently treated differently to men",

Recognizing the need for the collection and sharing of data between Member States based on GBV and violence against gender diverse individuals, as it was done on other subjects regarding refugees data, to act more precisely and harshly against these phenomena, this project could be helped by national information organizations such as KVINFO in Denmark,

Viewing with appreciation the efforts of the refugee-focused NGOs such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and others in expanding education-based initiatives in various Member States,

Reaffirming the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* (2016), which emphasizes the need to take measures combatting and addressing CFM in relation to refugees,

1. *Advises* the integration of the objectives set by the *Yogyakarta Principles* (2006) into UNHCR frameworks and policies by:
 - a. Expanding community-based education initiatives and dialogue-centered workshops in host and refugee communities—drawing on models developed by UNHCR, the IRC, and the HIAS, ACCORD, Women for Afghan Women (WAW) or other NGOs to address stigma and discrimination against gender diverse persons while collaborating with civil society organizations, local educators, and faith-based actors by:
 - i. Facilitating access to microgrants and capacity-building support for such programs through existing United Nations mechanisms, including Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), and eligible bilateral donors;
 - ii. Aligning program content with other established human rights instruments, including the UNHCR's *Need to Know Guidance* (2021) on working with gender diverse persons in forced displacement and the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995), to ensure educational efforts are grounded in inclusion, dignity, and protection;
 - b. Establishing recommendations and guidelines for dealing with gender diverse refugees and asylum seekers by:
 - i. Designing pathways for admission and protection on human rights grounds for persons who have acute persecutory risks or heightened vulnerability profiles, as framed by UNHCR's *Guidelines on International Protection No. 9* (2012);
 - ii. Recommending the establishment of priority VISA processing for the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, and gender diverse people, modeled after the Commonwealth of Australia's Refugee Women at Risk Program;
 - c. Integrating protection modules into existing UNHCR staff, partners, educators, and caseworkers on the values outlined by the *Yogyakarta Principles* (2006), with an emphasis on trauma-informed care;
 - d. Providing access for gender diverse refugees to obtain social security and healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health, through:
 - i. Establishing a collaboration with local gender diverse groups to promote mobile healthcare units that provide services essential for said minorities;
 - ii. Ensuring that refugees are provided with interpretation and translation services while receiving health care treatment;
 - iii. Proposing a basic training guideline for host states' refugee and asylum health care staff, ensuring comprehensive and culturally sensitive processing;
2. *Encourages* international collaborative organizations to address the aftermath of GBV by:
 - a. Expanding Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARC) and Sexual Assault Response Taskforces (SART), which would:
 - i. Provide medical and psychological assistance as well as legal representation, which would aid in helping survivors gain justice and giving them back their dignity and agency;

- ii. Use the International Organization for Victim Assistance as an example of initiatives that should be expanded on globally;
 - b. Suggesting that NGOs and charities expand financial inclusion through micro-loans towards task forces to fund enhanced assistance and support resources, such as enhancing existing GBV task forces to establish more tailored and specific teams in the areas of mental health support, legal aid, and interpreters that suit refugee needs;
3. *Recommends* collaborating with Member States' legal bodies to provide legal and judicial resources such as:
- a. Legal aid clinics offering confidential legal counseling, helping refugees understand and navigate asylum and providing legal representation, modeled by UNHCR collaboration with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA) where clinics have significantly improved access to justice for refugees under temporary and international protection;
 - b. Mobile courts to bring justice services closer to the people in refugee camps, especially in remote areas, modeled after the collaboration of Mozambique Minister of Justice and Constitutional and Religious Affairs, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) developed in the context of the Project Strengthening Access to Justice and Human Rights Protection 2018-2021;
 - c. Judicial Systems with Victim/Survivor Centred Approach (VSCA) that prioritizes listening, avoids re-traumatization and systematically focuses on their safety, rights and well-being, expressed needs and choices;
4. *Encourages* sectors (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Education, Shelter) to provide GBV-sensitive designs such as gender sensitive facilities;
5. *Calls upon* Member States and international organizations to integrate mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) within educational programming in refugee settings, with special attention to girls and survivors of GBV;
6. *Welcomes* Member States to adopt the UNHCR's *Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity* (2019) and the 1951 *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*' 2002 update, *Global Consultations on International Protection*, for "gender-sensitive interpretation" by:
- a. Adopting inclusive asylum policies that give refugees easy access to documentation and basic needs regardless of background; equal and non-discriminatory legal procedures and basic services such as access to healthcare and education;
 - b. Implementing special provisions for women and unaccompanied children and recognising their unique circumstances;
7. *Supports* the reinforcement of legal frameworks to support survivors of GBV in refugee contexts, through a survivor-centered and regionally collaborative approach, through:
- a. Ensuring access to confidential reporting mechanisms within refugee communities;
 - b. Promoting regional cooperation and information-sharing on best practices for survivor-centered protection systems;

8. *Further supports* the implementation of regional survivor resource hubs in refugee camps to ensure the prevention of GBV by:
 - a. Improving international standards for refugee camps that regulate minimum space, occupancy, and sanitation standards for camps;
 - b. Providing multi-functional centers that offer medical, legal, and psychological support with trained staff from the local and refugee communities;
 - c. Strengthening coordination with local GBV organizations to achieve region-specific solutions;
9. *Endorses* developing facilities for a multicultural, multilingual, relatable workforce with legal representation for GBV survivors, to provide a safe platform to ensure they understand their rights, protections, and access to justice by:
 - a. Collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in carrying out interviews with cultural mediators to develop a criminal proceedings code to improve access to justice;
 - b. Collaborating with women refugee-led organizations such as Action Network on Forced Displacement and Avec Elles to support GBV survivors;
10. *Recommends* the design and willing implementation of the Experiential Programs for Language Opportunities and Real Engagement (EXPLORE), a languages initiative that supports refugees struggling with feelings of entrapment and exclusion through the following mechanisms:
 - a. Creating stronger communities through shared learning experiences towards the goal of fluency in the host state's native language;
 - b. Peer-led learning in a way that encourages community collaboration to learn the target language together in a relaxed, inclusive, non-traditional atmosphere;
11. *Advocates* for educational opportunities for GBV survivors by:
 - a. Creating a non-formal education curriculum that helps women and girls understand their legal rights and advocate for themselves in judicial spaces about their GBV cases, under the same format introduced by UN Women and the World Association for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS);
 - b. Implementing formal education and vocational programs for GBV survivors to provide employability, thus allowing their seamless transition back into society;
 - c. Increasing educational accessibility for refugee women and girls, who can not attend physical educational institutions, through online education platforms, as stated by the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995);
 - d. Funding these educational programs that enhance access to vocational development and legal literacy with the help of the United Nations Trust Fund for Women;
12. *Invites* Member States to utilize frameworks similar to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) that:
 - a. Encourages the organization educational and vocational expert workshops;

