



“Towards a global compact on refugees”

Thematic discussion three:

Panel 2: How can we support the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services?

18 October 2017

Rooms XVII and XXIV, Palais des Nations

Oral Statement, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would like to highlight that all people on the move, regardless of status or circumstance, are equally deserving of human rights, including access to essential services. These are fundamental human rights and should be protected without discrimination.

- The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recently stated that “All people under the jurisdiction of the State concerned should enjoy the Covenant rights: this includes asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as other migrants, even when their situation in the country is irregular.” (CESCR statement, February 2017, para 3)
- This means for example that all children on the move have the right to education, food and health care. It also means that refugees have the right to work, and that any differential treatment must be proportionate and in pursuit of a legitimate aim. (CESCR statement, February 2017, para 5)
- The Committee also pointed out that asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants are at particular risk of facing discrimination due to their precarious situation. Consistent with the requirement of non-discrimination, States parties should therefore pay specific attention to the practical obstacles that certain groups may face in accessing their Covenant rights. (CESCR

statement February 2017, para 7)

- On behalf of the Global Migration Group, OHCHR is finalizing a set of Principles and Guidelines to illustrate how states and other stakeholders can operationalise existing human rights commitments to migrants in vulnerable situations, including those who are in need of protection under international human rights law. We are particularly concerned about those who risk falling into gaps because they are unable to benefit from refugee protection, but nevertheless find themselves in a situation of vulnerability that calls for heightened protection of their human rights.
- OHCHR stands ready to work with all stakeholders to ensure meaningful integration of human rights law and standards into the Global Compact on Refugees.

Thank you.