

Advisory Board of Organizations led by Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons

2026-2028 Cohort

The Advisory Board of Organizations Led by Displaced and Stateless Persons was established in 2022 as an advisory mechanism to UNHCR at the global level, providing guidance on engagement and partnership with organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons, and supporting meaningful participation. It acts as a two-way communication channel and offers strategic and policy advice grounded in lived experience of forced displacement and statelessness, complemented by technical expertise across a range of thematic areas. Further details on its role and scope can be found in its [Terms of Reference](#).

The Advisory Board is composed of 19 member organizations, representing a diverse range of networks, associations, and coalitions led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons from different regions and contexts. Members are selected through a competitive global open call for applications and serve a two-year term. Each member organization is represented by a designated representative, who engages on behalf of their organization and broader network.

Member Organizations and Representatives Profiles



Asociación de Nicaragüenses en México, Mexico

[Asociación de Nicaragüenses en México](#) is a refugee-led organization established in Mexico in 2021, established by people with lived experiences of forced displacement, with women comprising over 50% of its leadership. NicasMex promotes social and cultural inclusion, rights-based protection, and comprehensive assistance for refugees and migrants. As a pioneer in regional civil society leadership, it is the first RLO to coordinate a civil society dialogue mechanism for MIRPS. It also leads the coordination of GARLOS across Latin America and the Caribbean and serves as Technical Secretariat of RROCM — the Regional Network of Civil Society Organizations for Migration.

Jorge Antonio Hurtado Alemán, Regional Advocacy Representative of Asociación de Nicaragüenses en México, is a Nicaraguan journalist and advocate specializing in refugee rights, migration and statelessness. As a news correspondent in Managua, Bogotá, and Mexico City, he brings deep regional expertise to his work. Through his podcast El Extranjero, he champions policy change. He is also a Refugees International Fellow and Aspen CALI member.



Asylum seekers and Refugees Solidarity Association (ARSA), Türkiye

[Asylum seekers and Refugees Solidarity Association \(ARSA\)](#) is a refugee-led, non-profit organization based in Türkiye, dedicated to supporting asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable host communities. ARSA works to promote protection, social inclusion, and access to rights through advocacy, capacity building, and community-based humanitarian programs. With 18 years' experience and a strong focus on women and girls' empowerment, education, and participation, ARSA fosters resilience and self-reliance among displaced populations. Through partnerships, volunteer engagement, and evidence-based initiatives, ARSA amplifies the voices of refugees and contributes to more inclusive and sustainable policy dialogue at local, national, and global levels.

Zakire Hekmat, Director of ARSA, is a medical doctor and humanitarian leader. She has extensive experience in refugee protection, women's empowerment, and community-based humanitarian programs, and has led multiple initiatives supporting displaced and vulnerable populations in Türkiye and beyond.


BASMEH & ZEITONEH
 RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT


Basmeh & Zeitooneh, Lebanon

[Basmeh & Zeitooneh \(B&Z\)](#) is a refugee-led relief and development organization established in 2012 by a group of volunteers in Shatila refugee camp in Beirut. B&Z has since grown into a reputable organization with a strong presence across Lebanon and Syria, annually reaching over tens of thousands of refugees, IDPs and host community members. With over a decade of experience, B&Z has strong experience in Protection, Food Security, Livelihoods, Education, Social Cohesion, Advocacy and Research.

Daria Jamil, Chief Development Officer of Basmeh & Zeitooneh, has over 10 years of experience in humanitarian and development programming. Her work focuses on strategic growth, partnerships, fundraising, advocacy, and programme development. Daria holds a double major in Biology and Dramatic Arts, as well as a Master in Industrial and Environmental Risk Management from the University of Poitiers.



Congress of Councils on Internally Displaced Persons, Ukraine

[Congress of Councils on Internally Displaced Persons](#) is an IDP-led national platform established in 2024 to strengthen coordination, advocacy, and meaningful participation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine. The Congress brings together representatives of IDP Councils from across Ukraine and works on displacement policy, social cohesion, recovery governance, women's leadership, and durable solutions. It supports capacity-building, research, and international cooperation to ensure that the perspectives of displaced communities are integrated into national and local decision-making processes.

Yana Liubymova, co-founder of the Congress of IDP Councils of Ukraine, is a Ukrainian human rights defender, lawyer, and twice internally displaced person from Luhansk region. She is the head of the first IDP Council in Ukraine, and O'Brien Fellow at McGill University.



