

**AN INDEPENDENT DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT OF REFUGEES AND OTHERS  
EXPERIENCING DISPLACEMENT OR STATELESSNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN  
DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT**

20 June 2025

We Welcome Your Feedback

**[mrpworkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:mrpworkinggroup@gmail.com)**

## **Preamble**

*Recognising* the countless contributions refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness have made to protection, often with little or no external support,

*Expressing concern* that refugees and other persons experiencing forced displacement or statelessness too often have been excluded from decisions that affect their lives,

*Acknowledging* that where participation has occurred, it has frequently been tokenistic, superficial or symbolic, and implemented in a way that does not lead to real influence or impact on the decision-making process,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees ([A/73/12 \(Part II\)](#)), which recognises that ‘[r]esponses are most effective when they actively and meaningfully engage those they are intended to protect and assist’,

*Affirming* the fundamental principles that underpin the international protection of refugees and those experiencing forced displacement and statelessness,

*Responding* to calls from refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless persons across the world for a rightful place in decision-making processes that impact them,

*We jointly declare:*

**Article 1 – The right to participate**

All refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness have the right to participate in all decisions that directly or indirectly affect them.

**Article 2 – Good-faith and non-discrimination**

States and other decision-making authorities guarantee that the right to participate set out in Article 1 is implemented in good faith and without discrimination, involving,

- a) Establishing clear and accessible mechanisms and procedures
- b) Engaging refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness from the outset, including accepting and responding to communications from them
- c) Ensuring that decisions take into account the expertise, experience, and information that refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness contribute through their participation
- d) Providing reasons for the decision/s made and demonstrating and documenting how the contributions of refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness were considered.

**Article 3 – Access to information**

1. All refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness have the right to seek, receive, and impart information that facilitates their right to participate.
2. States and other decision-making authorities shall provide this information in a timely and comprehensive manner and through accessible formats, languages and technologies.

**Article 4 – Supporting and Resourcing Participation**

1. States and other decision-making authorities have a duty to support and resource participatory procedures and mechanisms to enable all refugees and others experiencing forced displacement or statelessness the full enjoyment of their right to participate.
2. This involves:
  - a. Ensuring support to individual participants and participant groups;
  - b. Taking proactive steps to facilitate the participation of individuals and groups who face discrimination, considering the diverse, dynamic and intersectional experiences and identities of participants; and
  - c. Implementing all available measures to prevent threats and risks to the personal and digital security of individual participants and participant groups.

**Article 5 – The Right to a Remedy and Accountability**

1. Refugees and other persons experiencing forced displacement or statelessness have a right to a remedy where states and other decision-making authorities fail to meet their obligations set out in this declaration.
2. States and other decision-making authorities shall provide for fair, effective and timely accountability mechanisms for addressing breaches and receiving and responding to complaints or feedback relating to the rights set out in this declaration.