- b. Produces international and regional standards, principles, approaches, and recommendations for intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, national human rights institutions, and national public authorities for improved response systems and data collection of child and forced marriages;
 - c. Protects women and children at risk of forced marriage by holding responsible parties accountable under the Human Rights Council resolution 41/8 (2019), “Consequences of child, early and forced marriage”, in:
 - i. Sending a clear message of condemnation through Member States’ legislation;
 - ii. Providing legal protection for survivors;
 - iii. Ensuring the availability of redress and an end to impunity;
- 13. *Recommends* the Member States to strengthen education agencies and national security by initiating and establishing remote and mobile services to immediately respond to individuals at risk by:
 - a. Expanding the joint SDG Fund, Project 00140736, to all Member States who wish to implement online educational programs in refugee camps, away from urban centers and remote areas;
 - b. Providing support as a helpline open 24/7, hosted through the UNHCR Help: Information for Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and Stateless People Website;
- 14. *Encourages* Member States to create programs similar to the Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) initiative, fostering accountability by engaging men and boys in facilitated group discussions, workshops, and curriculums that challenge harmful masculine norms;
- 15. *Directs* all refugees at risk of or impacted by GBV to engage in educational opportunities such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training programs, ensuring technological education and empowerment by providing affordable access to meaningful internet connectivity;
- 16. *Supports* the implementation of starter pack courses titled “WomenOvercome” for women refugees to help their settlement and break isolation by:
 - a. Including language learning courses, vocational training, and guidance for getting jobs to become financially independent;
 - b. Making them accessible to all by including courses in community centers, schools, and local refugee camps;
 - c. Offering a safe space for women localized in the same camps to create a strong communal relationship;
- 17. *Further supports* the establishment of a migrant shelter modeled after Costa Rica’s Centro de Atención Temporal para Migrantes (Temporary Attention Center for Migrants or CATEM), where migrant children traveling along transit routes receive specialized support following their abuse and exploitation through:
 - a. Fostering long-term rehabilitation by:
 - i. Providing training to civil servants and social workers to be better equipped with the skills needed;
 - ii. Delivering legal assistance to help children understand their rights to navigate processes;

- iii. Facilitating family reunification services for the best interest of the child;
 - iv. Establishing a follow-up plan to ensure the safety of children after leaving the shelter by having habitual check-ins after leaving shelter to ensure continuous safety;
 - b. Fostering short-term rehabilitation by:
 - i. Providing access to trauma-informed psychological care;
 - ii. Offering emergency medical support and nutritional support;
- 18. *Advocates* for the creation of a shared data collection framework, led by UNHCR, to improve the accuracy and impact of data related to GBV in refugee contexts by:
 - a. Collecting data disaggregated by gender, age, sexuality, and migration status;
 - b. Tracking unreported cases of GBV;
 - c. Including cases of early and forced marriage;
 - d. Utilizing innovative technologies for data collection and analysis;
 - e. Drawing upon national best practices such as Denmark's KVINFO and adapting these approaches to refugee settings to support educational and awareness-raising initiatives;
 - f. Ensuring that all Member States participating in the data collection are allowed to choose their own methodology with all data to be verified by the United Nations;
- 19. *Encourages* Member States to develop a gender disaggregated data collection task force to efficiently identify at-risk individuals;
- 20. *Calls upon* the creation of an educational database to compile data on the legal protections offered to refugees within their borders to:
 - a. Assess Member States' current legal protections for refugees to find areas for improvement based on data from voluntary Member States and current international frameworks such as the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics* (2018);
 - b. Share data on legal protections with refugees to ensure their knowledge of rights they hold both nationally and internationally, while providing them with the necessary Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training to access shared data;
 - c. Help refugees access these rights and services both before and after incidents of GBV.



Code: UNHCR/2/1

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Expressing continued support for the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) and the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961),

Emphasizing the devastating effects of statelessness on every individual targeted border controls starting in countries with high human trafficking rates, as highlighted by the Global Organized Crime Index to eventually continue on to eradicate all human trafficking need to be included,

Affirming the importance of maternity protection camps in providing essential services to displaced women in refugee-hosting regions, including reproductive health care to prevent statelessness among newborns and promote their access to fundamental rights,

Recognizing the dangers posed by statelessness, especially in regards to human trafficking,

Reaffirming the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) commitment to the *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0* (2024),

Viewing with appreciation the UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign (2014), established with the goal of promoting awareness and global action in the fight to end statelessness,

Acknowledging that lack of legal status and nationality makes individuals vulnerable to exploitation, contributing to the issue of 49.6 million people being victims of modern day slavery,

Deeply concerned by the occurrence of the lack of documentation for children of migrants,

Also bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 52/25 (2023), which states that individuals, especially children, maintain the right to attain nationality to ensure statelessness does not begin at birth,

Recognizing the vital role of international cooperation and solidarity in strengthening national civil registration systems,

1. *Suggests* Member States above the scale of 5.00 on the Global Organized Crime Index to connect with the advisory board of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT) to confront human trafficking, recognizing it to be one of the main drivers of statelessness, and to support the personnel, infrastructure and bureaucracy needed to attain this goal:
 - a. Advisory assistance should be provided by and done in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global initiative against transnational organized crime (GI-TOC);
 - b. Collaborating with national border control agencies is necessary to mitigate the impacts of human/sex trafficking and monitor the impacts of statelessness in the context of data collection:
 - i. In a joint effort to establish and improve border control programs with UNODC Border Control Training Program with national border agencies;

- ii. In cooperation with the Global Alliance to End Statelessness to adequately apply best practice in data collection;
2. *Recommends* the establishment of specialized maternity protection camps in refugee-hosting Member States for displaced women from war-affected or vulnerable regions, with the aim of preventing statelessness in newborns by:
 - a. Ensuring that births are registered at the national level through collaboration with civil registration authorities and United Nations agencies;
 - b. Providing access to safe childbirth services, postnatal care and mental health support, particularly for survivors of gender-based violence;
 - c. Deploying legal aid teams to assist mothers in obtaining identification and citizenship documentation for themselves and their children;
 - d. Partnering with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to deliver maternity kits, nutrition and maternal health education to expecting mothers;
 - e. Establishing mobile units equipped to provide civil registration services, ensuring timely birth registration to prevent statelessness;
 - f. Deploying mobile health clinics offering maternal and child healthcare;
3. *Calls for* the establishment of a Regional Stateless Observatory under the Economic and Social Council's regional commissions to assist in the achievement of the commitments made by Member States within the *Chile Plan of Action* (2024-2034) in enhancing data collection methodology through independent research to adequately estimate the stateless population;
4. *Urges* Member States to promote Global Action 2 of the *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness* (ending childhood statelessness) to safeguard children's ability to attain nationality at birth, so no child is born into statelessness by implementing the following action items:
 - a. Taking steps to ascertain children's nationality when it is uncertain if children have acquired nationality;
 - b. Including foundlings in nationality laws to ensure that children of unknown parentage are able to maintain their right to nationality;
 - c. Improving civil registration systems to ensure that stateless children can be acknowledged, and ensuring that these steps are taken in both urban and rural areas to ensure accessibility for all;
5. *Encourages* Member States to improve accessibility to work permits for stateless individuals in order to prevent labor exploitation and ensure safe working conditions, highlighting Hungary's humanitarian residence permit as a successful pathway to employment for stateless people;
6. *Advocates* for the expansion of UNHCR's Legal Assistance Initiative through dedicating specific programs towards stateless persons in facilitating legal procedures and ensuring that their basic rights are met;
7. *Encourages* Member States to accede to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) (CRC), which respects the right to nationality by children;
8. *Further proclaiming* international cooperation to ease the uneven burden refugees and statelessness place on LDCs, outpacing their host countries' capacity to provide support for recovery from humanitarian

disasters, with drastic strain being put on food, water, healthcare, and other critical resources for the entire region;

9. *Urging* Member States, in collaboration with international partners such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to improve access to isolated rural communities hosting refugee populations;
10. *Expresses its hope* for voluntary repatriation programs aimed towards stateless individuals in an effort to aid them in allowing their right to return to their country of origin by:
 - a. Referencing Germany's Reintegration and Emigration Programme for Asylum-Seekers in Germany and Government Assisted Repatriation Programme (REAG/GARP), which lends aid to displaced persons that want to return to their country of origin but are not able to by their own financial means;
 - b. Sponsoring "go-and-see" visits to their country of origin.



