

'Climate Refugee' Roundtable

Terms of reference

Purpose

The Climate Refugee Roundtable has been set up to:

- Explore the issues concerning the protection of people internally displaced and forced to move across borders because of the effects of climate change. It is particularly concerned with this issue in relation to movement into Europe and the UK.
- Facilitate an exchange of expertise, experiences, ideas and proposals in a bid to identify a way forward in the protection of people forced to move across borders as a result of climate change or other environmental degradation.
- Provide a space for discussion between refugee, human rights, development, environmental and climate change NGOs on the issue of forced migration and climate change.
- Allow NGOs in the above sectors to act collectively on this issue.
- Allow NGOs in the above sectors to work together to create a discourse which promotes action on mitigation (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions) in the industrialised North based on the forced migration consequences of climate change.

Participants

The Roundtable is open to refugee, human rights, development, environmental and climate change NGOs. It is also open to academic researchers, lawyers, legal representatives and INGOs working in any of these fields .

Other groups or individuals will be invited for specific agenda items. If other organisations become involved through the work of the Roundtable, they will be included as regular participants

Objectives

- To ensure a regular conversation between development, environmental, human rights and refugee NGOs and others in these fields.
- To improve communication between NGOs in these fields on the issue of 'climate refugees'.
- To identify and create support for domestic or international proposals for the protection of those who are forced to flee their countries due to the effects of climate change or environmental degradation.
- To seek a form of discourse which will encapsulate the powerful moral argument for mitigation on climate change in the industrialised North in order to prevent forced migration on a large scale.
- To investigate whether climate change is impacting on the work of immigration lawyers or NGOs in the UK.
- To look at the definition of 'environmental refugee' and consider proposals regarding a new international convention for environmental refugees.

Guiding principles

- Diversity

The Roundtable recognises the importance of having a broad range of interests represented among its participants and will seek to achieve and maintain the diversity.

- Consensus

The Roundtable actions in general will be governed by consensus decision-making, indicating the general acceptance and/or support of participants.

- Scientific Accuracy

The Roundtable will strive to incorporate the most current and scientifically accurate information and data on climate change and migration issues.

Relationship to other groups

The Roundtable has no connections with other bodies or organisations and will not speak for participants unless there is collective agreement to do so.

Joint Chair

The roundtable will be chaired jointly by the Climate Outreach and Information Network and Jean Lambert MEP.

Minutes and timing of meetings

Minutes of meetings are confidential for those who attend. The Roundtable will be convened every two months.

Reporting externally

The Roundtable will produce reports or intervene as and when it is considered appropriate by its membership.