



## International Refugee Rights Conference, Toronto, June 2018

### Funding request

In June 2018, the Canadian Council for Refugees will be hosting an international conference in Toronto designed to enhance effectiveness in promoting the human rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.

The CCR is seeking funding to support the organization of this conference and the participation of keynote speakers and NGO representatives from the Global South.

When: 7-9 June 2018

Where: York University, Toronto, Canada

Who: Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, government officials, UNHCR representatives, refugees and vulnerable migrants. Special attention will be given to representation from the Global South.

Why: Refugee advocates, academics and others need to learn from each other and strategize across borders, in order to better meet the evolving needs of refugees. The goal of the conference will be to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs in promoting the human rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.

What: The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues facing refugees and other vulnerable migrants. In plenary sessions, workshops and caucus sessions, participants will consider:

- Effective protection
- Interdiction and access to protection
- New approaches to Durable solutions (local integration, voluntary repatriation, resettlement)
- Global Compacts
- Immigration detention
- Refugee determination
- Access to secure immigration and citizenship status
- Sexual orientation and gender identity and expression
- Gender and displacement
- Children's rights
- Trafficking in persons
- Economic and social rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Settlement and integration of refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Creating welcoming communities
- Promoting positive public opinion
- Mental health and well-being

*The Canadian Council for Refugees is a national non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada. Its 180 member organizations are involved in the settlement, sponsorship and protection of refugees and immigrants. The Council serves the networking, information-exchange and advocacy needs of its membership.*

## Objectives:

- To promote ongoing cross-border networking, knowledge-exchange, strategizing and collaboration among NGOs committed to the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants, and between NGOs and academics.
- To enhance NGO advocacy for better global protection for refugees and vulnerable migrants, including by giving input into the Global Compacts on refugees and migrants.
- To enhance efforts to educate and engage the public, in order to energize support for policies respecting the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.
- To increase knowledge of the inter-connections between policies and practices affecting refugees and migrants in different regions of the world.
- To support the development of NGOs in the Global South committed to the rights of refugees and vulnerable migrants.
- To support the inclusion of the voices of refugees and vulnerable migrants in discussions concerning them.

2006 CCR International Conference: In 2006 CCR held a similar international conference in Toronto. It gathered 470 participants from over 30 countries in all five continents. That conference emphasized cross-border networking and was successful in connecting refugee advocates who were often working in isolation. One of the concrete outcomes of that conference was the development of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, which was founded by individuals from the region who met and made connections with each other at the CCR's international conference.

## Funding request

The CCR is seeking funding to cover expenses related to the 2018 International Refugee Rights Conference, including:

- Travel subsidies for participants from the Global South
- Travel expenses for key resource persons
- Simultaneous translation (English, French, Spanish)
- Hospitality

CCR welcomes:

- Financial contributions to the general conference budget.
- Financial contributions to a specific item (e.g. travel subsidies for Global South participants)
- Sponsorship of a workshop/plenary session or a reception (contact us for more details).

The CCR will be happy to acknowledge all contributions.

For more information, please contact Van-Thao Dam at [vdam@ccrweb.ca](mailto:vdam@ccrweb.ca), telephone 514-277-7223 (ext. 6).

Cheque can be made to:

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