Code: UNHCR/2/2

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) definition of statelessness as someone who is "not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law" and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961) mission to prevent statelessness and reduce it over time,

Stressing the importance of tracking an accurate number of stateless people and the need to recognize the condition of statelessness within willing and able Member States,

Reaffirming the accessibility and necessity of biometric systems and registration apps, such as the Civil Registration System (eCRVs), to bridge the gap between registered medical births and undocumented home births,

Viewing with appreciation the use of digital ID systems within regions, such as the European Union's eID program, to allow citizens to document and verify their identifying information to access services in other Member States,

Recognizing the efficiency of mobile units in registering stateless individuals, looking at their usage in Burkina Faso, which has allowed 500,000 births to have been successfully registered, according to UNHCR,

Reaffirms the importance of education as a fundamental right for all individuals, particularly stateless individuals, whose lack of legal recognition and access to education often limits their opportunities and freedom,

Recalling the fundamental rights of every individual to nationality as instructed by the International Human Rights instrument,

Deeply disturbed by the number of children born stateless, as well as their mothers who cannot pass on the nationality to said children due to gaps and biases in nationality law,

1. *Urges* all willing and able Member States to amend nationality laws, ensuring no child is born stateless by having them assume the nationality of the Member State they were born in, and/or allowing mothers to pass on the nationality to their children;
2. *Recommends* the implementation and expansion of regional biometric registration systems, instituted by Mozambique and Burkina Faso, such as eCRVS, a mobile app that allows for registration online:
 - a. Implementing technology-enabled solutions that function in low-connectivity environments, including biometric registration capabilities, offline-capable digital documentation systems, and solar-powered equipment;
 - b. Establishing interoperable database systems that securely connect civil registration with national ID systems while maintaining appropriate data protection safeguards;

- c. Utilizing technology that encourages regional databases to safeguard data and support the ongoing research and prevention of birth registration as a fundamental step to limiting statelessness risk;
- 3. *Encourages* all willing and able Member States to develop and keep expanding mobile legal registration units, based on Burkina Faso's and Mozambique's model, for remote areas to offer nationality verification services and documentation assistance through:
 - a. Strengthening existing mobile legal units by:
 - i. Increasing the number of mobile legal clinics with additional funding through expanded partnerships with donor Member States;
 - ii. Creating dedicated teams focusing on particularly vulnerable groups (children born refugees, ethnic minorities, border communities);
 - iii. Increasing registration deadlines, making them more accessible and mobilizing registration units near maternity offices;
 - b. Simplifying the process of registration of undocumented individuals in remote areas by:
 - i. Training and employing local community members as registration agents to build trust, overcome language barriers, and ensure cultural sensitivity;
 - ii. Coordinating with traditional birth attendants and community health workers to identify and register births occurring outside formal health facilities;
 - iii. Creating simplified procedures for late registration with alternative forms of evidence accepted for those lacking standard documentation;
 - iv. Developing cross-border registration protocols in collaboration with neighboring Member States to address statelessness risks in border communities;
 - c. Ensuring sustainability and effectiveness through:
 - i. Establishing regular monitoring mechanisms to track registration coverage, identify gaps, and measure impact;
 - ii. Creating knowledge-sharing platforms between Member States implementing mobile registration initiatives;
 - iii. Integrating registration services with other essential government services, including healthcare, education, and social protection;
 - iv. Building the capacity of local civil registry officials through comprehensive training programs and mentorship;
 - v. Conducting regular community consultations to identify and address emerging barriers to registration;
 - vi. Opening of new civil registration offices (particularly for rural populations);

4. *Calls upon* all willing and able Member States to create legal pathways to naturalization for long-term stateless residents, particularly those born and raised within a state but left unrecognized due to law gaps or complex bureaucratic processes;
5. *Reaffirms* the support of global campaigns such as UNHCR's #IBelong to eradicate statelessness by 2030, and encourages Member States' participation in these international efforts;
6. *Calls upon* all willing and able Member States and international organizations to integrate education into humanitarian responses for stateless individuals, ensuring that educational programming is inclusive and empowers stateless individuals by:
 - a. Inviting further research and data collection on the intersection of statelessness and education;
 - b. Focusing on how access to education and vocational training impacts the liberty and socio-political inclusion of stateless individuals, especially in regions with a large stateless population;
7. *Strongly encourages* that all willing and able Member States lend their support to legal documents and initiatives, including but not limited to the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954), the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961), the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in October (2024), and *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0* (2024);
8. *Expresses its hope* for all willing and able Member States to work with participating humanitarian organizations to implement tolerant policies;
9. *Suggests* that all willing and able Member States undertake a comprehensive review of their past and present nationality law, policies, and administrative practice, identify and amend or repeal any provisions that have led to the stripping of individuals from their nationalities by:
 - a. Ensuring full compliance with international human rights standards and preventing future occurrences of such exclusionary practices;
 - b. Ensuring such pathways are not unduly burdensome and take into account their prolonged residency and integration;
10. *Encourages* all willing and able Member States to establish clear, accessible, and effective legal pathways to naturalization through:
 - a. Designating long-term stateless residents with particular consideration for those born and raised within their territory but left unrecognized due to gaps in the law or complex bureaucratic process;
 - b. Amending legal status, which will provide individuals who have lost their nationality, and help them with reintegration to their country of origin, mirroring Slovenia's ZUSDDD Act (1999), which regulates displaced individuals legal status;
 - c. Initiating a resolute avenue towards gaining citizenship, either in the host Member State or others, creating online access to ensure equity for all applicants, regardless of prior nationality;
11. *Recommends* providing identity documents for stateless persons to contribute to the economy while also sustaining their livelihood through:

- a. Digital applications that are available to everyone, with quick delivery in the form of e-Identity or physical; Identity documents that allow for stateless persons to pay bills, sign contracts, and access their health information.



