

ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs
14 – 16 JUNE 2017
International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Session title: ***Standing #withRefugees: what civil society can do to promote a positive narrative about refugees***

Date: ***Friday 16 June***

Time/Room: ***12h15 – 13h45 – Room 5/6***

Background and link to the theme:

Recently there have been a multitude of conferences and forums dedicating several days of discussion on this issue; how can we turn around the toxic narrative against refugees. In our single NGO consultation session we will aim to focus in on a specific aspect of the conversation - how can civil society collaborate in order to drown out the toxic noise. We also want to see how these efforts can help us deliver on the New York Declaration's call for a campaign combatting xenophobia.

Objectives of the session:

The session will aim to:

- Illustrate some replicable best practices which promote inclusion and diversity
- Widen the net: show how a broader range of stakeholders can add impact
- Trusted voices: How to identify the voices which can challenge the negative narrative and show how national values embrace diversity and respect for all
- Taking action: what any NGO, company or community can do to make a difference

Outcome of the session and follow up:

- Participants at this session recommend (through discussion and use of pigeonhole) a way forward that would then feed into the UN TOGETHER initiative mandated under the New York Declaration. This in turn would support the eventual Global compact on refugees and the Global compact on migration

This could include:

- Establishing a multi stakeholder approach to bringing refugee or migrant and host communities together
- Sharing lessons learned and best practices on combatting xenophobia online.
- Establishing a menu of messages and actions that can be taken at the grass roots level aimed at diffusing the toxic narratives

Methodology:

Discussion with pigeonhole, and presentations, interventions.