



UNHCR NGO Regional Consultations 2018 - Regional Workshop for Northern Europe (NOCRE)

Forum Room

Title of the session	Improved cooperation between UNHCR and NGOs in the provision of Legal Assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in the Region 7 November 2018
Countries	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden
Focal Points	Moderators: UNHCR: Johan Frantz (frantz@unhcr.org) NGO: Cecilia Vejby Andersen (cecilia.vejby.andersen@drc.ngo) Note taker: (to be completed by ECRE Secretariat) Speakers/Panellists: Session 1: Ann-Magrit Austenå, NOAS (ama@noas.org) Olivia Mocanasu, UNHCR (mocanasu@unhcr.org) Peter Varga, Swedish Refugee Advice Centre (peter.varga@sweref.org) Amanda Taylor, ECRE (ataylor@ecre.org) Session 2: <u>Break-out 1: Cessation</u> (Moderator: Cecilia Vejby Andersen) Flip Schuller, UNHCR (fschuller@prakkendoliveira.nl) Dorte Smed, Danish Refugee Council (dorte.smed@drc.ngo) <u>Break-out 2: Afghanistan IFA</u> (Moderator: Johan Frantz) Becket Bedford, No. 5 Chambers (becketbedford@mac.com) Johan Frantz, UNHCR (frantz@unhcr.org)
Background	As a follow-up to the 2017 UNHCR-NGO consultations in Tallinn, and the NOCRE meeting in Copenhagen in April 2018, the sessions for Northern Europe will continue to aim at identifying improved ways for ECRE members and UNHCR to work together. The focus of this year's consultations is legal aid provision to asylum seekers and refugees and how the cooperation between NGOs and UNHCR in the Region can be improved in this respect.

ECRE is a pan-European alliance of 99 NGOs protecting and advancing the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons.

Rue Royale 146, 1000 Brussels, Belgium • +32 (0)2 234 3800 • ecre@ecre.org • www.ecre.org

	<p>The first session will focus on seeking to identify ways to improve stronger cooperation and support between UNHCR and NGOs in the Region.</p> <p>In Sweden, UNHCR has recently launched a cooperation project with the Swedish Refugee Advice Centre, aimed at strengthening legal aid and litigation efforts. In the Norwegian context, UNHCR and NOAS have an existing litigation group. On the basis of these experiences as well as a presentation of the ELENA network and the overall strategic partnership between UNHCR and ECRE on strategic litigation, the session will provide room for a discussion on how to improve cooperation and what the regional priorities within litigation in asylum cases are.</p> <p>The second session will break-out in two group focussing on two themes of relevance to the Region, namely Cessation and Afghanistan internal flight alternative (IFA). In both groups speaker with litigation experience within the selected themes will share experiences and legal arguments, and input to a joint discussion of possible plans for strategic litigation and cooperation in the Region within these areas.</p>
<p>Overall objectives of the 2018 Regional Consultations</p>	<p>To strengthen the provision of high quality legal aid for asylum seekers and refugees through better cooperation between the NGOs and UNHCR in the Region.</p>
<p>Objectives of each session & Guiding Questions</p>	<p>Session 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have inputted to ECRE/UNHCR strategic partnership on strategic litigation which is to be expanded in 2019 with clear regional priorities on e.g. training and support to litigation effort. ▪ Identify key elements in a plan for a stronger cooperation between UNHCR and NGOs in the region. <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify possible needs in the region which could be supported by the ECRE/UNHCR partnership on strategic litigation (training/support to litigation) ▪ How could cooperation between NGOs and UNHCR in the region be improved? <p>Session 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have shared experiences with national practice and litigation strategies within the two areas. ▪ Draft a plan for continued support and cooperation between UNHCR and NGOs as well as between NGOs within the two areas. <p><i>Guiding questions – Cessation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What national practices on cessation exist in the region? ▪ How can we litigate cessation cases in the context of subsidiary protection and refugee status respectively? ▪ What are the possible legal avenues? <p><i>Guiding questions – Afghanistan IFA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What national practices on cessation exist in the Region? ▪ What legal arguments can be advanced? ▪ What are the possible legal avenues?

<p>Agenda (Outline of the workshop)</p>		<p><i>Session 1: Cooperation between UNHCR and NGOs on legal assistance to asylum seekers in the region</i></p>
	12:00 – 12:20	Introduction and workshop objectives
	12:20 – 12:50	Cooperation between UNHCR - Swedish Refugee Advice Centre NOAS/UNHCR Norwegian litigation group ELENA platform and strategic partnership with UNHCR on strategic litigation
	12:50 – 13:30	Discussion and ways forward UNHCR-NGO cooperation modalities in Northern Europe in 2019 and beyond
	13:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
		<p><i>Session 2: Strategic cooperation on cessation and Afghanistan IFA cases</i></p>
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Break-out 1: Cessation 'Cessation of refugee status – litigation experience', Flip Schuller, UNHCR 'Cessation of Subsidiary protection – the case of Somalis in Denmark', Dorte Smed, Danish Refugee Council</p> <p>Break-out 2: Afghanistan, IFA 'Experience with litigating Afghanistan IFA in the UK', Becket Bedford 'New UNHCR guidelines – basis for new practice in the region?', Johan Frantz, UNHCR</p>	