Code: UNHCR/2/3

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing the definition of “statelessness”, according to the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) (Statelessness Convention) as “a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law”,

Further understanding that statelessness is a critical issue primarily caused by various forms of discrimination, including factors such as state dissolution, biased nationality laws, legal challenges, and a lack of documentation tying these stateless persons to any given nationality,

Noting that many stateless groups exist on the margins of society and are often classified as underserved communities, and that it is important for Member States to initiate dialogue and cooperation with these groups,

Recognizing that many stateless persons lack legal representation, which limits their ability to navigate complicated legal nationalization procedures, procure translated materials for relevant documentation, and defend themselves in judicial proceedings,

Highlighting the role that sports diplomacy plays in establishing community identity, improving physical health and fitness, and supporting mental health, particularly amongst young persons,

Noting that 24 Member States do not allow mothers to confer citizenship to their children, which may lead to statelessness in cases of abuse, paternal absenteeism, and divorce,

Recognizing the importance of reliable access to identifying citizenship or residency documentation for refugees, particularly those who lack internet access or live in conflict zones,

Remembering the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) and the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961), which aim to protect the rights of stateless persons and prevent future cases of statelessness,

Celebrating the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All (2019) in accordance with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its complimentary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 (good health and well-being) (2015), which strengthened collaboration and coordination between international agencies, reducing burdens on Member States,

Noting that less than 1% of stateless persons were able to obtain nationality in 2023 according to the UNHCR *Global Report* (2023),

Alarmed with the lack of national census and civil registry databases for refugees which, according to the UNHCR #IBelong Campaign (2014), where they exist have proved efficient in providing an overview of obstacles to and potential solutions for adequately addressing statelessness,

Fully alarmed that, even though children make up 45% of stateless persons, only 1% of UNHCR child protection operations focus on stateless children, according to UNHCR’s *Protecting Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Children Report* (2022),

Recognizing that statelessness continues to affect over 4.4 million persons globally, according to UNHCR depriving them of access to education, healthcare, employment and legal protection,

Deeply conscious of the fact that the process to attain the 'stateless' status can take years, depending on which Member State the person is applying in,

Deeply concerned by the impact of ongoing armed conflicts, forced displacement, and discriminatory nationality laws, which continue to contribute the growing number of stateless persons across all regions,

Emphasizing that every child born abroad should have access to the nationality of their parents from birth in order to ensure their integration into society,

Asserting that everyone has the right to a nationality as asserted in the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Recognizing that many stateless individuals and communities are often forced to live within isolated, less developed areas with limited infrastructure,

Recognizing the significance of utilizing technological tools recommended by the International Recommendation on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS),

Affirming United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 20/5 (2012) and the importance of achieving SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) stated by the General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) on "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Concerned that marginalized ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities constitute over 75% of the global stateless population according to UNHCR's *Discrimination in Nationality Laws and Statelessness* (2021),

Noting the UNESCO *International Charter of Physical Education, Activity, and Sport* (2015), which recognizes the right of all persons including stateless to participate in endeavors beneficial to their social and psychological health such as sports initiatives,

Recognizing UNICEF and Save the Children's joint Team Up program, which currently provides refugee children aged 6 to 18 with sport activities that focus on specific goal related themes such as dealing with anger, stress, and interaction with others to provide children with emotional support and stability,

Acknowledging all the work done in the conferences of the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) and the Conference Office française de protection des réfugiés et apatrides (OFPRA) to help uplift the voices of stateless individuals,

Recognizing the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Praesidium Project and NGOs such as Children of the Forest, which organize humanitarian aid and supportive services for additionally vulnerable stateless persons like children and racial, ethnic, and linguistic minorities in order to reach more stateless persons in need of these resources,

1. *Recommends* the expansion of UNICEF's Mobile Vital Record System working in seven Member States to digitize and simplify birth registration in rural and conflict-affected areas so that Member States lacking instant access to birth certification procedures can update their processes, which can operate without internet access and uploads documentation whenever service becomes available;
2. *Encourages* Member States to help meet the needs of their stateless population in obtaining identity by creating programs modeled after Chile's Legal Clinic on Migrants at University Diego Portales, which

provides free legal assistance to stateless persons in matters of criminal justice, civil rights, and document acquisition;

3. *Advocates* for the expansion of UNHCR's Legal Assistance Initiative through dedicating specific programs towards stateless persons in facilitating legal procedures and ensuring that their basic rights are met;
4. *Urges* cooperation with the Global Alliance to End Statelessness (GAES) for assistance in the elimination of statelessness through:
 - a. Providing legal support for stateless persons;
 - b. Improving and assisting in data collection on stateless populations;
 - c. Sharing best practices through the use of UNHCR's legal bureaus;
5. *Encourages* Member States to incorporate and uphold the principles of the *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) and the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961) within their national legislation and policy frameworks by eliminating gender-discriminatory provisions in nationality laws that prevent women from conferring nationality on their children;
6. *Recommends* removing gender discrimination from nationality laws, with the aim of eliminating legal provisions that contribute to statelessness by:
 - a. Granting equal privileges to both genders in the naturalization process;
 - b. Opening the door to reforming nationality laws that have historically excluded mothers from passing on citizenship to their children;
 - c. Recommending collaboration with various NGOs, such as the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, or Member States that successfully eliminated those laws such as Liberia, Guinea, and Senegal to oversee and mediate between government officials and stateless individuals;
7. *Encourages* Member States to establish and strengthen programs such as Statelessness Determination Procedures in accordance with international standards;
8. *Recommends* the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAP) to eradicate statelessness, which should include:
 - a. Clear, measurable, and time-bound targets;
 - b. Effective data collection mechanisms through the establishment of centralized civil registration systems, which maintain important vital statistics for populations in an accessible and organized location;
 - c. Annual reports to UNHCR on progress towards elimination of statelessness within NAP jurisdictions;
9. *Further encourages* the cooperation with international sports organizations to support the integration and empowerment of stateless and displaced youth in such ways but not limited to:
 - a. Creating inclusive programs in partnership with local clubs, NGOs, and community-based organizations to provide free or low-cost sports programs for stateless and displaced youth, similar to *SportandDev*, which improves societal cohesion and health outcomes;

- b. Building safe and inclusive sports facilities with the support of local authorities and donors;
 - c. Ensuring access to international sporting competitions by:
 - i. Issuing stateless travel documents, in accordance with the *Convention Relating the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954), to individuals without nationality who have been officially recognized through procedure such as SDP;
 - ii. Cooperating with relevant international organizations, such as IOC and UNHCR, to grant temporary or humanitarian visas to stateless individuals invited to participate in cultural or athletic events abroad;
 - d. Expanding UNICEF and Save the Children's joint Team Up program to include stateless children;
10. *Supports* the expansion of the current UNHCR-International Olympic Committee partnership to include an athletic team for stateless individuals as a "state" by:
- a. Recognizing the possible awareness brought to the issue of statelessness through international sports diplomacy initiatives;
 - b. Facilitating legal aid for stateless persons in obtaining the required travel documents;
11. *Recommends* inviting NGOs such as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) to the Global Refugee Forum in order to elevate the voices of stateless individuals, share best practices, and make recommendations on addressing the physical and economic needs of stateless persons;
12. *Recommends* the creation of Economic Inclusion Zones (EIZs) in regions with high populations of stateless individuals, to promote economic development and provide pathways to legal identity and through employment and civic participation by:
- a. Partnering with NGOs, international organizations, and private investors, such as the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative, to create employment opportunities, provide vocational training, and ensure access to basic services within EIZs, thereby fostering the pathway toward legal identity and potential citizenship;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to uplift voices of stateless persons to promote advocacy and encourage civic participation through initiatives such as the World Convention on Statelessness and the OFPRA Conference;
13. *Calls for* the establishment of a Regional Stateless Observatory under the UNHCR's regional commissions to assist in the achievement of the commitments made by Member States within the *Chile Plan of Action* (2024-2034) in enhancing data collection methodology through independent research to effectively estimate the stateless population;
14. *Encourages* all states to take necessary action according to the policy brief of the UNHCR #iBelong Campaign launched in 2014, stating 10 key global actions and recommendations to end statelessness such as:
- a. Enhancing birth registration mechanisms to prevent statelessness amongst children by making birth registration more accessible and undertaken on a non-discriminatory basis for those who need it;
 - b. Facilitating stateless refugees integration and naturalization by:

