

RightsDESK: A Joint Community of Practice for NHRIs and UNHCR
Working together to advance the human rights of forcibly displaced and stateless persons

Concept note

Background

National human rights institutions are a key partner for UNHCR, given NHRIs' broad mandate to protect and promote human rights, their presence at country and local levels, their agility to deploy monitoring missions, and varied competencies to advise national authorities including on the development of law and policy, and provide information directly to persons of concern and the general public.

Against this backdrop, GANHRI and UNHCR have been building their partnership at global level, to support UNCHR and NHRIs working together at national level to advance the human rights of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

On 3rd June 2020, GANHRI and UNHCR co-hosted a webinar on the topic of "Protecting forcibly displaced persons in the COVID-19 context: the role and experiences of NHRIs and opportunities for collaboration with UNHCR". More than 200 colleagues participated, including over 80 national human rights institutions.

To continue strengthening collaborations between UNHCR and NHRIs, UNHCR and GANHRI will co-host a community of practice dedicated to UNHCR staff and to members and staff of NHRIs across all regions.

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The community of practice is an online platform to facilitate discussion, engagement and the exchange of information, skills and expertise on human rights of forcibly displaced and stateless persons and on the UNHCR-NHRIs cooperation.

RightsDESK will be established on the existing UNHCR Human Rights Community of Practice, hosted on *Microsoft Teams*.

The community of practice will have the following goals:

- a. Disseminate information relating to UNHCR's and NHRIs human rights engagement, including opportunities for synergies and relevant outcomes of such engagement;
- b. Provide a virtual space to exchange on related topics between UNHCR and NHRIs and sharing of good practices
- c. Foster greater interest, and discussion around how human rights advocacy and the use of human rights mechanisms can improve the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons; and

- d. Serve as a repository of tools, trainings and resources relating to human rights advocacy, focusing in the context of forced displacement and statelessness.

RightsDESK will be accessible for UNHCR colleagues involved with or interested in human right engagement (members of UNHCR Human Rights Community of Practice) **and all National Human Rights Institutions** upon request.

Concretely, members of the community of practice can share documents, links to online articles, video materials; they can ask questions and provide comments. Such comments can be posted to the attention of all the members of the community or to specific members. They will also be able to create channels dedicated to specific topics or regions.

To join the RightsDESK follow this link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a13eb446c65614b60b9c6808b58540b66%40thead.tacv2/conversations?groupId=0aad907a-dfee-4ae3-a4f1-b7ad64f37a42&tenantId=e5c37981-6664-4134-8a0c-6543d2af80be>

Contacts

At the GANHRI Head Office: webinars@ganhri.org

At UNHCR: svobodov@unhcr.org