



POLICY RESOLUTION 6 - FAIR AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Proposed by: Canadian Federation of University Women

Seconded by: Women Graduates-USA

The 33rd Graduate Women International General Assembly resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to provide and expand the resources, training counselling, and infrastructure to the appropriate entities to ensure an efficient and effective refugee claims system;
2. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to protect the world's most vulnerable by continuing to increase the number of vetted refugees and asylum seekers accepted, settled, and integrated into the country now and onward, after the measures in clause #1 have been initiated.

Suggested Plan of Action

1. NFAs should write to their local government representatives requesting they promote increasing the targets for refugees, support adequate resources for resettlement programs and provide the necessary resources for expeditious refugee claim processing.
2. NFAs should seek to support local NGOs working on refugee and asylum seekers rights.
3. NFAs should research whether their local government has an adequate plan for refugee and asylum seekers resettlement. If their local government has a sponsorship program, they should get involved in community sponsorship and donation programs to help resettle and welcome families and individuals who have fled their home countries.

Supporting Statement:

The global refugee population under the UNHCR's mandate has now reached 25.4 million, which is referred to as "the global refugee crisis". Since 2012, which marks the beginning of the Syrian conflict, the number of forcibly displaced people continues to reach record highs, year after year. Developing countries host a disproportionate number of the world's refugees. In fact, 85% of the world's refugees are concentrated in developing countries, with one third of them in the world's least developed countries.

It is vital for governments to adhere to the 1951 Refugee Convention which is a legal document that defines and outlines refugee rights as well as legal obligations of States. The Convention's cornerstone is the principle of non-refoulement (Article 33) which states that (with some exceptions) refugees should not be returned to a country where s/he faces serious threats to her/his life or freedom.



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The current global protectionist and militarized approach to borders by developed countries is contributing to increased suffering of displaced populations by making them highly vulnerable to violence, sexual violence, torture, trafficking and exploitation. This is in violation of several human rights conventions, including the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Developed countries have a legal and moral obligation to do more to solve the global refugee crisis. Governments must continue to show leadership and spark international solidarity towards refugees by increasing refugee intake and allocating adequate resources to ensure successful refugee resettlement and integration.