



Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Filippo Grandi was born in Milan, Italy in 1957.

He has been engaged in international cooperation for 33 years, primarily with the United Nations. He has served in field operations in many of the major refugee and humanitarian crises of the last three decades.

As United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, he heads the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) leading the international response to refugee crises around the world, working with governments to ensure that refugees have access to protection and support, and helping find solutions to displacement and statelessness.

He speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish.

See [here](#) for his most recent speech on today's global forced displacement challenges.

Professional experience

January 2016 to date
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

2010-2014
Commissioner-General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

2005-2010
Deputy Commissioner-General, UNRWA

2004-2005
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
(oversaw the political department, including elections, disarmament and human rights programmes during 2004 presidential election and 2005 parliamentary election)

2001-2004
Chief of Mission, UNHCR, Kabul, Afghanistan
(oversaw large-scale voluntary repatriation of refugees from Iran and Pakistan following the Bonn Agreement)

1997-2001
Special Assistant to the High Commissioner, then Chef de Cabinet, UNHCR, Geneva
(assisted High Commissioners Ogata and Lubbers)

1996-1997

UN Field Coordinator, Eastern Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo
(led the UN humanitarian response in rebel-controlled areas during the civil war in Zaire/Congo)

1994-1996

Senior Fund Raising Officer, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva
(responsible for fundraising with the EU, France, Belgium and Luxembourg)

1992-1994

Senior Emergency Officer, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva
(member of the first group of five emergency officers in the newly-created Emergency Section, deployed to lead emergency response teams in Kenya/Somalia, Mauritania, Benin/Ghana, Liberia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Rwanda/Tanzania/Zaire including the Goma emergency in the summer of 1994)

1991-1992

Programme Coordinator, UNHCR, Baghdad, Iraq
(support to the voluntary repatriation of Iraqi Kurds and other refugees after the first Gulf War)

1991

Member of UNHCR Gulf Crisis Emergency Teams, Syria and Turkey
(emergency preparedness and response following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and first Gulf War)

1990

Head of Field Office, UNHCR, Gedaref, Sudan
(support to Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in Eastern Sudan)

1988-1990

Programme Officer and acting Head of Sub-Office, UNHCR, Port Sudan, Sudan
(support to Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in the Red Sea Province)

1985

Refugee Project Coordinator, Catholic Relief Services, Bangkok
(coordination of CRS projects for Indochinese refugees in Thailand)

1984

Deputy Field Director, Catholic Relief Services, Surin, Thailand
(health and nutrition programme for Cambodian refugees)

1981-1983

"Civil service", Amnesty International Regional Office, Milan, Italy
(alternative to compulsory military service)

EDUCATION / RESEARCH

1981

Degree in modern history, State University, Milan, Italy

1987

BA in Philosophy, Gregorian University, Rome, Italy

2012

Honorary degree (D.Litt.), University of Coventry, UK

2014

Honorary Associate, Department of International Development (Refugee Studies Centre),
University of Oxford, UK

Senior Research Fellow, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs,
American University of Beirut, Lebanon

HONOURS

Commander, Order of Italian Solidarity (“Commendatore dell’Ordine della Solidarietà
italiana”, 2007)

Civic Gold Medal of Merit, City of Milan (“Ambrogino d’oro” 2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Rifugi e Ritorni (2017), Mondadori, Italy