Forcibly Displaced People Network (FDPN), Australia

[Forcibly Displaced People Network \(FDPN\)](#), established in 2020, is an LGBTIQ+ RLO working in Asia to advance protection, resettlement, and settlement outcomes for LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people. As an LGBTIQ+ RLO, FDPN brings lived experience, policy expertise, and community leadership into direct work with governments and international decision-makers. Their work focuses on three areas: 1. Building community-led pathways to safety and resettlement; 2. Generating evidence to improve humanitarian and settlement systems; and 3. Strengthening settlement services so LGBTIQ+ refugees can build safe, stable, and self-reliant lives in Australia.

Zohra Mousavi, Protection and Program Lead of the FDPN, is a queer Afghan refugee and humanitarian practitioner who leads protection work for LGBTIQ+ people in Asia. In Afghanistan, her work has focused on preventing gender-based violence, supporting access to education for girls, and establishing protection mechanisms for lesbian, bisexual, and trans women facing severe persecution under Taliban rule.



Fundación Refugiados Unidos, Colombia

[Fundación Refugiados Unidos](#) is an organization led by refugee women that emerged from the strength and resilience of three Venezuelan women who arrived in Colombia determined to protect their well-being and hopeful of rebuilding our lives. Drawing on their experiences and a sense of solidarity, they develop holistic solutions to improve the dignity and effective enjoyment of human rights for migrants, refugees, and displaced persons especially those who face power imbalances and discrimination: women, children, and LGBTIQ+ individuals. They believe in the transformative power of their voices. They are agents of change. They fight for the effective implementation of our leadership, governance, and proposals.

Ale Gómez, representative of Fundación Refugiados Unidos, is a lawyer and political scientist specializing in strategic litigation, advocacy, and research for refugees human rights and human mobility. They coordinate the Strategic Litigation and Advocacy Area at Refugiados Unidos, with expertise in project management, international cooperation, human rights, and intersectional approaches to gender and sexual diversity.



Global Network of Refugees with Disabilities, Global

[Global Network of Refugees with Disabilities \(GNRD\)](#) is a refugee-led global platform that brings together organizations of refugees with disabilities from across the world. GNRD aims to empower refugee-led organizations to access advocacy opportunities at national, regional, and global levels, and to mobilize resources for their initiatives. By uniting these organizations, GNRD amplifies their collective voice and works to ensure that the rights, needs, and priorities of refugees with disabilities are recognized and addressed in global policy processes and humanitarian responses. GNRD now has 8 full members plus 4 associate members and 3 observers.

Nogning Armelle Aimerique, representative of GNRD, is a disability inclusion advocate and social impact entrepreneur from Cameroon. She serves in leadership roles within disability networks and is the Founder and CEO of the Community Creative Center for Women and Girls with Disabilities, advancing inclusive community development and advocacy.



Integrated Women and Youths Empowerment Centre (IWAYEC), Nigeria

[Integrated Women and Youths Empowerment Centre \(IWAYEC\)](#) is a women-led and IDP-led non-governmental organization established in 2003 and registered in Nigeria. IWAYEC works across conflict-affected and underserved communities, particularly in Northeast Nigeria, delivering integrated humanitarian and development interventions in protection, education, livelihoods, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, peacebuilding, and women's empowerment. Drawing from lived experiences of displacement and community realities, IWAYEC is committed to locally led solutions that strengthen resilience, restore dignity, and improve access to opportunities for women, girls, youths, and vulnerable populations

Afiniki T. Mangzha Executive Director of IWAYEC, is a humanitarian and development leader with extensive experience designing and leading locally driven interventions for women, youth, and IDPs in conflict-affected communities across Nigeria. She works at the intersection of protection, resilience, education, livelihoods, and peacebuilding.



Mental Health Voluntary Youth Organization (MHVYO), Sudan

[Mental Health Voluntary Youth Organization \(MHVYO\)](#) is a national humanitarian organization in Sudan led by women, youth, and IDPs. Founded in 2024 by displaced medical doctors and community leaders, MHVYO provides integrated services across conflict-affected areas, focusing on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response, and emergency support. Deeply rooted within displacement-affected communities, MHVYO promotes inclusive, community-led, and culturally relevant humanitarian responses that strengthen dignity, resilience, and meaningful participation of displaced women, youth, and vulnerable populations

Dr. Taysier Abraham, Founder and General Director of MHVYO, is a Sudanese medical doctor, humanitarian professional and displaced community leader. She leads community-based mental health, protection, and humanitarian response initiatives across displacement-affected areas. Her work focuses on localization, capacity strengthening, and empowering women and youth to transform lived experience into resilient, community-driven responses in conflict settings.



