



Towards a global compact on refugees: thematic discussions five (15 November)
Panel Two: “How can we ensure a whole-of-society response to large movements of refugees and protracted situations?”

Your Excellencies,

As refugee leaders from NRV, we strongly believe in the whole-of-society approach. Rather than being dependent on our hosts’ aid and generosity, refugee-led initiatives empower us to take action.

The current system creates a cycle of dependency that limits opportunities for the refugees with agency to succeed, and lift others out of vulnerable situation into self-reliance. We believe that refugee-led initiatives can help to reverse this trend.

Throughout my experience in the Syrian Volunteers in the Netherlands, a refugee-led organisation, refugees can create their own initiatives when they have given the space to do so.

Chair, we urge all not to rob refugees of their agency by keeping them in a situation of dependency. We are convinced that States should take ownership of refugee inclusion and advocate for it at every level of policymaking.

We call for the establishment of a mechanism at the national levels that would enable direct refugee engagement.

Finally, we remind all, that States took a commitment towards a whole-of-society approach in the New York declaration point 69, which is including us in the consultation. On this basis, we urge you all to continue to uphold this commitment in 2018.

Thank you,

Network for Refugee Voices