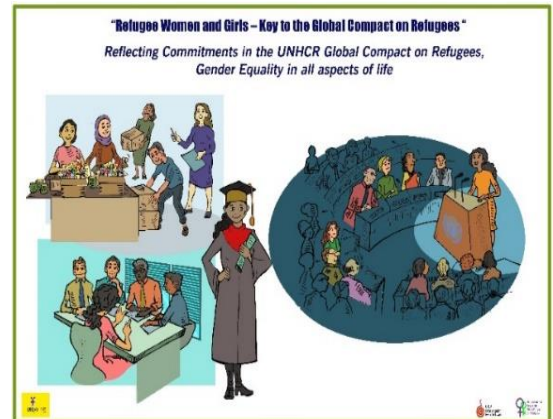


### Purpose of the Gender Audit

The successful Gender Audit of the Thematic meetings for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the High Commissioner's Dialogue contributed significantly to the inclusion of strong gender commitments in the GCR. The audit team is now working with UNHCR Geneva to document the process of the implementation of these commitments. This includes the three preparatory meetings for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), December 2019, and the GRF itself. The focus is on ensuring an emphasis on the commitments to women and girls, the Age, Gender and Diversity framework, and strong measures to address sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) are reflected in the six nominated Sponsorship groups, and in Pledges made by key stakeholders to fulfil the commitments of the GCR.



### THE AIM OF THE GENDER AUDIT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS, THE UNHCR-NGO ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS AND THE GLOBAL FORUM ON REFUGEES, 2019

The Gender Audit process will ensure that the commitments made to refugee women and girls in the Global Compact on Refugees including: gender equality, the implementation of the UNHCR Age Gender and Diversity (AGD) Policy; addressing the different needs of women and men across the life cycle including in childhood and adolescence; considering the impact of discriminations based on sexuality and gender identity and disability and promises to address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence are acknowledged in the Pledging, Sponsorship, Co-sponsorship, and Co-conveners process. There will be an emphasis on the importance of commitments to women and girls, AGD, and SGBV across the key areas of education, jobs & livelihoods, self-reliance, energy and infrastructure, solutions and protection capacity. It will document examples of good practice in these areas.

### REFLECTIONS FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> PREP MEETING

The Gender Audit team observed that it was encouraging to see the steps already taken towards some very positive pledges, including joint pledges, and innovative discussion about implementations of the GCR over the next 10 years. These came from a wide range of committed stakeholders including States, UN agencies and Refugee led networks. However these are still not strong on recognising the importance of gender, an effective application of an age gender and diversity approach and in addressing the endemic sexual and gender based violence, of which overwhelming evidence is still emerging from around the world. UNHCR colleagues and the chairs of the sessions were gender silent unless responding to interventions from the floor. Of these, 9 out of 33 focused on age gender and diversity, which

is a positive move in the right direction. Several included strong recommendations for the inclusion of an AGD approach in the pledging process.

There was a very positive focus on refugee participation. While this is welcome, there is still little focus on ensuring that women refugees are included, despite evidence detailing the additional barriers they face and support that they might need to participate meaningfully and not just as “token” women. The (politically - based) failure to address the issues facing the LGBTQI community, even obliquely, are disappointing, given that they have equal status in International law to all other refugees.

Many opportunities were missed to incorporate an AGD framework, for example, while there was a strong focus on commitments to education, with the notable exception of Afghanistan there was little recognition of the need for programs particularly targeted to girls.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GENDER AUDIT DOCUMENTERS, THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING:**

That:

- UNHCR take a proactive lead in sponsoring and articulating their own Age, Gender and Diversity Framework in all documents and panel presentations which are a key part of the Global Refugee Forum process.
- The 10 high level outcomes of the GRF must be expanded to include firm commitments to an age, gender and diversity approach across all pledges and outcomes, including an explicit commitment to addressing SGBV.
- UNHCR review all the draft pledges and ensure they are AGD sensitive. For example, pledges need to explicitly target closing the gap to ensure equal access to education for girls at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
- Steps are taken to generate new disaggregated data, and to examine how currently collected disaggregated data that includes an AGD approach can be amended and more widely applied.
- UNHCR to re-circulate to the co-chairs and thematic groups the tools (tip sheets on the 6 areas) and policies that have been developed to inform pledges that are age gender and diversity sensitive and address SGBV.
- The disconnect between realities in the field and credible evidence-based research with refugee women by many stakeholders, that highlights the continued sexual and gender-based violence which prevents women’s participation in all areas must be highlighted and addressed in current pledges and discussions leading up to the GRF.

### **GENDER AUDIT REPORT:**

#### ***Welcome and Introduction:***

*Co-chairs - His Excellency Mr. Geert Muylle, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva; and Professor Gillian Triggs, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection*

Gender, AGD and SGBV were not mentioned at all in the introductory or summary remarks of the session

**Agenda item 1: Preparation of pledges and contributions for the Global Refugee Forum  
Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Global Refugee Forum**

Specific mention of AGD and SGBV were made in interventions by the following member states and key stakeholders:

Germany	Will support measure for the economic empowerment of women who have been affected by conflict
Sweden	Focused on the need to end Gender disparity, and requested a focus on children with a disability
Afghanistan	Will commit to expanded access to education for returning refugees, particularly for girls.
Denmark	Noted that age gender and diversity concerns are critical to all pledges
France	Noted that all pledges need to take gender and disability into account and this must be visible and not assumed.
World Bank	Committed to work to ensure that age gender and diversity, and the voices of women remain at the heart.
GRN/GYAN	Requested:  That member states to invite refugees to join delegations, ensuring equal participation of both men and women.  That financial support be provided for refugee led initiative, including women led initiatives.
UNICEF	Noted that children face a high level of trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, and this must be addressed.
Canada	Reported that several organisations have been working to ensure that funding flows directly to local refugee women's organisations, and that there are positive lessons to be learned from this practice.
Finland	Argued for increased protection capacity and a disability inclusion plan.
USA	Made commitments to addressing women, peace and security and the protection of girls.