- i. Partnering with NGOs such as GAES, the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), and HIAS, who can provide legal aid and identify gaps in policy and legislation;
- ii. Developing educational initiatives among schools to incorporate stateless persons into societies through being inducted into the language and culture;

15. *Urges* Member States to foster multilateral collaboration under the GAES by:

- a. Recognizing the efficacy of bolstering regional networks of grassroots organizations in legal reform, such as the African Union Assembly of States and the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Civil Registry, Identity, and Vital Statistics;
- b. Promoting collaboration between state actors and civil societies to develop comprehensive aid for stateless persons;
- c. Encouraging Member States to report data on stateless populations, as knowledge sharing is crucial to an effective response and prevention;

16. *Supports* the expansion of the preexisting UNHCR database, the Refugee Population Statistics Database, to streamline efforts for registering number of stateless persons, accessibility, and providing accurate and up-to-date information regarding where stateless persons can claim the status quickly by creating an app, managed by UNHCR, that can be downloaded on an individual's computer or mobile phone, that includes the following:

- a. A map of where stateless persons can gain statelessness status and how long the process will take;
- b. An online application accessible via the app where stateless persons can apply for status from anywhere in the world and keep track of the progress of their claim via their profile;
- c. A registration of current stateless persons seeking refuge or citizenship elsewhere;
- d. A list of legal services and lawyers the person can obtain in their current location or their desired Member State for citizenship;
- e. A collective system in which all app functions are available in a variety of different languages;

17. *Recommends* Member States to consider modeling programs after the UNHCR Urban Refugee and Statelessness Initiative, which improves living conditions for stateless persons in cities and informal settlements through the creation of community centers that provide food support, sanitation services, and other vital resources;

18. *Encourages* Member States to establish a comprehensive coordination mechanism aimed at harmonizing policies, sharing best practices, and promoting joint initiatives for the inclusion and documentation of migrants regionally, such as the Brazil Plan of Action (2014-2024).



Code: UNHCR/2/4

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Keeping in mind UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years (2014) aligning with actions 2, 3, 4, and 7 of UNHCR's *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness* (2014-2024) and the need for a successor initiative to further strengthen international cooperation,

Emphasizing that gender discrimination in nationality laws disproportionately affects women and children, increasing the risk of statelessness, and eliminating such legal barriers aligns with SDG 5 (gender equality), by ensuring women have equal rights to pass nationality to their children,

Noting with concern that, per UNHCR Statelessness Around the World report, as of 2022, one third of the stateless population are children who lack access to education due to insufficient documentation or proof of nationality, leading to a cycle of never ending marginalization and poverty,

Recognizing that formal identification and tracking is the first step in beginning to address statelessness and that any and all solutions that follow should reflect that as a first step,

Fully believing in the capabilities of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness (2024) developed by UNHCR,

Noting that over 70,000 children are born stateless annually, trapping generations in legal invisibility, according to the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion,

Applauding the historically significant "Zero Statelessness" achievement made by the Kyrgyz Republic in 2019,

Expressing appreciation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishment of the ECOWAS Protocol A/P 1/5/79 (1979),

Noting with deep concern that more than 99% of stateless people are unable to obtain citizenship, according to the *Global Report 2023* by UNHCR,

Bearing in mind that over 30% of stateless people in some regions live in informal settlements without adequate housing and economic opportunities according to UN-Habitat's *Housing, Slums, and Informal Settlements* (2024), resulting in the loss of economic rights to the workforce at time of employment,

Reminding Member States about *Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) (CRC), which emphasizes the international law about "the rights every child to a nationality and to have their birth registered immediately",

Expressing concern about UNHCR's *Stateless Report* (2015), highlighting the insurmountable barriers to education and stifling job prospects that stateless youth and children face,

Acknowledging that statelessness results in women and children lacking accessibility to many aspects of sustainable life such as education, legal identity, health-care, and housing,

Commending the UNHCR-IOC long-standing partnership to leverage the power of sports and how it can foster the inclusivity and empowerment of refugees and displaced persons,

Recognizing that past and present exclusionary policies enacted by Member States have unjustly stripped individuals of their nationality, creating and perpetuating statelessness,

Deeply concerned by the fact that children born in rural regions or in conflict zones are more at risk to have their birth registration delayed or to not have been registered at all and are hence more exposed to statelessness,

1. *Recommends* the expansion of UNHCR-IOC Partnership to consider the role of stateless individuals in sports and athleticism by including specific provisions on their inclusion in relevant frameworks and procedures;
2. *Calls upon* all Member States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) and the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961) to ensure a comprehensive legal framework for the protection and reduction of statelessness;
3. *Encourages* Member States to follow the model set by the Kyrgyz Republic, which implemented a successful national Stateless Determination Procedure (SDP) that:
 - a. Ensures that identified stateless people do not remain invisible to the legal system;
 - b. Offers pathways to citizenship once stateless persons are officially recognized by the government;
 - c. Enables them to have access to basic rights such as the healthcare and education system as well as employment;
4. *Invites* Member States with high rates of stateless persons to collaborate with legally-connected members of the Global Alliance Task Force such as:
 - a. The Haki Centre Organization (HCO), which works to promote social justice through avenues such as legal empowerment focused on nationality rights;
 - b. Melbourne Law School's Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness (PMCS), a producer of expert research on statelessness, which can be used to make informed policy decisions in favor of stateless people;
5. *Calls upon* enhancing protections for stateless refugees under the Global Compact on Refugees (2018) through:
 - a. Creation of emergency nationality restoration programmes for those at risk of protracted statelessness;
 - b. Implementation of complementary citizenship and residency pathways, as recommended by the Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways (2019), with naturalization and legal recognition programmes based on:
 - i. Humanitarian visas and admission programmes;
 - ii. Community sponsorships;
 - iii. Family reunification;
 - iv. Education pathways;

