

Statement by the Students of CMRS on the Occasion of the World Refugee Day

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day, we, the students of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo

Celebrate the strength and resilience of the 25,5 million refugees around the world

Recall that refugees are protected by the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1969 protocol that defines refugees as those **forced** to flee their country of origin in order to escape a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Recognize the suffering of all those who suffer persecution regardless of their label. Not all asylum seekers are yet refugees and many of those being persecuted do not even make it outside of their countries.

Commit ourselves to work towards changing such unjust reality and emphasizes the importance of bringing everyone under the umbrella of justice and equality.

Urge citizens of host countries to:

- Understand that being a refugee is not by choice; it is the result of ultimate injustice.
- Recognize that the media is not always 'objective' so does not make it your only source of news: visit refugee communities, meet and interact with them.
- Abstain from giving your vote to politicians using hate speeches against refugees and minorities.
- Consider supporting initiatives and work that provide relief and help to refugees

We come from different corners of the world, different religions and cultures and we all aim to provide a better solution to the reality of refugees and migrants around the world. We wish that the voice of refugees can one day be heard and that they can have an end to their suffering once they arrive in their place of asylum. Join us in our plea for change!