**Session 2: Co-chairs:** His Excellency Mr. Geert Muylle, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva; and Mr. Daniel Endres, Director of the Global Refugee Forum

**Closing remarks**

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Global Refugee Forum,

**Conclusion of the meeting-** His Excellency Mr. Geert Muylle, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Agenda item 2: Programme, Modalities, and practical arrangements for the Global Refugee Forum and Closing remarks:**

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Global Refugee Forum Ms. Ellen Hansen, Head, Governance Service Ms. Perveen Ali, Head, Global Refugee Forum Coordination Team Interventions from the floor.

Despite multiple opportunities to ensure that women and girls and diverse groups were both included, and their specific issues reflected throughout the Forum, the session and closing remarks were totally AGD silent. It is most probably assumed that they are so thoroughly mainstreamed that there is no need to mention them. Sadly after 30 years of intensive advocacy by multiple Stakeholders we know that in practice, this does not happen. UNHCR staff at all levels must consistently take the lead modelling best practice.

**SIDE EVENT: WITH REFUGEES: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM**

Moderated by Ms Anila Noor. Global Refuge-led Network.

The side event was the strongest session of the day with a comprehensive focus on the importance of meaningful participation and practical strategies to achieve this, including ways to involve refugees in program and policy design. Gender concerns were prominent including a focus on unaccompanied minors, women and girls across the presentations and interventions. There was a call to ensure direct funding of refugee innovations, particularly those led by women. The importance of strengthening cultural expectations and the integration of women and girls was discussed, in particular in light of the fact that refugees are still repairing linkages that were damaged during the war.

**Specific mention of gender came from:**

The World Bank	Confirmed that in their view, “ <i>Women and Girls are the key</i> ” to the successful implementation of the GCR.
Oxfam	Highlighted the need for women’s participation in all for arenas, and that it was essential that attention to be paid to the needs of those with hearing and language difficulties, such as hearing aids, and sign language interpreters.
ADSP	Mentioned that in pledges relating to the meaningful participation of refugees, women, girls, people with disabilities, the elderly and the LGBTI community must be included.
APNOR, APRRN, GRN and GYAC	Argued for the equal participation of women in all decision-making fora and, and support for and financing of women led initiatives.
ICVA NGO Statement	Asked that States be encouraged to use disaggregated data to create AGD sensitive tools , including those already available. They noted that meaningful participation must include women and girls, people with a disability and youth.

## ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES BY THE GENDER AUDIT TEAM

### Academic Workshop:

Dr Linda Bartolomei, who is leading the Gender Audit, made a presentation in the Academic Workshop, convened by UNHCR on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Her presentation, titled

### Refugee Women and Girls – Key to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) -, Enhancing Refugee Self-reliance

introduced an innovative methodology currently being used extremely successfully in the project, “Refugee Women, Key to the Global Compact on Refugees” and was made on behalf all project partners. Video of refugee women in Kuala Lumpur, currently participating in the project was included, and two members of the audit team, Apjok Biar, and Hafsa Tameesuddin, joined Linda in making the presentations floor. Details of the methodology and the video clips will be available at <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/our-research/research-centres-networks/forced-migration-research-network>

### Meetings to plan Spotlight Sessions:

Team members attended multiple informal and bilateral meetings to ensure that the issues of Gender, SGBV and AGD are prominently represented at the GFR. Several of the team will present in various Spotlight Sessions and other high- level events.

### What is a Gender Audit?

A Gender Audit documents the discussion of AGD and SGBV, with a particular focus on women and girls in each meeting and combines the findings into a comprehensive report with recommendations. The Gender Audit of the thematic meetings for the draft Compact and the High Commissioners Dialogue, 2017 was extremely successful and contributed to the inclusion of a strong AGD and SGBV focus with commitments to women and girls in the final document. For details see the Final Audit Report, 2017, and “Commitments to Refugee Women and Girls in the Global Compact on Refugees.”<sup>i</sup>

The third preparatory meeting was documented by Ms Apajok Biar, refugee from South Sudan, resettled to Australia, Hafsa Tameesuddin a Rohingya refugee from Rakine State, Burma, resettled to New Zealand, and Andrea Ayala refugee from El Salvador currently in Europe. The focus of the meeting was on the Preparation of Pledges and contributions to the Global Forum on Refugees, and the programme, modalities and practical arrangements for the Forum.

**Authors:** Linda Bartolomei, Apajok Biar, Andrea Ayala, Hafsa Tameesuddin and Eileen Pittaway, Gender Audit Team.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/global-refugee-forum.html> Search under Gender Audit