6. *Underscores* that sea level rise will result in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) disappearing, precipitating the displacement of millions of people stateless due to climate change, and should be addressed by:
 - a. Recommending provisional international responsibility from Member States to set up solutions and naturalization processes for these victims;
 - b. Collaborative support among all nations for “bottom up” relocation involving youth and indigenous voices;
7. *Supports* the expansion of UNHCR’s Legal Assistance initiatives through dedicating certain programs tailored to stateless persons through:
 - a. Facilitating statehood procedures and rights;
 - b. Ensuring basic rights and services are met;
8. *Advocates* for equitable access to educational resources and job prospects to stateless children and youth by:
 - a. Enrolling Out-Of-School children (OOSC) in primary education, and supporting their retention once enrolled as modeled by the multi-year programme, Educating A Child by UNHCR (2012);
 - b. Allowing children and youth admission to final exams and providing them with graduation certificates for higher education opportunities and better job prospects;
 - c. Making education more affordable and providing eligibility for scholarships and student loans;
 - d. Supporting a range of education programmes, designed in close consultation with stateless adolescents and youth, including:
 - i. Accelerated Education (AE) programs to promote access to certified education for children and adolescents who have missed out on substantial amounts of schools;
 - ii. Relevant technical and vocational training that allow for easy pathways to economic activities and integration in society;
 - iii. Improved quality of education through digital technology and providing additional curriculum relevant around digital literacy;
 - iv. Basic literacy and life skills courses;
 - e. Reducing gender discrimination in nationality laws that impedes a child’s access to education;
9. *Urges* Member States to model after UNDP’s Youth Co:Lab, which empowers stateless youth through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship initiatives by providing training;
10. *Advises* Member States to adopt *The National Action Plan For Eradication of Statelessness* (2020) (NAP) to ensure that no child is born stateless by removing deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds;
11. *Emphasizes* Article 7 of the CRC (1989) to ensure that children born to stateless parents be registered immediately after birth;

12. *Recommends* expanding the use of the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) *Mobile Vital Record System* developed in Uganda to improve access to central governments' birth registration systems by:
 - a. Facilitating access in rural regions and small villages through a centralized online portal that can be updated by the community itself;
 - b. Having a readily-available portal to use during natural disasters or times of conflict when normal registration procedures are not accessible;
13. *Encourages* Member States to actively engage with and contribute to the *Global Alliance to End Statelessness and Global Action Plan 2.0* (2024) by:
 - a. Implementing its recommendations and working collaboratively with international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to achieve such objectives;
 - b. Reaffirming support for global campaigns such as UNHCR's #IBelong, ensuring full compliance with international human rights standards and preventing future exclusionary practices that end in an increase of stateless individuals;
14. *Calls for* the cooperation of fellow Member States to collaborate on a universal birth registry by expanding on the central ideas of the ECOWAS citizenship with the goal of establishing legal identification for stateless persons allowing them the ability to be granted eventual naturalization;
15. *Encourages* Member States to grant citizenship to children who are born in the state where they would otherwise be stateless, while acknowledging that some national laws may recognize an earlier age of majority, but that the default age is 18 years old according to the United Nations:
 - a. Children who are born in the state, regardless of the status of their parents, will be granted the opportunity for state citizenship;
 - b. Children below the age of 18, as stated by the United Nations' *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), have the right to nationality, and those who are not born in the state should have the opportunity to be granted state citizenship.



Code: UNHCR/2/5

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Affirming that 75% of stateless people become stateless due to discriminatory practices by their former host country, according to the UNHCR,

Recognizing that proper identification, such as birth certificates, is essential in preventing cases of statelessness,

Noting with deep concern that registration rates are low in many low to medium-income Member States,

Recalling the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), Article 7, that children are born with certain inalienable rights such as the right to a name, a nationality, and registration immediately after birth,

Observing that the use of decentralized registration modes, such as apps like Mozambique's eCRVS, has promoted higher birth registration rates,

Deeply concerned that conflict exacerbates the creation and prolonging of stateless people,

Taking note of the #IBelong Campaign and the reasons why it fell short,

Noting with satisfaction the success that the Lusophone Center of Excellence has had in training judges and lawyers in Mozambique and other states to best navigate the legal complexities that often accompany statelessness,

Alarmed that over 164 million children around the world do not have a birth certificate, according to UNICEF,

Believing that state-official lists of ethnic groups can be potentially harmful, as this creates attitudes of division,

1. *Urges* Member States to expand birth registration systems by:
 - a. Building registration offices near maternity hospitals;
 - b. Using decentralized registration methods, such as Mozambique's eCRVS app, which allows for registration from home;
 - c. Informing the public about the importance of birth registration;
 - d. Allowing a grace period of at least 120 days to acquire a free birth certificate;
2. *Recommends* Member States to put an end to ethnic-based political parties so as not to fuel division and discrimination, as well as:
 - a. Foregoing all government-official lists of recognized ethnic groups;
 - b. Allowing equal opportunities to citizens regardless of ethnicity;
3. *Suggests* educating refugees about potential citizenship:

- a. Informing refugees about the information, particularly in rural areas of the countryside, about citizenship;
 - b. Helping out efforts to educate pathways for birthright citizenship under five;
- 4. *Encourages* UNHCR to collaborate with Member States to reduce barriers in legal procedures, Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDP), with a focus on improving time constraints and procedure difficulty;
- 5. *Calls for* the establishment of a Regional Stateless Observatory under the Economic and Social Council's regional commissions to assist in the achievement of the commitments made by Member States within the *Chile Plan of Action (2024-2034)* in enhancing data collection methodology through independent research to adequately estimate the stateless population;
- 6. *Recommends* training judges and lawyers to have the ability to handle the legal complexities of stateless people.



Code: UNHCR/2/6

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Reaffirming the importance of the achievement made through the recognition of the fundamental right to nationality in Article 15 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Remembering international precedents such as the *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954), which provided a legal definition of what it means to be stateless and the fundamental human rights of stateless individuals,

Urging United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to aid in providing accurate data collection concerning statelessness,

Strongly emphasizes supporting the Global Alliance to End Statelessness adopted by UNHCR in October 2024,

Expressing its appreciation for the current governmental systems in place that are built to secure the rights of stateless persons,

Recognizing the difficulty in obtaining precise statistics concerning the stateless population, which often live in rural areas,

Emphasizing the need of global and regional cooperation between Member States such as UNHCR's #IBelong Campaign and Global Alliance to End Statelessness and the *Brazil Plan of Action* (2014) to achieve the goal of ending statelessness,

Endorsing General Assembly resolution 79/452 (2024) on the report of the Third Committee, which re-emphasizes that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of states,

Deeply concerned over forced displacements doubling in the past decade, with more than 114 million people currently displaced due to prolonged conflicts and new crises and intensified natural disasters caused by climate change having further exacerbated the situation,

Guided by the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons' (OFPRA) work on providing legal status to stateless populations,

Recognizing the severe lack of awareness on the amount of stateless people and their situation and the need for the elevation of their voices as well as those of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who advocate for their rights,

Noting with concern the disproportionate impact of statelessness on vulnerable populations, including children, ethnic minorities and forcibly displaced persons,

Determined to strengthen legal frameworks, administrative procedures, and data collection mechanisms to prevent new cases of statelessness and provide durable solutions for stateless individuals,

Fully aware that statelessness is a severe global crisis affecting millions of individuals, depriving them of legal identity, access to education, employment, and other basic rights,

Calling for the implementation of standardized methodologies to identify and document stateless individuals and their needs,

Gravely concerned with stateless individuals lacking access to housing, education, employment, and healthcare due to a lack of proof of identity, including but not limited to items such as passports, and social security numbers,

