

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME (ExCom)**  
**NGO Collective Statement – International Protection**  
**75th Session**  
**14-18 October 2024**

Dear Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

This statement is delivered on behalf of a wide range of NGOs.

We are at a critical juncture in global history. Conflicts are raging and the failure to find peaceful solutions is pushing humanitarian responses to their limits, against a backdrop of ever-growing needs, and insufficient funding. We are seeing widespread and deeply concerning disregard for international humanitarian law, compounded by impunity for gross violations of human rights. This failure means that millions of people are being forcibly displaced both inside and outside their countries and international protection issues continue to rise.

The global rise of 'anti-migratory' nationalistic discourse, hate speech and misinformation is fueling a rise in xenophobia. We are also gravely concerned too, in the rise of policies to externalise responsibility for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

We urge governments to counter rising xenophobia and hate speech aimed at displaced populations globally and to fulfill their responsibilities to international protection and global solidarity.

Internal displacement has reached a historic high. We welcome efforts by the Interagency Standing Committee to revise its IDP policy to ensure it is fit for purpose, and UNHCR's IDP Strategy. We equally welcome the work of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, in mobilizing key actors to ensure IDPs find durable solutions for their situation. However, we remain concerned: can the international community effectively build on and maintain political momentum? Member States have a critical role to play, to support the practical and political implementation of these initiatives, and of accountability, resources and sustaining attention to internal displacement.

While important progress has been made by the #IBelong campaign, many challenges and gaps remain. We urge States to treat statelessness with the urgency, political commitment and resource allocation it demands, and centre stateless people as the true experts. The launch of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness will provide an important platform going forward to achieve this end.

Unfortunately, we continue to operate in challenging environments. Calls to prioritize, be more efficient and better focus our responses, have not been matched with sustainable and increased financial support. This situation has left many of our organizations, particularly local actors, stretched and with lower capacity to serve those in need.

As NGOs, we are also facing criminalization of our work, shrinking civic space and hostile political discourses which make the provision of essential services challenging. We acknowledge that those challenges are worse for local NGOs on the frontline. We call upon States to support civil society space so we can effectively contribute to the protection of displaced populations.

We believe that it is not possible to achieve effective protection if inequalities in accessing services based on age, gender and diversity are not addressed. Often, the most marginalized populations bear the burden of responses that are not tailored to include them. Therefore, we call upon states to ensure they revise and support policies for protecting displaced people, so they are adapted to address the specific needs of children, women and girls, older people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

We also believe that humanitarian actors and member states must continue the push for the participation of forcibly displaced and stateless people in all their diversity.

**First**, by including refugee-led organisations as equal partners in refugee responses by properly resourcing them, ensuring better partnership agreements and increase their participation in key decision-making spaces.

**Second**, ensure proper accountability to displaced populations by opening spaces and providing the necessary support at the community level so that all groups of displaced people can have a voice. Governments and the humanitarian community must act upon their requests.

The growing complexities of global displacement require not only increased funding but also political will, solidarity, and a commitment to uphold rights. By prioritizing inclusive, equitable, and accountable approaches, we can create a future where displaced people are not merely surviving but are empowered to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

We stand ready to support and partner with UNHCR and governments to put our words into action.

This statement is available on [icvanetwork.org](http://icvanetwork.org)

Thank you.