Refugee Congress, United States

[Refugee Congress](#) is the national refugee-led organization built and led by leaders who have experienced forced displacement. We promote the well-being, inclusion, and dignity of refugees, asylees, and other forcibly displaced people by ensuring that those most impacted are at the center of the decisions that shape their lives and communities. We know that policies and programs are more inclusive and equitable when informed by lived experience. We elevate refugee leadership as equal partners in systems change. Through leadership training and development, policy and program advocacy, and building inclusive narratives, we advance public policies, shift public attitudes, and help transform systems locally, nationally, and globally.

Dauda Sesay is a refugee leader, Founder and Executive Director of the Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI), and Chair of the Refugee Congress Board. Originally from Sierra Leone, he advocates for refugee-led solutions, community integration, and policies that advance protection, belonging, and opportunity for displaced communities.



Refugee-Led Organisation Network (RELON), Uganda

[Refugee-Led Organization Network \(RELON\)](#) is a refugee-led network based in Uganda that works to strengthen meaningful refugee participation, localization, and advocacy. RELON supports and connects RLOs across diverse refugee communities, promoting refugee leadership in policy dialogue, humanitarian response, and development processes. The work focuses on capacity strengthening, advocacy and policy engagement, sustainable financing for RLOs, and advancing rights-based approaches to refugee inclusion, self-reliance, and freedom of movement. Through partnership and collective action, RELON works to ensure refugees are recognized as active contributors and decision-makers in issues affecting their lives.

Lukendo Mbokani Mparha is the Executive Director of the Refugee-Led Organization Network (RELON) Uganda and Secretary General of the Africa Refugee-Led Network (ARN). He is a refugee leader and advocate with extensive experience in refugee participation, localization, policy advocacy, and strengthening refugee-led organizations across Africa.



Robo Co-op, Japan

[Robo Co-op](#) is a refugee-led digital cooperative and talent platform connecting displaced people to structured training and lawful income-generating opportunities in the digital economy through impact sourcing and AI-powered remote work. Built on “Learn Together, Work Together, Expand Together,” Robo Co-op combines peer-based learning, client projects, and cooperative governance. Participants develop in-demand digital skills, collaborate in small groups, build portfolios, and deliver services aligned with local regulations. Its pay-it-forward model enables members to earn income while supporting future participants. Robo Co-op plans to expand across Asia, Europe, and Latin America through partnerships with municipalities, NGOs, employers, and development organizations.

Dim Dim Lian, Analyst for Advocacy and Partnership of Robo Co-op, is an advocate for inclusive development, digital empowerment, and refugee participation. From Myanmar’s Chin community, her refugee journey through Malaysia and resettlement in Japan informs her work advancing refugee-led advocacy, digital opportunity, education access, and meaningful participation through Robo Co-op, CERTE and APRRN.



Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT), Global

[Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table \(R-SEAT\)](#) is an international initiative working to enhance the effectiveness of global refugee responses, by co-designing mechanisms to amplify refugee leadership ecosystems and increase the participation of refugees at state levels in a meaningful, sustainable, and transformative way.

Mustafa Alio, Co-Managing Director of R-SEAT, is a Syrian-Canadian refugee advocate. He co-founded Jumpstart Refugee Talent and helped pioneer labour mobility pathways and Canada’s Economic Mobility Pathway Program, advancing practical solutions for refugee inclusion through labor mobility. Mustafa has advised governments, UN agencies, and international partners on meaningful refugee participation, protection, and global refugee policy, and contributed to consultations that shaped the Global Compact on Refugees.



Salam For Democracy and Human Rights (SALAM DHR), France

[Salam For Democracy and Human Rights \(SALAM DHR\)](#) is an international human rights NGO registered in France, the UK, and Switzerland, conducting research and advocacy across the Gulf and MENA region since 2012. With a dedicated focus on statelessness, deprivation of citizenship, and discriminatory laws that render communities stateless and displaced, SALAM DHR engages grassroots networks, UN mechanisms, and parliamentary bodies to drive policy reform. As a member of the UNHCR Global Alliance to End Statelessness Advisory Committee member, SALAM-DHR brings lived-experience perspectives and coalition-based advocacy to advance the rights and meaningful participation of stateless and displaced communities in global policy discussions.

Jawad Fairooz, Founder and Chairman of SALAM DHR, is a former Bahraini MP and a human rights defender living in exile in London since 2012. Formerly stateless after being forcibly stripped of his Bahraini nationality, he serves on multiple Advisory Boards including GA to End Statelessness, GMAS, HAWAITI, ENS, and REDRESS.



