

WE BELIEVE IN YOUTH! DO YOU?

Together we can achieve the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE YOUTH CONSULTATIONS 2021

We, young people affected by forced displacement, demand meaningful participation. In ten online youth dialogues, joining from about 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, MENA and Latin America, we discussed the **challenges** youth face, our **ideas for solutions** and our **recommendations for meaningful participation** to achieve the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees. **We are ready to act on the road to peaceful, inclusive, sustainable change for all.** Our recommendations address all stakeholders at all levels.

The #WeBelieveInYouth Recommendations Paper will be available on 15 December 2021: drc.ngo/youthgrf

CALLS TO ACTION

1. Invest in youth leadership and youth-led initiatives

We live in the communities affected by forced displacement and know their challenges. We are communicators within and across our communities. We need **reliable, flexible funding, trust, skills training, guidance and partners** to work more effectively. Our engagement in the community-level COVID-19 response showed that we can deliver.

2. Make meaningful youth participation part of the way you work

Our voices need safe spaces, platforms, and representation where we live. Where we live is where we achieve global goals. We need representation in our refugee community leadership. We need to be invited to local consultations, including with local authorities, private sector partners, and education institutions. We ask national authorities to open national youth platforms to refugee youth. **We ask stakeholders to include us regularly and systematically in needs assessments, project design, implementation, and monitoring.** There is a gap between global policy commitments and implementation at the local level. We want to help to address it by engaging with local stakeholders, including local authorities, employers, higher education institutions, who are the ones implementing policies that affect us.

3. Open and create more education and employment opportunities for us

Access to quality education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities are our primary concerns. We all know the evidence: education and self-reliance empower people affected by forced displacement immensely. Yet, we still experience **considerable barriers to access quality education and joining the labour market**, including access to the internet and reliable information, e.g., on scholarship opportunities. We call on the host governments, donor countries and all stakeholders to eliminate these barriers based on existing evidence, global policies and commitments. We want opportunities, not help. Instead of freeing our potential, we feel trapped.

4. Join our fight against discrimination

We all have experienced discrimination, including regarding documentation, restricted access to the labour market, unequal wages, restricted freedom of movement and access to health and housing. We experience discrimination in social media and through the circulation of fake news. Often we experience that national and local authorities lack knowledge and policy direction to support us adequately and according to our rights. **Refugee inclusion will not work if we do not join forces to fight refugee stigmatisation.** Therefore, we call for more robust refugee rights, protection and support systems and effective social cohesion efforts.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Strengthen youth leadership in each community

- ☐ Support us to develop platforms as safe spaces for youth-to-youth interaction at the community level.
- ☐ Work regularly with at least two youth leaders (man/woman) in each community and engage them in consultations.
- ☐ Support youth leaders to speak about challenges and solutions with local and national authorities and stakeholders.

Regularise national and regional youth dialogues

- ☐ Regularise national and regional youth dialogues online and face-to-face to discuss emerging needs and solutions.
- ☐ Reach out to youth to ensure diverse, inclusive access and address safety and protection issues before all dialogues.
- ☐ Ensure that the results of the discussions inform decision-making and actions and that youth receive concrete follow-up.

Engage us in Global Compact on Refugees processes to achieve greater accountability

- ☐ **Reserve a permanent seat for us!** Regular, continuous and meaningful participation will enable us to hold host and donor governments accountable to the national implementation of their global pledges and policy commitments.
- ☐ Systematically engage us to discuss new dynamics and circumstances that require flexible responses.
- ☐ Engage us throughout the project management cycle of context-specific youth projects, including the implementation.

Build an alliance

- ☐ Bring together partners that champion youth leadership, initiatives and participation in forced displacement contexts.
- ☐ Elevate our voices, increase our visibility, facilitate our initiatives, invite us to participate and help us claim new spaces.

YOUTH CONSULTATIONS 2021

Ensuring meaningful, inclusive participation of youth affected by forced displacement in the design, implementation & monitoring of policy commitments and humanitarian and development programming to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees



Facilitated and hosted by:



Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action



Find the Youth Voices Video, Online Event Recordings and Call to Action here: <http://drc.ngo/youthgrf>