1. *Recommends* the creation of a pilot program named “Stateless-end” for different purposes, such as data collection, legal frameworks for stateless individuals, and best-practice sharing;
2. *Further recommends* Member States uphold the Omnibus resolution by creating databases specific to statelessness to:
 - a. Promote regional and global information sharing;
 - b. Enhance the scope of NGOs and civil society groups by providing pieces of information to facilitate aid to stateless individuals;
3. *Emphasizes* communication during the borders of transit, encouraging dialogues and data collection with authorities that would further aid to:
 - a. Comprehend populations and countries affected;
 - b. Suggest healthcare professionals new ways of aiding patients based on the severity of their situation, including:
 - i. Recommending alternatives for their well-being;
 - ii. Creating a bond of trustee;
 - c. Create a global network for sharing information about individuals to understand and evaluate each situation for prevention, depending on the region;
4. *Recommends* United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), and the Office of the High Commissioner Of Human Rights (OHCHR) collaborate closely with UNHCR in order to produce more accurate data, as:
 - a. UNICEF may improve birth and civil registries;
 - b. UNFPA could help governments to provide and implement more accurate census reports;
 - c. OHCHR can continue to directly monitor the rights of stateless persons;
5. *Encourages* Member States’ governments to ensure registration and documentation of all individuals, focusing on those in areas with acute need, including:
 - a. Children born to stateless parents, creating inclusive and non-discriminatory legal frameworks that grant nationality at birth to prevent the intergenerational transmission of statelessness;
 - b. Migrants and their families, through:
 - i. Simplifying administrative procedures;

- ii. Removing barriers that hinder access to registration, such as legal status, language, or lack of identification;
 - c. Asylum seekers, by coordinating with relevant United Nations agencies to guarantee timely and secure documentation upon arrival, to safeguard their legal identity and rights;
 - d. Ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, implementing initiatives in marginalized or remote regions, to ensure that every individual is accounted to full access to public services and protection;
6. *Further requests* the international community to confront the issues of the #IBelong Campaign, and to ensure that current efforts are not making similar faults;
7. *Affirms* current multilateral systems and agreements in place designed to determine the official rights of stateless person, and to analyze their effectiveness by:
- a. Encouraging Member States to consider joining the Global Alliance to End Statelessness;
 - b. Looking to Member States and international bodies that already have programs designed to receive stateless populations;
 - c. Making amendments and enhancements to individual practices, tailoring to the needs and bounds of the Member State;
8. *Draws attention* to regions with high refugee traffic specifically, and adding accessible services to ensure their lawful recognition in highly affected areas to:
- a. Advocate for an increase in the amount of mobile registration centers for individuals dealing with statelessness;
 - b. Recommend implementing measures to increase the amount of birth certificates provided for children;
 - c. Encourage the development of a mentorship pilot program followed by the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) to examine protection applications and provide legal and administrative support for stateless individuals in Colombia, Mexico, and Ecuador via:
 - i. Capacitation of local government officials on the actions to be taken in the transition from statelessness to citizenship;
 - ii. Implementation of workforce materials for the provision of legal services to stateless individuals;
9. *Calls for* Member States to address gender-discriminatory policies and practices to ensure that:
- a. Children born out of wedlock are granted citizenship;
 - b. Women are not barred from access to their children's birth certificates and/or naturalization documents;
 - c. Laws that deny women the right to pass their nationality on to their children are abolished;

10. *Urges* Member States to provide accessible and effective legal support to individuals at risk or experiencing statelessness, through measures such as but not limited to:
 - a. Promoting awareness to inform individuals about their legal rights and avenues for seeking nationality or contesting statelessness status;
 - b. Ensuring that the existence is linguistically and culturally appropriate;
 - c. Establishing specialized legal aid units within national human rights institutions to offer free legal counseling and representation in statelessness determination procedures;
11. *Encourages* Member States to ratify and adhere to the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* and calls upon States parties to demonstrate continued commitment through the full and effective implementation of its provisions;
12. *Invites* willing Member States to continue and elevate the provision of humanitarian aid to stateless people by:
 - a. Ensuring the timely delivery of essential goods and services to stateless persons, including access to food, clean water, temporary shelter, and healthcare in underserved and border areas;
 - b. Partnering with local NGOs, psychologists, and community leaders to provide trauma-informed care;
 - c. Offering counseling, family reunification support, and social integration workshops;
 - d. Promoting awareness campaigns to combat stigma and foster community inclusion;
 - e. Promoting the establishment of regional legal aid clinics, in collaboration with universities and NGOs, to provide accessible legal advice and support for stateless persons seeking nationality or asylum status;
 - f. Emergency shelters and humanitarian assistance centers offering basic services such as food, medical care, legal orientation, and psychological support for stateless persons and families at risk;
13. *Further encourages* cooperation with international sports organizations to support the integration and empowerment of stateless and displaced youth through, but not limited to:
 - a. Creating an inclusive sports program in partnership with local clubs, NGOs, and community-based organizations to provide free or low-cost access to sports opportunities for stateless and displaced youth;
 - b. Building safe and inclusive sports facilities with the support of local authorities and donors;
 - c. Ensuring access to international competitions by advocating for flexible eligibility policies to enable stateless athletes to participate;
14. *Invites* NGOs that work towards promoting the right to nationality, such as Unites Stateless and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), to the Global Refugee Forum in order to share best practices, which would allow international and domestic actors to better understand and address the needs of stateless individuals;

15. *Further invites* Member States to continue working with organizations such as UNICEF, UNFPA, and OHCHR to set up programs and events that allow stateless individuals to gain access to housing, education, employment, and healthcare despite having lack of identification by:
- a. Providing mobile registration units that provide newborns with birth certificates;
 - b. Creating ways of establishing credibility with loans and debts without the need to go through standardized methods;
 - c. Allowing stateless individuals to register in schools without showing proof of documentation or address;
 - d. Creating unions that allow undocumented individuals to be employed properly without risking those individuals getting taken advantage of through lower wages, discriminatory behaviors, or refusal of promotions;
16. *Recommends* the establishment of organizations or offices within Member States that specifically support stateless individuals with accessible legal assistance for stateless determination procedures and in obtaining residence rights to reduce barriers.



Code: UNHCR/2/7

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recalling that the *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954) defines a stateless person as “any person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law”,

Acknowledging the adoption of international frameworks, such as the *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (1954), the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961), and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979) (CEDAW), particularly Article 9 on gender-equal nationality rights,

Recognizing the continued existence of over 4.4 million stateless individuals worldwide and the human rights violations they face due to lack of legal identity,

Deeply concerned that over 80 Member States have maintained discriminatory nationality laws in the past, especially those preventing mothers from conferring nationality on their children,

Alarmed by the disproportionate effect of statelessness on marginalized and vulnerable populations and the persistent structural, legal, and administrative barriers that impede these individuals from acquiring their nationality at birth, undermining their access to fundamental rights and protections,

Taking into consideration that stateless people are more susceptible to discrimination, exploitation, human trafficking and arbitrary detention,

1. *Urges* all Member States to ensure universal, free, and readily accessible birth registration for every child born on their territory, ensuring that no child is denied legal identity on the basis of their parents' legal status, nationality, or ethnicity;
2. *Encourages* the establishment of a UNHCR-facilitated transnational legal advisory team to provide technical support, mediate between conflicting legal codes, and assist in drafting inclusive nationality laws;
3. *Reaffirms* that the right to a legal identity is a fundamental human right and calls on all Member States to be proactive in fulfilling this obligation under international law;
4. *Strongly urges* UNHCR to proceed with the creation of Smart IDs containing electronic chips with encrypted information of biographical data and registration details for unrecognised stateless persons similar to the creation of Smart IDs in India, 2011, by UNHCR for Afghan & Burmese refugees/asylum seekers;
5. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation with UNICEF and civil society organizations, to enhance birth registration systems and civil documentation infrastructure, especially in post-conflict and rural areas;
6. *Invites* all Member States to provide temporary legal status and access to basic rights without discrimination based on ethnicity, religion or gender;

7. *Advocates* for the inclusion of stateless persons in cultural and sporting events through partnerships with the international Olympic Committee, UNHCR, and local governments, promoting dignity, resilience, and public awareness.



