



REGIONAL WORKSHOP on Refugees, Migrants and Stateless: A New Era. How Can Civil Society Respond Creatively?

*Mindol Metta Karuna
Siem Reap, Cambodia
28-30 November 2018*

WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE

Objectives:

- To gather experts, academics, networks etc. together to reflect on issues facing asylum seekers, refugees, stateless people and vulnerable migrants and create a unified response to their needs.
- Increase understanding on the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees
- Pledge ways to act both together and individually to help welcome, protect, promote and integrate the mixed migrant flows of our country.

The Purpose of this Workshop:

This workshop gathered people from the region experienced in the area of asylum seekers, refugees, vulnerable migrants (including trafficked) and stateless people to reflect and share on the needs in different countries and ways to meet them effectively. There was a large focus placed on the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compacts on Migrants, which will be signed in December 2018 and how civil society can best promote them and implement them in.



Experts on these issues gathered from UNHCR and IOM, from academics and network coordinators, from those affected, from government and from faith communities. There were a series of panels that informed, stimulated and called us to think outside the box

Peace justice and hospitality to the newcomer are all possible and we can make it happen. The language of human decency needs to prevail over hate speech and discrimination.

“A celebration of LIFE in all its colours, charm and humanity.”

Recap of the Workshop

Day 1

Throughout day one of the workshop, participants heard predominantly information relating to refugees in the region, specifically, the Myanmar crisis. Alistair Boulton from UNHCR provided a systematic overview of the Global Compact on Refugees, followed by a panel of field experts on the situation with the Rohingya. This panel was led by Chris Lewa, a field expert and Emma Leslie, a conflict resolution expert. For the second half of the day, participants were split up into their country groups and asked to map the challenges of mixed migrant flows in our region. To finish, country groups were asked to discuss some concrete actions they could take to help address these challenges within their region.

Day 2

The second day of the conference was full of information. The first session of the day focused on statelessness and speakers such as: Christoph Sperfeldt, Excellency Yin Malyna (MOI) and Anne Maureen (SNAP) provided participants with a good overview of the issues of statelessness in the region, Cambodia and information on networks available for those who want to learn more. After this session, Brett Dickson from ION provided the group with an overview of the Global Compact on Migration, followed by Carolina Gottardo from JRS Australia with a presentation on the complementarity between the GCM and the CCR. For the second half of the day, there was a specific focus on issues within migration, with Angela Reed from Mercy Global Action discussing the major issues of female sex trafficking. This presentation was followed by Benny Juliawan who used a specific case study in Indonesia to prompt a discussion on the criminalization of deportees at large within the region.

Day 3

The final day of the conference was where participants were asked to work together on key issues to develop a set of practical actions that they themselves both individually and collectively could take to help asylum seekers, vulnerable migrants, refugees and stateless people. Following this, participants were asked to pledge their commitment to a set of actions to help welcome, protect, promote and integrate. Information on these commitments can be found on the next page.



Opening Dance

The conference began with a premiere opening dance by the Ta Hen Battambang dance troupe which was founded by refugees. 57 children aged 6-18 years old engaged all the participants in a re-enactment of the recent history of the Cambodian people through five orchestrated dance segments. The dances told the story of the tumultuous history of Cambodia, through the eyes of the Cambodian refugees and victims of land mines. The dance was the perfect start to the conference, for it reminded everyone of the significance of where they were and the importance of the work they undertake.



5 Areas of Focus

*“...humane,
sensitive,
compassionate &
people-centred
manner...”*

ASYLUM SEEKERS/REFUGEES

Asylum seekers and refugees in the region face several significant problems. Some of these being: documentation, refugee status determination, detention, education, health, livelihood/income, discrimination etc.

