

The Rights of Older Persons in the Global Compact on Refugees
Thematic discussion 14/15 November

Representing the NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva, I thank UNHCR for the opportunity to contribute to the global compact.

We would like to note that older people are not raised in a comprehensive manner in the CRRF. I support the colleague from AMES Australia's comprehensive speech. I would like to complement it with the issue that the world has an ageing population. Thus, older refugees, their specific needs, and the role they play within their families and community must be considered in all political agendas, and considered as a cross cutting issue in development of the global compact.

We therefore recommend including the following points in the Global Compact:

1. All data collected must be disaggregated by age.
2. Ageing should be understood as comprising the last third of the average life expectancy in the country of origin of the refugees.
3. Older refugees shall be immediately identified with age related specific physical health, mental health, medication and nutrition needs.
4. Recognize the heterogeneity of older persons and ensure their independence and autonomy
5. Gender and age specific services and support should be offered to contribute to prevention of and response to abuse and neglect of the older person.
6. Older refugees must be provided with age-friendly access to national social protection systems
7. Governments should use person centered planning to coordinate services and support to meet needs of older people in countries of asylum and when they return to their home country

We will submit a more comprehensive list later.

Thank you

NGO Committee on Ageing