



CCR CRCP 2024 Principles and Priorities May 2024

1. Resettlement must be based on humanitarian and human rights principles

Governments must remain committed to selecting refugees based on need and human rights. While refugees do contribute economically, resettlement must not be motivated by economic considerations.

Global resettlement efforts must respond to growing resettlement needs, consistent with the principle of international responsibility sharing, while maintaining maximum protection impact.

Objective:

Ensure expansion of the scope and size of resettlement and complementary pathways.

2. Complementary Pathways (CP)

Complementary Pathways can be a key part of diverse resettlement solutions to achieve durable solutions for refugee protection but must be additional to traditional resettlement pathways, must lead to permanent and effective solutions, and should lead to an overall net increase in the number of third country solutions for refugees.

The financial and administrative requirements of CPs should ensure accessibility and not create barriers to participation.

Objectives:

Ensure the pursuit of Complementary Pathways does not lead to decreased resettlement focus and opportunities. Challenge the blurring of distinction between resettlement and CP and counter an emerging emphasis on expanding CP at the expense of resettlement.

Ensure greater effectiveness of complementary pathways as durable solutions for refugees. This includes, for labour mobility and educational pathways, the need to ensure support, services and training before, during and after the relevant CP program for both refugees and employers and receiving educational institutions.

Ensure governments take action to reduce the growing barriers to access CPs including through high fees, and burdensome and costly biometric data requests.

3. Private Sponsorship of Refugees

Private sponsorship is both a critical channel for responding to global emergencies and a rights-based pathway in support of family reunification.

Objective:

Bring Canadian history and experience to the growing international conversation on private sponsorship, with a focus on the importance of additionality, effective selection, the role of nomination or naming, and the role of community settlement.

4. Equity and Anti-Racism

Equity and anti-racism must be centered in the whole system of resettlement, including in terms of responses to global crises, selection and processing times, access to settlement services in third countries, and inclusion in the rights and benefits of society longer term.

People with lived experience as refugees must be fully integrated and provided with avenues for safe expression throughout the CRCP process and included in proceedings in a permanent and meaningful way. UNHCR, governments and civil society organizations all have responsibility to support full integration from a lens of anti-racism.

The CRCP must be an environment where LGBTQI+ individuals feel respected, valued, and safe to participate fully.

Objectives:

Ensure there is focus on the equity dimensions of selection in the CRCP agenda– which refugees are chosen for resettlement, who is left out, for e.g. because of barriers to registration, or lack of capacity to refer or discriminatory aspects of States' selection criteria, including specific barriers in access to resettlement, for LGBTQI+ refugees.

Ensure attention to the systemic discrimination and barriers faced by recent arrivals in settlement and longer-term integration, including barriers of language, low-income status, as well as racism, LGBTQI+ phobia, sexism, ableism, and other intersectional issues of oppression.

Ensure emergency responses are driven by key criteria: including equity, transparency, and additionality of both numbers and resources - emergency response resettlement should not be at the expense of other populations.

Ensure efforts to include refugees in the CRCP goes beyond simply supporting annual participation in meetings and includes systematic opportunities to shape agendas, decision making and the ongoing work of States, the UNHCR and the NGO sector, including through commitments to equity and anti-racism in the hiring practices of these institutions.

Make the CRCP a safe space for LGBTQI+ people by ensuring greater consistency in application of good practices for inclusivity– such as gender inclusive greetings, consistent use of pronouns, and attention to composition of panels.

5. Building welcoming communities

Sustained investment in building welcoming and inclusive societies is critical at home and abroad.

Objectives:

Ensure the expertise in Canada in the settlement and integration sector (including from those with lived experience as a refugee) contributes to global efforts to build public support to receive resettled refugees given our knowledge and experience in building welcoming communities

Promote the need for NGOs and CRCP partners to build a more positive narrative about the rights and contributions of refugees in countries around the world.

6. NGO Networking and Engagement

Ensure Canadian NGOs are informed by the work internationally and feed into ATCR. This includes those NGOs involved in complementary pathways. The CRCP is a critical global forum to ensure international NGO networking and engagement and learning by Canadian NGOs and people with lived experience as refugees.

Objectives: Networking, Learning and Engagement

Ensure access, support and mentorship in international networking for Canadian NGOs and persons with lived experience involved in resettlement and complementary pathways.

Ensure Canadian NGOs are informed by the work internationally and feed into CRCP. This includes those NGOs involved in complementary pathways.

Ensure effectiveness and sustainability of non-governmental Canadian participation in the CRCP by creating processes that ensure a balance of continuity and longer-term engagement of delegates with the need for mentoring and supporting access for new and diverse participants as NGOs and refugees with lived experience.

NOTE: In Canada traditional resettlement includes government assisted refugees and private sponsorship of named refugees and we use complementary pathways to refer to educational and labour mobility pathways.