Student Union for Rohingya Development (SURD), Bangladesh

[Student Union for Rohingya Development \(SURD\)](#) is a refugee-led youth organization advancing education, leadership, self-resilience, and community empowerment among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Led by Rohingya students and graduates, SURD promotes its triple E model (Education, Enlightenment, and Empowerment) to foster youth leadership, a pro-Rohingya nation, and strengthen cooperation between refugee and host communities. With a network of over 200 youth volunteers across Kutupalong and Nayapara camps, SURD implements community-driven initiatives in education, peacebuilding, advocacy, and capacity development while amplifying refugee voices in humanitarian and policy discussions.

Forid Alam, Founder and Director of SURD, is the architect of the Triple E Model, shaped by 27 years of lived refugee experience. As a DAFI scholar with a Master's in Policy and Governance, he has worked as a junior policy analyst on migration and refugee issues, with a focus on advancing refugee empowerment and global humanitarian resilience.



The World and Peoples Transform (WOPT), Democratic Republic of the Congo

[The World and Peoples Transform \(WOPT\)](#) is an IDP-led organization based in the DRC, working across the Great Lakes region to advance financial inclusion, peacebuilding, and resilience for refugees, IDPs, stateless persons, returnees, and host communities. Through innovative programs, WOPT empowers displaced populations with access to credit, livelihoods, and advocacy platforms, while amplifying refugee voices through storytelling and archives. WOPT established The Refugee Bank for Africa (RBAf), its flagship program through which most humanitarian initiatives are implemented, positioning the organization as a leader in community-driven resilience and financial innovation.

Abraham Kahasha is the Founder and Executive Director of WOPT. He also directs The Refugee Bank for Africa (RBAf), a WOPT program pioneering innovative humanitarian credit models to strengthen resilience among displaced populations. With lived experience of displacement, Abraham advocates globally for financial inclusion, refugee/IDPs-led solutions, and leading innovative humanitarian projects across Africa.



Transformation Innovation Hub (TIH), Zimbabwe

[Transformation Innovation Hub](#) transforms and empowers refugees and local youth from the host community through innovative and social entrepreneurship in the Tongogara Refugee Camp in Zimbabwe. TIH seeks to provide job opportunities to refugees and local youth in the camp through supporting them to discover their abilities and purpose, and in developing their skills to enable them to create self-sustainable social enterprise.

Kazumba Babadi, Director and CEO of TIH, is a Congolese leader based in Zimbabwe. He drives refugee youth empowerment through social entrepreneurship and skills development. He also serves as Strategic Partnership Agreement Program Coordinator at Action Aid, Australian Aid and COPAZ, strengthening partnerships and expanding inclusive economic opportunities for communities.



United Stateless, United States

[United Stateless](#) is a stateless-led and the only organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to addressing statelessness. Founded and led by people with lived experience, United Stateless advances legal protection, community building, leadership development, and policy change for stateless individuals and those at risk of statelessness. The organization operates the nation's first Stateless Legal Clinic, provides holistic support that integrates legal and psychosocial services, and advocates for lasting solutions, including the Stateless Protection Act and the protection of birthright citizenship. United Stateless works to ensure that stateless people are recognized, protected, and meaningfully included in decisions that affect their lives.

Karina Ambartsoumian-Clough is the founding member and Executive Director of United Stateless. She became stateless when the U.S.S.R. dissolved and lives stateless in the United States for 30 years. She leads advocacy, legal support, and community-building efforts for stateless people nationwide.



Youth Support Volunteer Organization (YSVO), Egypt

[Youth Support Volunteer Organization \(YSVO\)](#) is a Refugee, youth-led non-profit organization founded on January 1, 2020, in Cairo, Egypt by a group of young South Sudanese students and refugees with a shared vision to support displaced and vulnerable members of their communities through integrated, community-driven programs, particularly the homeless youth, women, children, and persons with disabilities through voluntary action. YSVO was born from the belief that those affected by displacement due to factors including global conflicts, natural disasters, hunger, and a lack of access to clean water and healthcare should be empowered to contribute to solutions to this crisis.

Emmanuel Zangako Peter, founder of YSVO, is a law graduate from Ain Shams University. He also founded Refugee Voice on Climate Change. He serves in refugee and youth advisory roles in Egypt, advancing refugee inclusion, climate justice, youth leadership, and community-led humanitarian action through collaboration with refugee-led networks and international organizations.

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