



CTAUN

Committee on Teaching
About the United Nations

CTAUN Statement – from *Refugees: The 21st Century Challenge* Conference – 27 January 2017

As refugees continue to risk their lives to escape persecution, violence and war, there is a shared responsibility within the international community to protect their lives and address the causes of this major 21st century challenge.

Figures compiled by the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees reveal that more than 21 million fellow human beings around the world have become refugees. Over half of these individuals are under the age of 18.

In recognition of the New York Declaration adopted at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, this *Refugees: The 21st Century Challenge* conference calls upon the entire international community – governments, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general – to help:

- protect the rights of all refugees, including the rights of women and girls, and promote their participation in finding solutions
- ensure that all children receive education within a few months of arrival
- respond to and help prevent sexual and gender-based violence
- support those countries which are rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants
- work toward ending the practice of detaining children for the purpose of determining their refugee status
- and to ensure that refugees are not returned to situations where their lives and freedom are at risk

Special efforts must also be made to stop the causes of refugee flow. Preventing war, terrorism, persecution and other causes should include aid for economic development, education and a commitment to human rights.

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