- ❖ Read GCR and Understand- Education and training in our own communities
- ❖ Collaborate with networks and other stakeholders – eg. APPRN, ASEAN, the Church etc.
- ❖ Advocacy. Promote and support - safe, dignified voluntary repatriation, more third-party solutions, right to work for dignified integration & encourage the support of “overwhelmed” host countries

STATELESSNESS

Statelessness is a term describing a person’s lack of nationality. A stateless person is a person who is not considered a national by any country (state), with majority of governments reluctant to act due to the politicisation of the issue. Very few countries have ratified the either international convention to reduce statelessness.

- ❖ Increase of research into the number of stateless people in the region, including mapping of stateless populations.
- ❖ Reach out to stateless communities.
- ❖ Lobby with your local and national government to increase protection and identification of stateless people and the granting of citizenship.

TRAFFICKING

Trafficking is an issue that plagues our region and demonstrates the importance of protection of migrants. Great amounts of work is being done on the issue of trafficking, however, there is still much more action that needs to be taken.

- ❖ Support prevention mechanisms such as, education, quality vocational training initiatives for poorer communities.
- ❖ Listen to the voices of survivors and translate these stories into active policy.
- ❖ Increase NGO reintegration efforts and reduction of stigmatization.

MIGRATION

Vulnerable migrant workers face significant issues of: deportation, criminalization, vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. At the same time, migration can also lead of the breakdown of families. It is important to note that migration can also being many benefits.

- ❖ Reduce cost of migration & target brokers.
- ❖ Increase international and bi-lateral agreements on the protection of migrants and their families.
- ❖ Advocate for domestic rural development to decrease unwanted labour migration.

GLOBAL COMPACTS

The two Global Compacts on migration and refugees are current international collaborative actions that in some way assist the issues discussed above. Large advocacy efforts are needed from each country to ensure that they are ratified.

- ❖ Increase understanding of the compacts through workshops, trainings etc.
- ❖ Lobby for the ratification of these two compacts within your home country and/or work country.
- ❖ Be active in ensuring a national plan for each compact is implemented in your country.

*“Not enough
people know about
statelessness. We
need to do more on
this issue.”*

*“Giving the
voiceless a voice”*

*“We must protect
those most
vulnerable”*

*“The Global
Compacts bring us
hope of
international
collective action.”*

AGREED COLLECTIVE RESPONSES ON NEW GLOBAL COMPACTS AND OUR PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT TO WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE

On the final day of the workshop, participants were asked to pledge their commitment to the following actions:

1) ABOUT THE NEW GLOBAL COMPACTS

- ❖ Increase our understanding of the 2018 *Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration*, of mixed migrant flows and statelessness.
- ❖ Cooperate to raise awareness of the *global compacts* with *youth, faith communities* and the *general public*.
- ❖ Push *governments* to join the *compacts* and to frame national plans so that *refugees, migrants, stateless* and *trafficked people* are WELCOMED, PROTECTED, PROMOTED and INTEGRATED.

2) ABOUT SURVIVOR VOICES

- ❖ Ensure *services* and *advocacy* are *driven* by the *voices* of *trafficked* and *stateless people, migrants, and refugees* and help them to speak at national and international levels that frame policy.

3) ABOUT NETWORKING

- ❖ *Network* more at local and international levels through
- ❖ Joining existing groups eg. The Stateless Network of Asia Pacific (SNAP).
- ❖ *Exchange information and analysis* across national borders and on specific issues (eg. left behind children, brokerage, complementary pathways.)
- ❖ Social media & publications.
- ❖ Connect with UNHCR, IOM, Faith Based Initiatives

Join the following mailing lists:

Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP) - <https://www.statelessnessnetworkasiapacific.org/join-us/#joinus>
 Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness - <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/centres/statelessness>
 Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Human (ACRATH) – eo@acrath.org.au
 Migrants/Refugees Section – Vatican - <https://migrants-refugees.va/#subscribe>

Thank you to all of those who attended this workshop. If you would like more information on details of the workshop or ways you can help refugees, migrants and stateless people, please contact JRS.

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