



ECRE Annual General Conference 2024

World Refugee Day

Global Displacement; European Anxiety

Thursday 20 June 2024

Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 75, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Workshop Number: 2

Room: Netherlands III

Time: 11.00-13.00

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| Title | Collaborative advocacy and activism for increased EU-wide resettlement commitments |
| Organiser | International Rescue Committee (IRC) |
| Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To collectively explore and develop ideas for collaboration on resettlement advocacy, with synergies between the local, national and EU levels. 2. To provide a space for experts and advocates with lived experience to share best practices around self-advocacy. 3. To hear from organisations and advocates regarding the barriers and opportunities for influence they see on the topic of resettlement. |
| Facilitator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meron Ameha Knikman – Senior EU Advocacy Advisor (Refugee Resettlement, Asylum and Integration), IRC |
| Speakers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flor Didden – Policy Officer (Migration), 11.11.11. • Maria Voica – Regional Resettlement Specialist, International Organization for Migration • Elie Umukunzi – Human rights activist with lived experience |
| Format | Following brief inputs from the speakers, there will be a facilitated panel discussion on different potential tactics for linking up EU, national and local advocacy on resettlement to maximise the potential for tangible impact. The audience will be engaged as much as possible and specific emphasis will be placed on the importance of working meaningfully with advocates with lived experience as part of these advocacy efforts. |
| Description | With humanitarian needs escalating across the world and conflicts becoming protracted, the number of people facing displacement is also increasing. In 2024, |

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| | <p>over 130 million people are estimated to be displaced, while 2.4 million are identified by the United Nations as in need of resettlement.</p> <p>At the same time, pathways to safety or long-term solutions for refugees are increasingly limited – including access to asylum, resettlement, returning home, or integration into local communities. While EU leaders often speak of the importance of increasing safe routes to protection, this has yet to translate into renewed ambition. Instead, many resettlement programmes have been scaled down, suspended, or indefinitely put on hold in recent years. In 2024, 14 EU member states pledged to welcome 30,960 refugees via resettlement over the next two years – constituting less than 1% of all people in need of resettlement.</p> <p>This workshop will constitute a space for different organisations and individual advocates to explore ways in which we can work together to build synergies between advocacy and activism carried out at local, national and EU levels respectively, to collectively increase our chances of seeing much needed impact and results for people seeking safety through increased commitment to resettlement across Europe. Following the adoption of the Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework in April 2024, this is an opportune moment for rethinking advocacy for safe pathways, linking up perspectives from the EU, national and local levels to drive successful joint campaigns for change.</p> |
| Contact | For more information about this workshop, please contact Meron Ameha Knikman . |

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