

The Third CULTURE MINDS

Thank you, High Commissioner;

Jumbo

Asalaymu Alaykum

Iska warran and

Kia ora koutou

Distinguished guests, NGOs and fellow refugee representatives it is an honour to give this intervention from the floor on behalf of Third Culture Minds, a New Zealand based NGO dedicated to advancing positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes for refugee youth. More recently, we have been involved in advocacy work to ensure that refugee voices and perspective are taken into account through policies, programmes and service delivery measures.

I am particularly heartened to see so many speaking on and acknowledging the importance of including refugees and others with lived experiences in responding to refugee situations. It is also important to note that, both the 2016 New York Declaration and the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) have called for meaningful participation of refugees in refugee response.

More than ever, we have seen refugees participating on panels, invited to fora and voicing their interests and concerns. And importantly, there is a growing appreciation for the fact that including refugees in substantive ways is not only the right thing to do, but that it results in policies and programs that are more effective and responsive towards the needs of the people it seeks to benefit. My hope is that these conversations instigates some much needed continued progress in this area.

I'd like to further use this opportunity to call on all the relevant actors to reflect and advance measures to include refugees and people with lived experience, to encourage genuine and meaningful participation.

Finally, in a world where we are witnessing doors being closed on refugees and vulnerable people more than ever before, Third Culture Minds is committed to playing its part in making the UNHCR resettlement strategy a reality. In this regard, we call on all actors, including NZ, to undertake further bold and new measures to:

1. Increase resettlement quotas in areas of greatest need, more specifically the Africa and Middle East regions.
2. To Enhance and implement permanent complementary pathways to resettlement, including a community sponsorship initiative
3. Finally, to introduce initiatives aimed at enhancing a more welcoming and inclusive society for refugees

Thank you all for your time.