# Promoting Disability-Inclusive Pledges at the 2nd Global Refugee Forum

The inclusion of persons with disabilities from the start of a comprehensive refugee response is recognized in the Global Compact on Refugees as an essential element of protecting and assisting refugees and host communities.

This document summarizes priorities expressed by refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons with disabilities, and organizations of persons with disabilities, in the development of pledges for the upcoming Global Refugee Forum in December 2023. The recommendations build on [consultations](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/ida-unhcr-webinar-series-towards-annual-consultation-organizations-persons-disabilities) and [background documents](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/discussion-paper-exploring-intersectionality-international-refugee-protection-and-2006) developed by the International Disability Alliance in collaboration with UNHCR, and complement the 2019 [Global Refugee Forum Pledging Guidance on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities | UNHCR](https://www.unhcr.org/media/global-refugee-forum-pledging-guidance-inclusion-persons-disabilities).

### Enhanced international protection for persons with disabilities

**Equal access to asylum procedures**. Asylum processes are often inaccessible or failing to provide procedural accommodations to asylum seekers with disabilities. **Recommendation**: Pledges to enhance accessibility and the provision of procedural accommodations during asylum seeking processes. This may include but not limited to the provision of documentation related to asylum in accessible formats, provision of national sign language interpretation of the applicant, and efforts to enhance supported decision-making processes.

**Protection from disability-related persecution**. Persons with disabilities may face disability-specific forms of persecution that would require international protection. Examples may include extreme violence against people with albinism in certain countries; violence resulting from the intersection between disability and gender, such as targeting girls with disabilities for sexual abuse; or systematic institutionalization and non-consensual medical procedures against persons with psychosocial disabilities. **Recommendation**: Pledges on strengthening asylum capacity and promoting legal reform to integrate persecution experienced by persons with disabilities within grounds for asylum.

### Equal access to protection systems and basic services

Refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities face legal and administrative barriers in accessing key services such as health, education, social protection and other services in host countries. **Recommendation**: Pledges from states to include refugees in social protection systems targeted at persons with disabilities, including access to pensions, personal assistance and other supports.

### Participation of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons with disabilities , and organizations of person with disabilities, in decisions and processes

Refugees with disabilities face additional barriers to express their views and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Organizations of persons with disabilities are often willing to include refugees with disabilities in their activities but struggle with scarce resources and limited capacity. The 2nd GRF is a unique opportunity for different stakeholders to make commitments addressing this gap which would lead to enhance participation and inclusion of refugees with disabilities. **Recommendation**: Pledges on supporting engagement of refugees with disabilities in Refugee-Lead Organizations as well as supporting OPDs to expand their mandate and support to refugees with disabilities at the national/regional/global levels.