



## Anglican Communion work with Refugees presented at the UN

In the second week of December 2023, Geneva hosted the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), overseen by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Anglican Communion presented a snapshot of the work being done by our member provinces, and pledges to continue that ministry with refugees.



*Religious leaders and delegates meet High Commissioner Filippo Grandi at a special candle-lighting event on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.*

Diplomats from the world's states met alongside a wide group of NGOs, faith actors and major donor entities. Side-events allowed for the care and resettlement of refugees to be discussed, while in the main plenary session state representations announced pledges and government policies to help refugees.

UNHCR had brought together the idea of pledges to encourage concrete decisions with an element of accountability to urge states and other actors to deliver.



## Our pledges

The Anglican Communion presented pledges from the following countries, reflecting just a small amount of the global work to help those forced to move from their home to another place:

- **Tanzania** – in which the church pledged to work with the government to ensure refugees' human rights are protected, and to support refugees crossing borders due to conflict
- **Canada** – where the church pledged to submit applications to the Canadian government to resettle approximately 600 people per year for the next several years
- **Egypt** – where the church pledged to provide holistic aid to refugees via their ministry 'Refuge Egypt', including medical care, food, clothing, access to housing, and integration into society
- **Hungary** – where the local church is providing education, lunches and other psychosocial support as required
- **Romania** – in which the local church is providing food, needed items, clothing, and lessons/education, aiding refugees towards resettlement
- **France** – where the church is supporting advocacy for refugees and building cooperation among helping organisations, as well as supporting those volunteering to help refugees
- **Belgium** – in which the local church is providing meals and support to refugees arriving in Brussels
- **Finland** – where the local church is seeking to help manage donations and bring in psychological and social support for refugees
- The **United States** – where the church pledged to continue provision of all-encompassing care via Episcopal Migration Ministries, Episcopal Relief and Development, the Episcopal Public Policy Network and the wider Episcopal Church to support refugees



*Multi-faith event at the World Council of Churches, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December*



The Global Refugee Forum opened with a dramatic reading involving actress Cate Blanchett, and then lead into opening speeches by King Abdullah of Jordan and High Commissioner Filippo Grandi. The Forum saw the following information presented:

- 90% of refugees are in just 40 countries
- 75% of refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries
- Philanthropic institutions provide 20% of UNHCR's budget
- UNHCR has yet to receive \$400 million in funding that has been promised by states
- The Kingdom of Jordan has received just 23% of the funding that has been promised to it to help with Syrian and Palestinian refugees
- When funding is provided, it often goes to better-resourced states instead of those struggling the most



*Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, speaks at the Forum plenary, Wednesday 12.12.2023*

The drivers behind these crises are most often conflict and climate change, with economic questions over ownership of resources often underlying many of the conflicts. The countries of origin of most refugees are extremely under-financed, and the simple act of investing in conflict prevention – which can include investing in sports, community-building and jobs – can save huge numbers of lives and ‘crisis spending’ to manage a conflict that will cost hugely more in lives and resources over the long term. Spreading democracy was cited as an important way to reduce conflict.

We are immensely grateful for the help we received from UNHCR, the Provinces of the Anglican Communion, USPG, and World Vision. We will be reporting to UNHCR on our progress in two years' time, and in the meantime working to better connect Anglican care for refugees with the work of the UN.