Code: UNHCR/2/8

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Topic: Enhancing Efforts to End Statelessness

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Bringing attention to 2022 UNHCR data that out of the 4.4 million stateless people, 1.4 million stateless people have been forcibly displaced by conflicts,

Emphasizing the importance of retaining national sovereignty and security within Member States, while ensuring the livelihoods of stateless persons as pertaining to the respective regulations of their host Member State,

Recognizing the 2014 *UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness* as a key framework guiding international cooperation and encouraging the commitment of BRICS members to contribute to its implementation through regionally adapted strategies,

Further understanding statelessness as a critical issue primarily caused by various factors such as state dissolution, gender-biased nationality laws, legal challenges, and a lack of documentation tying these stateless persons to any given nationality,

Acknowledging the #IBelong Campaign, launched by UNHCR in 2014, as a global initiative to end statelessness by 2024, and recognizing its role in driving legal reforms, promoting policy alignment, and raising awareness on the rights of stateless individuals across Member States,

Encouraging the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951) and the *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961),

Encouraging collaborative efforts between Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Save the Children, Future without Violence to introduce domestic approaches such as the Universal Birth Registration (UBR) and multilingual birth certificate drives in marginalized or remote regions, in order to improve outreach, increase legal identity access, and enhance data collection on at-risk populations,

Recalling the United Nations Network on Migration, the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* (2018), which reaffirms that states have the right to determine their national migration policy and prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction,

Noting South Africa's *Constitution and Citizenship Act* (1995), which prevents children who are born without claim to another nationality from being stateless,

Recognizing the need to uphold crucial rights for refugees, such as access to asylum, freedom of expression, and the right to work in accordance with the *Ugandan Refugees Act* (2006),

Bearing in mind that proper financial support is needed to address the issue of statelessness and that programs such as the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP), which according to UNHCR, is a plan that coordinates funding frameworks that may be underfunded as of August 2024, as this plan has only received 33% of the \$516.5 million budget,

Ensuring population databases are current and correct regarding the number of stateless persons residing in each Member State so as to uphold the safety of each sovereign nation and stateless person,

1. *Suggests* that Member States, in cooperation with local governments, national security bodies, and legal institutions, consider expanding access to legal support services, particularly through organizations such as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), to individuals at risk of statelessness, especially those living in remote regions or displaced from urban centers, ensuring they receive free legal assistance where possible;
2. *Suggests* the organization of an international tri-annual summit with willing NGOs and Member States to discuss the many sides of statelessness and further spread the word about this issue and sensitize Member States on the reality of statelessness with the aim of convincing other states to update their laws;
3. *Advocates* for the creation of a temporary program through UNHCR, designed for those who have become stateless through forced displacement due to conflict, that:
 - a. Allows forcibly displaced people to receive a temporary recognition and status by their host state;
 - b. Ensures protection status to access resources and services offered to citizens of their host state;
 - c. Allows UNHCR and the host state to properly manage those who are forcibly displaced and stay updated on conflict situations to:
 - i. Identify when a conflict situation has been resolved to allow for displaced persons to return to their home state;
 - ii. Identify when a conflict situation has evolved and no longer allows for displaced persons to return, and they will need to find a new home state;
 - d. Helps forcibly displaced persons and host states with next steps after a situation no longer allows for return, either path to citizenship assistance or legal assistance within the host state;
4. *Recommends* Member States to implement a more efficient system of data collection to retain data on all citizens and refugees living within their borders by:
 - a. Adopting and improving data fusion technology to:
 - i. Integrate data from multiple sources and reduce uncertainty;
 - ii. Provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues that stateless people face;
 - iii. Have a greater insight into the causes of statelessness;
 - b. Conducting a national census regularly as decided on by each Member State to:
 - i. Help in recognizing patterns among stateless individuals;
 - ii. Highlight long-term issues regarding statelessness that appear within each Member State's population;
 - c. Encouraging collaboration between UNHCR and the General Assembly Fifth Committee to allocate funding for better enforcement and regulation of said framework for data collection to:
 - i. Assist Member States that do not have the proper infrastructure to implement data fusion technology;

- ii. Work alongside the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to provide technological education;
5. *Commends* the actions taken by UNHCR to introduce the *Global Plan to End Statelessness 2.0* after the *Global Plan to End Statelessness* (2014-2024) ended;
6. *Recommends* the creation of the Coordinated Operations for Managing Personhood and Stateless Solutions (COMPASS) initiative that would track critical cases of statelessness through a Stateless Intervention and Global Assistance Line (SIGNAL) that would operate 24/7 with a response mechanism designed to track the most urgent cases by:
 - a. Featuring an integrated case management tool that would allow legal teams and social workers to ensure timely interventions for the critical cases;
 - b. Establishing a threshold for the urgency status of cases with the help of legal teams;
 - c. Promoting the SIGNAL initiative that would be staffed by multilingual operators trained in both legal referral services and crisis response, all while offering the option for anonymous reporting;
7. *Encourages* international cooperation in furthering financial support for Member States hosting large populations of refugees, who are prone to statelessness, through:
 - a. Further developing technology and databases to include accurate statistics on both refugees and stateless persons;
 - b. Calling for further funding for initiatives supporting large populations of refugees such as the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) which jointly coordinates planning and fundraising between Uganda and UNHCR Member States;
8. *Encourages* the establishment of mobile civil registration units across BRICS members, particularly in remote areas to ensure universal birth registration, reduce risks of statelessness at birth in collaboration with local civil authorities, and health services as these units would:
 - a. Facilitate on site insurance of birth certificate documentation for both host and displaced populations, building on existing initiatives such as Brazil's mobile registration in border regions and India's Aadhaar-based rural outreach;
 - b. Provide training for civil servants operating in remote areas and within mobile registration centers to ensure accurate, rights-based documentation procedures;
 - c. Promote inter-consular cooperation to streamline cross-border birth registration and certification, particularly for children born to migrant or stateless parent;
9. *Recognizing* the importance of the integration of Universal Birth Registration (UBR) processes into national healthcare facilities, primary schools, and mobile civil registration units in order to:
 - a. Ensure early and accessible legal identification for children, particularly in refugee-hosting and remote areas;
 - b. Enable inclusive civil registration, improve access to essential services, and establish the legal recognition needed to safeguard nationality rights and prevent future cases of statelessness.