



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

International Refugee Rights Conference

Toronto, June 2018

In June 2018, the Canadian Council for Refugees invites non-governmental organizations and others to attend an international conference in Toronto designed to enhance effectiveness in promoting the human rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.

When: 7-9 June 2018

Where: York University, Toronto, Canada

Who: Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, government officials, UNHCR representatives, refugees and vulnerable migrants. Special attention will be given to representation from the Global South.

Why: Refugee advocates, academics and others need to learn from each other and strategize across borders, in order to better meet the evolving needs of refugees. The goal of the conference will be to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs in promoting the human rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.

What: The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues facing refugees and other vulnerable migrants. Topics covered will include:

- Effective protection
- Interdiction and access to protection
- New approaches to local integration, voluntary repatriation, resettlement
- Private sponsorship of refugees
- Global Compacts
- Immigration detention
- Refugee determination
- Access to secure immigration and citizenship status
- Sexual orientation and gender identity and expression
- Post-deportation monitoring
- Family reunification
- Refugee youth
- Gender and displacement
- Children's rights
- Trafficking in persons
- Economic and social rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Settlement and integration of refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Creating welcoming communities
- Promoting positive public opinion
- Mental health and well-being
- Statelessness
- Review of UNHCR's role
- Security vetting
- Trafficking in persons

The Canadian Council for Refugees is a national non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada. Its 195 member organizations are involved in the settlement, sponsorship and protection of refugees and immigrants. The Council serves the networking, information-exchange and advocacy needs of its membership.

Objectives:

- To promote ongoing cross-border networking, knowledge-exchange, strategizing and collaboration among NGOs committed to the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants, and between NGOs and academics.
- To enhance NGO advocacy for better global protection for refugees and vulnerable migrants, including by giving input into the Global Compacts on refugees and migrants.
- To enhance efforts to educate and engage the public, in order to energize support for policies respecting the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.
- To increase knowledge of the inter-connections between policies and practices affecting refugees and migrants in different regions of the world.
- To support the development of NGOs in the Global South committed to the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.
- To support the inclusion of the voices of refugees and vulnerable migrants in discussions concerning them.

In 2006 CCR held a similar international conference in Toronto, gathering 470 participants from over 30 countries in all five continents. That conference emphasized cross-border networking and was successful in connecting refugee advocates who were often working in isolation. For example, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network developed in part out of the connections made at the CCR's international conference.

Interested?

Organizations and individuals can get involved and contribute in many ways:

- **Sign up to receive updates about the conference.**
- **Circulate information about the conference in your networks.**
- **Provide financial support** to the CCR for the costs of the conference and/or for travel for NGO participants, especially from the Global South.
- **Sponsor a specific conference session.**
- **Support relevant partners** in attending the conference.
- **Help plan a workshop or other conference session.**

Registration will open in January 2018.

ccrweb.ca/international-conference



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