

The International Committee of Refugees (ICR) A Proposal under Development



Our aim, after initial consultations, is to create an international committee of refugees (the *ICR*), **a directly elected, democratically accountable, representative body for internally displaced persons, refugees and people living in exile**. Since the *ICR* would not only be elected by, but also be made up of internally displaced persons, refugees and people living in exile, it would be both a legitimate and an authentic voice, able to represent displaced persons worldwide. We intend to develop this proposition, together with displaced persons, NGOs and other stakeholders, in a two-stage process.

Stage One: Mobilisation

During this stage (ongoing since 2015):

- (1) We run an international petition to obtain a mandate and, utilising social media, create a global network of supporters that includes internally displaced persons, refugees and people living in exile, as well as institutional stakeholders and activists.
- (2) Subject to funding, we consult refugees locally (wherever you/we are), across the EU and beyond (globally) to better understand the needs of refugee communities and to strengthen our network of members and supporters.
- (3) We shortlist potential board members, so that if, during the next stage, it is decided to go ahead with the election of the proposed committee (*ICR*), a management board capable of taking this forward can be elected/appointed.

Stage Two: Founding Conference

If we can attract at least 1,000 signatures and can show that there is a need for what we propose, we will, subject to funding, organise an international refugee conference.

At this conference we will...

- (1) present our idea for an international committee of refugees, why we think this is needed, and how this could be done – based on the evidence collected,
- (2) organise workshops to widen and deepen the debate and explore alternatives where they exist, so that by the end every conference participant understands what is on offer, and hence is able to decide whether to support it,
- (3) cast a vote to decide whether or not to pursue the idea and call an international election to elect the proposed International Committee of Refugees (*ICR*).
- (4) If a vote is cast and it is decided to call an election, we will appoint or elect a management board to take the initiative forward and to oversee the election. The board will be dissolved once the *ICR* is elected.