



Action Network on Forced Displacement: Women as Agents of Change

Members' Declaration / Joint Roadmap

On 26 and 27 October 2020, we launched the '*Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change*' under the patronage of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Action Network aims at strengthening women affected by situations of forced displacement as actors - regarding their rights, opportunities and economic and political participation.

With this Roadmap we, the Members of the Network, want to define our common understanding on the direction the Network should take in order to bring forward women's empowerment in forced displacement contexts. It also lays the ground for our future discussions and cooperation towards this end.

The Action Network regards the equal participation of women in social, economic and political decision-making as a crucial prerequisite to peaceful coexistence and to the prevention and management of crises – especially in the context of forced displacement. Women who have been displaced and subsequently live in camps or host communities, are often marginalised and insufficiently integrated into political and economic processes. Besides social, cultural and legal barriers, their right to participate in decision-making is often undermined by their lack of familiarity with their new environment, the psychosocial stress caused by traumatic experiences and, of course, by the precarious economic situation and lack of prospects they face.

As Members of the Action Network we refer to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions. Members recognise its aim to strengthen the active role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building and protect all people from sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts. October 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the resolution. We further recognise the efforts of long-standing multilateral platforms such as the World Conferences on Women and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

We, the members of the Action Network declare that...

- **Our understanding of forced displacement spans all geographical contexts, as well as all stages and forms of forced displacement**, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and returnees. Members recognise that ultimately, women's experience must be seen as **intersectional**,



overlapping with age, race, sexuality, disabilities, belief etc., which can amplify vulnerabilities.

- **We will collaborate with the aim to raise the visibility and voices of women in contexts of forced displacement and to strengthen their political and economic participation. This means that we will work towards a transformation of the role of women in forced displacement situations in order to understand and empower them as Agents of Change.** We are committed to action and intend to decide on the implementation of projects within the funds of WPHF. We furthermore intend to share our experiences, good practice examples and lessons learned to foster collective learning and develop tangible recommendations for policy-makers, the private sector and society.

We agree on the following terms of cooperation...

- **We will meet on an annual basis** for 2-3 days in order to exchange on focal topics relevant for displaced women and their agency and participation.
- **At our meetings, we will identify effective and innovative good practices** for strengthening the political and economic participation of women.
- **Building on this, we will formulate specific recommendations for policymakers, civil society.** We will seek to feed these recommendations into national and international processes, such as the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees GCR.
- **Our Action Network closely cooperates with the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, which established a funding window that will support the financing and implementation of projects** that promote the political and economic engagement of women in contexts of forced displacement.
- **As members of the Action Network, we will actively participate in the thematic orientation and dissemination of the funding window (call for proposals) and provide recommendations to the selection process.** We will support the women receiving funding in terms of knowledge, visibility and exchange.
- **We highly welcome Partners of the Action Network and look forward to cooperating with them.** They represent the broader frame of the Action Network. We aim to exchange information on topics and recommendations we discuss. We will use synergies and raise the awareness of the rights, competences and needs of displaced women in the political sphere and in society.
- **Our threefold approach (Members, Partners, and Fund) unites expert exchanges, project implementation and political visibility and repercussion.** It contributes both directly to the increased participation and capacity of displaced women and, in the



interests of displaced women, to the orientation of political action in the implementation of international obligations in this field.

Our way forward entails the following...

... we agreed on the following countries to be pilot countries in the first **call for proposals of the funding window by the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund** for the support of women in forced displacement: Yemen, Nigeria, Colombia

...we have decided to **focus the resources of the Action Network** onto the following areas of empowerment:

1. Economic Empowerment
2. Psychosocial Support, Safety and Protection
3. Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
4. Political Participation and Governance

Across these topics, we will address questions on:

1. How to link humanitarian, peace and development approaches
2. How to connect local initiatives and international organisations
3. How to call for government accountability regarding the inclusion and integration of refugees
4. How to bring about a change of the mindset as to the role of women as Agents of Change in forced displacement
5. How to feed in lessons learned and policy recommendations into political processes.

Our next conference among the Action Network is to take place in October 2021 in Berlin (if feasible).