



GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2021 THEMATIC EVENT

Welcoming the Stranger: Exploring the role of faith actors in protecting displaced persons

October 28 October 2021, 14:00 – 15:30 CET

https://lutheranworld-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LxIseqlIQ6y6gT3I1SvbLQ

Rational/purpose

The protection of the human rights of people affected by humanitarian crises is increasingly becoming an important part of humanitarian preparedness and emergency response. This is particularly critical because all across the world, humanitarian crises, be they as a result of conflicts, climate change, or other disasters not only result in suffering of people, but often expose them to violations of their rights and of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Different stakeholders within the humanitarian and human rights sectors – ranging from governments, UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations- play an important role in fostering the protection of the human rights of people affected by crises. Increasingly, the role of faith-based humanitarian, development and advocacy organizations in the protection of the human rights of people affected by humanitarian crises has been recognised.

This session will explore the unique role that FBOs play specifically in welcoming and protecting displaced persons from a human rights perspective. It will further explore the human rights approaches, religious and faith principles, and opportunities for interfaith collaboration between FBOs from different faith perspectives.

Expected Outcome

This session will provide a better understanding of the role of faith-based organization in the protection of the human rights of people affected by humanitarian crises. It will create opportunities for collaboration between FBOs and other stakeholders in the sector.

Format/Content of the Event

This will be a virtual webinar format with:

- Keynote speech/opening remarks
- A case study from the field (video from Mali)
- Panel discussion where different FBOs present their experiences; and
- Interactive plenary session with the participants
- Next steps



Speakers/Moderator/ technical donor partner

Welcome and introductions – **Ms Valerie Svobodova**, Co-Chair GPC TT HRE (UNHCR)

Keynote speech: **Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary**, UN Special Rapporteur on IDPs

Interactive Panel Discussion: 30 mins

- **Session Framer & Moderator: Ms. Kate Wiggans** (UN Representative, Islamic Relief Worldwide)
 - **Father Archimandrite Emanuel Youkhana**, Executive Director and founder of CAPNI (Christian Aid Program Nohadra, Iraq)
 - **Aliow Mohamed**, Somalia Country Director, Islamic Relief Worldwide
 - **Nobuyuki ASAI**, Office of Peace and Global Issues, Soka Gakkai International (SGI)
 - **Angelica Sarmiento**, Venezuela Program Director–HIAS
- *Plenary – questions and comments from the participants – 20 mins*
- *Respondent– William Chemaly* Coordinator, Global Protection Cluster
- *Closing – Raphael Marcus*, Senior Vice President, Programs, HIAS

Field Cluster/Operations

Field clusters will be invited and given opportunity to offer their perspectives.

Local voices

Local faith actors involved in protection will be invited to give their examples/experience. Colleagues from the field clusters that TT HRE are working with will be invited to participate.

Pre-event questions /survey to be shared with participants

- i. Do you or your organizations work with/collaborate with faith actors in your operations/work?
- ii. What are some good practices you have identifies in your collaboration with FBOs?
- iii. Do you have any question to the organizers ahead of the session?

Background Reading

Welcoming the Stranger Affirmations -

<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/hcdialogue%20/51b6de419/welcoming-stranger-affirmations-faith-leaders.html>

Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to prevent incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes - https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/publications-and-resources/Plan_of_Action_Religious-rev5.pdf

Engaging Religious Actors to counter hate speech, prevent incitement to violence, and build peaceful and inclusive societies - <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/OHCHR-Notebook-Side-Binding.pdf>