



Towards a global compact on refugees: thematic discussions four (14 November)

Panel four: “How can we make local solutions work for refugees and the communities in which they live?”

Ladies and Gentlemen, your Excellencies,

My experience with Citizens for Syria in Germany has proved to me that refugee-led initiatives allow for the creation of local solutions, employment opportunities and combat xenophobia.

Refugee-led initiatives generate employment, not only for refugees but also for local host communities.

My experience has also shown me that refugees are the most legitimate and effective actors in fighting xenophobia.

As long as others speak on our behalf we will not be able to demonstrate our integration and develop a harmonious relationship with our host community.

All too often refugees are only seen as recipients of humanitarian aid. Effective solutions can only be implemented through building self-reliance schemes, that involve us.

To do this, we need better recognition of refugees’ skills and qualifications to prevent an inefficient allocation of human capital in a given labour market.

To do that, we must give refugees flexible educational opportunities as well as greater chances to gain employment through reduced bureaucratic burden.

We must also acknowledge the diversity within the refugee community and employ an intersectional approach when designing and implementing refugee focused projects.

We strongly believe that enabling and supporting refugee-led initiatives is essential to tackle the diverse challenges that come with large movements of people, including for host communities.

Thank you,

Network for Refugee Voices