



Asia Pacific Network of Refugees

#Refugeerise campaign

As we Launch **#Refugeerise** campaign today; we hear from an Afghan refugee nurse in Iran that says;

“Within the last fortnight in Iran; more than 50 undocumented refugees died due to COVID-19 for having minimal access to healthcare or almost zero support available”. Even though her qualification as nurse is not recognised or neither allowed to work due her legal status but she said **“SHE is all the community have and need to be the RESPONDER to her community to battle this pandemic”**.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic is a profound shock to our societies and economies but **refugees once again are hit harder during this crisis. The realities of struggles for refugees are clear** as they face higher risk of infection, loss of livelihood, inadequate access to Medicare and health services and specially for women experiencing increased domestic violence and the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services as healthcare systems become overstretched. However, **we see how #Refugeerise and become once again the first responders to their situation. They serve as resources to other refugees and host community.**

It's not long ago that the international actors including member states, governments, UN agencies, INGOs and private sector came together in the **first Global Refugee Forum** where commitments on **“whole of society approach”** was made that promoted **“refugee inclusion”** as well as **“refugee participation”**.

It is about time for these commitments emphasised in GRF to be demonstrated and provide the support needed to refugee leadership to respond to this unprecedented global shock.

#Refugeerise again with courage and strength to support affected communities and do their part and we call on you to do your part.

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