

**2021 UNHCR Regional Consultations with NGOs**  
Regional Dialogue on national independent monitoring mechanisms  
18 February 2021

*Organised by UNHCR, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), regional Dialogues with NGOs aim at ensuring regular and two-way communication between UNHCR and NGOs in Europe on topics of common interest, as well as identifying areas for joint/complementary advocacy.*

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Participants:</b> 62 participants
<b>Item 1:</b> <b>Scene-setter:</b> Push-backs in Europe and the important role of national independent monitoring mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>29 NGOs:</b> Amnesty International; Association Vasa Prava; Border Violence Monitoring Network; Caritas; Centre for Peace Studies; Crisis Response and Policy Centre; Croatian Law Centre; Danish Refugee Council; Doctors without Borders; Dutch Council for Refugees; ECRE; European Network of National Human Rights Institutions; European Network on; Statelessness; Greek Council for Refugees; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; Human Rights Watch; Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance; Hungarian Helsinki Committee; ICVA; International Catholic Migration Commission; Jesuit Refugee Service; Menedék; Oxfam; Plan International; Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants; Refugees International; Romanian National Council for Refugees; Save the Children; and Unire</li><li>- <b>UNHCR</b> Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, and Serbia; UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe; UNHCR Representation for EU Affairs</li><li>- <b>OHCHR</b> Regional representation for Europe</li></ul>
<b>Item 2:</b> <b>Views and perspectives</b> on independent national monitoring mechanism as a means to prevent and address push-backs	
<b>Item 3:</b> <b>Advocacy</b> around the establishment of independent national monitoring mechanisms	

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**Action points suggested during the discussions:**

- Compile inputs received on statements, advocacy documents and press releases by all participants (**status:** completed by UNHCR, attached to this note);
- Identify, following today's session and upcoming events (including OHCHR/UNHCR conference with regional institutions on this subject organized in Brussels on the 23 February 2021), the need to organize, or not, a separate session on potential complementary advocacy efforts;
- Identify and disseminate good practices of national human rights institutions, as well as lessons learned;
- Explore legal options to address pushbacks under current regional and international framework.