



# HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DIALOGUE ON PROTECTION AT SEA AND FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS DIALOGUES

Oral update by:

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# OVERVIEW OF RECENT DIALOGUES

- **Protection at Sea** – 10-11  
December 2014
- Largest Dialogue yet organized: over 450 participants – 88 States, 52 NGOs, 13 IGOs + seafarers, shipping industry, national Coast Guards and Navies
- **Faith and Protection** – 12-13  
December 2012
- Examined partnerships with faith leaders, faith communities and FBOs
- **Protecting the internally displaced** – 11-12  
December 2013
- Sharpened focus on IDP protection, including by UNHCR

# PROTECTION AT SEA FOLLOW-UP (1)

UNHCR will:

1. Continue to advocate for and support States to establish **effective search and rescue**
2. Foster **dialogue** among the shipping industry and relevant international organizations and States
3. In partnership, build on collaboration with NGOs in key regions to **improve the analysis of data: travel routes, profiles and protection needs**
4. Develop proposals for **improved reception and treatment post-disembarkation**

# PROTECTION AT SEA FOLLOW-UP (2)

5. Support for [Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative](#) (USA and Philippines)
6. Advocate for and develop [alternatives pathways to protection](#)

# FAITH AND PROTECTION - FOLLOW-UP SINCE 2012

1. [Inventory of good practices](#) of faith-based organizations undertaking protection activities, including in partnership with UNHCR
2. [‘Affirmations for Faith Leaders’](#)
3. Research in collaboration with the [Joint Learning Initiative on Local Faith Communities and Faith-based Organizations](#)
4. [‘Faith literacy’: ‘Partnership Note on Faith-based Organizations, Local Faith Communities and Faith Leaders’](#) (issued last July)

# AFFIRMATIONS FOR FAITH LEADERS

- From February through April 2013, a coalition of leading faith-based humanitarian organizations and academic institutions drafted “Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders”, including
  - HIAS
  - Islamic Relief Worldwide
  - Jesuit Refugee Service
  - Lutheran World Federation
  - Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
  - Religions for Peace
  - University of Vienna Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology
  - World Council of Churches
  - World Evangelical Alliance
  - World Vision International)
- Translated into العربية, 中国的, français, עברית, русский and español

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER: AFFIRMATIONS FOR FAITH LEADERS

A core value of my faith is to welcome the stranger, the refugee, the internally displaced, the other. I shall treat him or her as I would like to be treated. I will challenge others, even leaders in my faith community, to do the same.

Together with faith leaders, faith-based organizations and communities of conscience around the world, I affirm:

I will welcome the stranger.

My faith teaches that compassion, mercy, love and hospitality are for everyone: the native born and the foreign born, the member of my community and the newcomer.

I will remember and remind members of my community that we are all considered “strangers” somewhere, that we should treat the stranger to our community as we would like to be treated, and challenge intolerance.

I will remember and remind others in my community that no one leaves his or her homeland without a reason: some flee because of persecution, violence or exploitation; others due to natural disaster; yet others out of love to provide better lives for their families.

I recognize that all persons are entitled to dignity and respect as human beings. All those in my country, including the stranger, are subject to its laws, and none should be subject to hostility or discrimination.

I acknowledge that welcoming the stranger sometimes takes courage, but the joys and the hopes of doing so outweigh the risks and the challenges. I will support others who exercise courage in welcoming the stranger.

I will offer the stranger hospitality, for this brings blessings upon the community, upon my family, upon the stranger and upon me.

I will respect and honor the reality that the stranger may be of a different faith or hold beliefs different from mine or other members of my community.

I will respect the right of the stranger to practice his or her own faith freely. I will seek to create space where he or she can freely worship.

I will speak of my own faith without demeaning or ridiculing the faith of others.

I will build bridges between the stranger and myself. Through my example, I will encourage others to do the same.

I will make an effort not only to welcome the stranger, but also to listen to him or her deeply, and to promote understanding and welcome in my community.

I will speak out for social justice for the stranger, just as I do for other members of my community.

Where I see hostility towards the stranger in my community, whether through words or deeds, I will not ignore it, but will instead endeavor to establish a dialogue and facilitate peace.

I will not keep silent when I see others, even leaders in my faith community, speaking ill of strangers, judging them without coming to know them, or when I see them being excluded, wronged or oppressed.

I will encourage my faith community to work with other faith communities and faith-based organizations to find better ways to assist the stranger.

I will welcome the stranger.

# PROTECTING THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED – FOLLOW-UP

1. Spurred refinement of UNHCR's IDP Policy and related programme guidance.
2. More predictable UNHCR engagement with IDPs (development of an 'IDP footprint'), enhanced field support and training for staff (almost 1,000 benefitted from e-learning) and continued strong lead of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC)
3. Robust cooperation and support for development of IDP policy and legislation (UNHCR spurred the creation of the GPC Task Team on Policy and Law)
4. Partnerships to enhance the solutions potential of IDP interventions