



# ASYLUM ACCESS GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM PLEDGES

## Asylum Access Global HQ Refugee Participation Pledge

**Name:** Enacting Meaningful Refugee Participation

**Submitted by:** Asylum Access President and CEO Emily Arnold-Fernández on behalf of the organization

**Type of Organization:** International

**What area of focus does this support:** Other; Broad refugee participation supports the overall success of refugee responses across all thematic areas.

**Type of Contribution:** Policy, Financial, Material/Technical Support

### Pledge Content:

We believe that refugee participation is meaningful when refugees are prepared for and participating in fora and processes where strategies are being developed and/or decisions are being made, in a manner that is sustained, safe, and supported financially.

We also believe that when refugees are participating meaningfully, that responses at local, national and global levels are most likely to lead to refugees living safely, moving freely and working legally.

## **Asylum Access's Global Headquarters therefore pledges:**

- To establish recruitment and hiring practices that increase the number of refugee applicants in our pipelines.
- To fill **at least 50%** of open staff *and* leadership positions with a member of the refugee community between now and 2023.
- To offer **twice annual advocacy trainings in both English and Spanish** to any refugee-led initiative between now and 2023.
- To offer at least **4 refugee-led initiatives at least 15 hours each of pro bono consulting** in advocacy skills development and positioning between now and 2023.

Asylum Access's Board of Directors pledges **that 50% of all new board members** will be members of the refugee community between now and 2023. At least **1 officer or committee chair** will be a member of the refugee community by 2023.

## **Asylum Access Thailand Refugee Participation Pledge**

**Name:** Enacting Meaningful Refugee Participation

**Submitted by:** Executive Director Naiyana Thanawattho on behalf of Asylum Access Thailand

**Type of Organization:** Civil Society

**What area of focus does this support:** Other; Broad refugee participation supports the overall success of refugee responses across all thematic areas.

**Type of Contribution:** Policy, Material/Technical Support

### **Pledge Content:**

We believe that refugee participation is meaningful when refugees are prepared for and participating in fora and processes where strategies are being developed and/or decisions are being made, in a manner that is sustained, safe, and supported financially.

We also believe that when refugees are participating meaningfully, that responses at local, national and global levels are most likely to lead to refugees living safely, moving freely and working legally.

**Asylum Access Thailand therefore pledges:**

- To establish recruitment and hiring practices that increase the number of refugee applicants in our pipelines.
- To fill **at least 30%** of open staff positions with a member of the refugee community between now and 2023; at least **1 person per department** will be from the refugee community. We will seek to hire refugees from across refugees communities and demographics.
- To establish a “Refugee Network” in Thailand, and offer training and capacity building opportunities so that refugees can lead their own advocacy in Thailand by 2023.

## **Asylum Access Malaysia Refugee Participation Pledge**

**Name:** Enacting Meaningful Refugee Participation

**Submitted by:** Executive Director Hui Ying Tham on behalf of Asylum Access Malaysia

**Type of Organization:** Civil Society

**What area of focus does this support:** Other; Broad refugee participation supports the overall success of refugee responses across all thematic areas.

**Type of Contribution:** Policy, Material/Technical Support

**Pledge Content:**

We believe that refugee participation is meaningful when refugees are prepared for and participating in fora and processes where strategies are being developed and/or decisions are being made, in a manner that is sustained, safe, and supported financially.

We also believe that when refugees are participating meaningfully, that responses at local, national and global levels are most likely to lead to refugees living safely, moving freely and working legally.

**Asylum Access Malaysia therefore pledges:**

- To establish recruitment and hiring practices that increase the number of refugee applicants in our pipelines.
- To facilitate refugee **participation in all levels of advocacy**, whether or not they are sitting staff.
- To identify and build the capacity of **at least two new refugee advocates** from the community by 2021.
- To provide funding and logistical support for **two refugee advocates** to attend regional / international fora during 2020 and 2021.

## **Asylum Access Mexico Refugee Participation Pledge**

**Name:** Enacting Meaningful Refugee Participation

**Submitted by:** Executive Director Alejandra Macías Delgadillo on behalf of Asylum Access Mexico

**Type of Organization:** Civil Society

**What area of focus does this support:** Other; Broad refugee participation supports the overall success of refugee responses across all thematic areas.

**Type of Contribution:** Policy, Material/Technical Support

**Pledge Content:**

We believe that refugee participation is meaningful when refugees are prepared for and participating in fora and processes where strategies are being developed and/or decisions are being made, in a manner that is sustained, safe, and supported financially.

We also believe that when refugees are participating meaningfully, that responses at local, national and global levels are most likely to lead to refugees living safely, moving freely and working legally.

**Asylum Access Mexico therefore pledges:**

- To **establish recruitment and hiring practices** that increase the number of refugee applicants in our pipelines.
- To sponsor **at least two refugees to study Spanish** whether or not they are sitting on staff, during 2020-2023.
- To facilitate **broad refugee participation across communities at national/regional forums during 2020-2021** (Especially regarding the follow-on to the Brazil Plan of Action).
- To identify and build the capacity of at least **two new refugees advocates** from the community by 2020-2021.
- To **create professional development internships and secure funding for at least 4-6 refugees** at Asylum Access Mexico, with at least one refugee intern in each of our offices by 2023.
- To fill **at least 15% of open staff positions** with a member of the refugee community between now and 2023, including at least one refugee in a leadership (manager or above) role; We will seek to hire refugees from across refugees communities and demographics.

## **Asylum Access Global Legal Empowerment Pledge**

**Name:** Increasing Access to Legal Support for Refugees Worldwide

**Submitted by:** Asylum Access President and CEO Emily Arnold-Fernández on behalf of the organization

**Type of Organization:** International (with all orgs listed)

**What area of focus does this support:** Protection Capacity

**Type of Contribution:** Material/Technical Support

## **Pledge Content:**

Most refugees **do not have access to legal support**. As such, most refugees do not have the information, individualized situational analysis and legal expertise they need to access immediate protection and long-term solutions, to assert their rights under national and international law, or to make informed decisions about many aspects of their lives.

## **Asylum Access seeks to fill this gap by:**

- Expanding our use of innovative community-based legal models to increase our annual reach from 14,000 individuals to 20,000 individuals between now and 2023.
- Advocating for adequate funding for legal empowerment initiatives globally in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16, equal access to justice for all, so that the more than 50+ legal empowerment organizations around the world have access to the resources needed to continue and expand legal support for refugees.

## **Joint Pledge with Legal Community**

**Name:** Instigating collaboration within the Global Legal Community to Increase Refugee Access to Legal Support WorldWide

**What area of focus does this support:** Protection Capacity

**Type of Contribution:** Material/Technical Support

## **Pledge content:**

Most refugees do not have access to legal aid or other pro bono legal support. As such, most refugees do not have the information, individualized situational analysis and legal expertise they need to access immediate protection and long-term solutions, to assert their rights under national and international law, or to make informed decisions about many aspects of their lives.

Together, we the pledgers will address this gap by instigating and engaging in a discussion with the global legal community including law firms, law societies, bar associations, law schools, and legal empowerment organizations.

This discussion will seek to leverage material and financial resources, including pro bono hours, that can dramatically increase the number of refugees around the world who have a personal lawyer in important legal and protection matters, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16, equal access to justice for all.