



The Gender Audit Process

Morning Side Event Tuesday

Leaving No One Behind - Understanding A Gender, Age and Diversity Approach to Pledges and Good Practices in The Global Refugee Forum

Chair:

Panel:

The key issues raised were:

Informal Discussion June 20th 2019

Host – Catherine Gill, Counsellor (Humanitarian)

Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations Geneva

As a contribution to strengthening gender input into the process of planning for the Global Refugee Forum, the Australian Mission hosted an Informal discussion and a Round Table Meeting on Gender. The first Informal discussion was held on 20th June before the preparatory Meeting, and the second roundtable on 3rd July two weeks later.

The first meeting was attended by four members States, four UNHCR staff and Dr Linda Bartolomei, UNSW. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the Concept paper developed by the UNSW team on possible gender commitments and sponsorship approaches for the GRF. The concept paper drew on UNSW's gender audit of the GCR consultations, which involved refugee women from diverse regions of the world.

The States present all commented on the value of the concept paper in highlighting gender as a cross-cutting issue. Following a very fruitful discussion of gender and SGBV the outcomes of the meeting were:

It was agreed to consider an informal "Friends of Gender Group" or other format to ensure a strong focus on Gender issues across the pledges. It was suggested that this group might work to ensure that at least one State with a strong focus on Gender issues was part of each of the 6 co-sponsorship groups and could work to ensure that women, girls and gender equality issues are visible.

Confirmation that the Australian Mission would host a Roundtable on Gender following the 2nd Preparatory meeting on the 3rd July.

Roundtable Meeting, 3rd July 2019

The aim of the second meeting was to build on the outcomes of the Preparatory meeting and to contribute to the Sponsorship groups and the Pledging [T]-8(he)3arT1 332.575-9f3(t0 0 1 72.TBT6(y)11()-1

from tokenism. National systems are needed for inclusive engagement and these must include CBOs, who are often not considered as important elements of responsibility-sharing.

Hafsar noted that protection issues are acute in terms of detention of women and children. Short-term support is urgently needed for refugee women affected by SGBV, in particular when family violence forces them to return to violent situations. Access to services generally is difficult for women and girls, and the importance of participation and healthcare for women and girls is key.

Shaza argued that schooling for girl children is a major tool for protection. This needs to be accessible, provided in communities, with local teachers. Hygiene products have to be available to girls to enable them to attend school when menstruating and provisions must be made for disabled students. She noted that access to job market and decent work for females have a large impact on protection and ability to participate. Data collection must consider women's informal work, including agricultural work which is not considered in statistics. Access to decent work and sustainable jobs in host communities are difficult to find. At times refugee women are in competition with women from the host community for the same jobs. She requested that service providers consult with refugees to engage them in solutions.

Catherine Gill thanked the presenters. She stated that the GRF is an opportunity to address these challenges, including the key issues of statelessness. She observed that lessons from what has been raised included working with host countries and supporting access to services, meaningful participation, collecting disaggregated and meaningful statistics, and exploring how we can support the potential of refugee communities' potential

UNWomen responded that we must translate words into action. The key messages which she had heard and would commit to were:

Addressing SGBV, empowerment of women and girls, and recognising and enabling their agency and the contributions which they

Catherine Gill noted that the Gender Audit team had already shared their preliminary work on potential pledges, and another State representative noted that some of these specific pledges could be gender transformative. One member state participant reflected that it had helped them think about the gendered dimensions of energy, and would help shape the representative's advice to their capital.

One NGO representative stated that:

community governments must commit to acting on SGBV regardless of the status of the victim. Awareness-raising is good but needs to link to something concrete.

One UNHCR representative indicated that she was inspired by concrete level of pledges from the group and noted that the commitment of technical support from UNWomen very pleasing. She emphasised that we have much ground to cover still and asked that we be a bit radical and use this opportunity to contribute to a transformative agenda.:

Our response has to be married with prevention, solid concrete gender equality work and we cannot role back work on SGBV.

The meeting concluded with a call to reconvene the Gender Roundtable after the co-sponsorship meetings to debrief on gender content in meetings.

Annex 2

Snapshot of mentions relevant to women and girls, gender, diversity and refugee participation across the meetings linked to pledges and potential pledges in co- sponsorship areas. The meetings included the two Round Table meetings convened by the Australian Mission, and all sessions and side meetings at The June Preparatory meeting.

What was the impact of the roving SGBV advisor deployed to 10 countries?

NGOS

Some of the most vulnerable groups include: - under threat of SGBV, exploitation, trafficking, social isolation, with difficult access to services, often leading to negative coping strategies. - exposed to risks including human trafficking and child labour. Prolonged deprivation and elevated stress levels put them at risk of inadequate cognitive, social and emotional development, negatively impacting their learning abilities

Specific mention of Women and Girls

UNHCR

I did not mention the Gender discrimination and impacts on women in my remarks, but it {Statelessness} does indeed impact women and children

Global Strategic priorities includes Gender Equality (

Member States

We are talking about families, women and girls and little children – but numbers are growing

Young people, women, people with a Disability needs were outlined in the GCR – and we do hope that the GCR will provide solutions for the 20 million refugees

Again, strong support for the GCR and its possible impacts.Girls, boys and women – vulnerability focus important (France)

encourage UNHCR to strengthen its information collection with quality of disaggregated of data

Look forward to the Nigeria study on the extent to which women and girls were involved

Specific focus on women and statelessness – gender discrimination

Participation of women in management structures

Promotion of gender equality and involvement of persons of concerns

Targeted support to women and girls welcomed. .{need }Specific indicators of female leadership and gender equality (Germany)

Commend work on Gender equality (Canada)

NGOs

Discriminatory policies and practices and the lack of safeguards in national laws are further causes of statelessness. Today, 25 countries deny women equal rights in conferring nationality to their children, while some 50 countries deny women equal rights in their ability to acquire, change or retain their nationality, or to confer nationality on non-national spouses (ICVA)