

Statement for Dialogue 2 on Partnerships and innovative initiatives for the way forward

Academic Council on the United Nations System and The Open University Dr Tendayi Bloom

Though here on behalf of the Academic Council on the United Nations System and my home institution of the Open University, of course as an academic I speak in my own voice and not on behalf of all academics, of ACUNS or of the OU.

Chair, statelessness is mentioned in Objective 4 of the Global Compact for Migration but has been little mentioned at this gathering.

To address this, I offer a comment produced from a cooperation between academia and the civil society network, the European Network on Statelessness.

A stateless person is someone not considered to be a national by any State on earth. There are at least 10 or 15 million stateless persons, though these numbers are also likely to be conservative.

Chair, there are three reasons why all those involved in the implementation of the GCM should take particular account of statelessness and reach out to stateless persons, those at risk of statelessness, and their advocates:

(1)

Most stateless persons have never crossed an international border but in countries around the world, they are subject to measures intended for migration control.

Research finds stateless persons around the world in repeated or frequent immigration detention even in their home country.

As a result of measures intended for migration control, stateless persons irrespective of whether they have migrated, are often blocked from regular labour markets, from social systems, and so forth, anywhere on earth, through the imposition of migration control measures.

(2)

Migration can put people at risk of statelessness.

And stateless persons also largely lack access to safe, regular migration, putting them at particular risk of trafficking and exploitation.

(3)

Statelessness-related implications of migration policies can often be unintentional and obscured.

It will therefore be important that there are partnerships also with stateless persons, those at risk of statelessness, and their advocates in the implementation of the GCM.

This is the case across the objectives of the GCM, not only objective 4.

I have a brief here with concrete suggestions in this regard for those who want more information and am happy also to discuss this further with them.

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