

CALL TO ACTION on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

Call to Action Road Map 2021-2025 Re-Affirmation Process

The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (Call to Action) is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2013 to fundamentally transform the way gender-based violence is addressed in humanitarian emergencies. The aim is to drive change and foster accountability so that GBV is addressed from the very start of every humanitarian response. This includes having policies, systems and mechanisms in place to mitigate gender-based violence risks, especially violence against women and girls, and to provide safe and comprehensive services to those affected by gender-based violence. There are currently 87 partners, including states and donors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and local civil society organizations.

The member and collective work of the Call to Action is guided by a Road Map, which sets out common objectives, targets and a governance structure. With the current Road Map ending in 2020, Canada, as the global lead, and the Women's Refugee Commission have been working with partners since the beginning of 2019 to develop the Call to Action Road Map 2021-2025. The updated Road Map largely retains the substance of the original goals and objectives while accounting for lessons learned, trends, and best practices from the last five years. Partners had opportunities to shape the updated Road Map through a brainstorming meeting in February 2019, a survey, the 2019 Annual Partners Meeting, general and targeted consultations, and through multiple rounds of reviews.

With the Road Map 2021-2025 finalized, it is now time for partners to re-affirm their commitment to the Call to Action to maintain the momentum on addressing gender-based violence and to hold ourselves accountable to new commitments. Re-affirmation implies continued support to advance the goal and three objectives of the Call to Action and affirmation of the core principles.

Submission of Re-affirmation Letter and Commitments

Partners are now invited to complete the re-affirmation letter and commitments template. The letter will note partners' continued support to advance the goal and three objectives of the Call to Action and affirmation of the core principles. Each partner is required to make a minimum of 2 commitments. The deadline for submitting the re-affirmation letter and commitments is December 31, 2020 as the implementation of the Road Map is set to begin on January 1, 2021. However, partners are encouraged to submit their letters and commitments earlier. The first tranche of commitments will be published on the Call to Action website in September 2020, to coincide with the public launch of the Road Map. Additional commitments will be published on a monthly basis thereafter.

Advocacy Opportunity: Public Launch of the Road Map

The Call to Action Road Map 2021-2025 will be launched during UNGA in September 2020 (TBC). Partners will have an opportunity to highlight their re-affirmation and signal commitments

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publicly through high-level representatives. Partners are also encouraged to share their commitments on social media with the #CalltoActionGBV hashtag. Additional social media promotional materials will be shared with partners closer to the date.

Status of Partners

The Call to Action lead and Working Group Co-chairs will be following up with partners to encourage the submission of their re-affirmation and commitments. Partners who do not submit re-affirmations and commitments by December 31, 2020 will be removed from the public partner list on the Call to Action website and from the mailing lists for the working groups. At this time, partners who are not yet able to formally re-affirm but indicated plans to in the future could request an observer status for an additional year, which would allow them to receive Call to Action correspondence, listen in on working group meetings and the Annual Partners Meeting, but they would not be able to take on leadership roles within the Call to Action. Requests for observer status would need strong justifications and would need to be approved by the Steering Committee. Partners can re-join at any point by submitting the re-affirmation letter and commitments. New partners will be expected to submit an affirmation letter and commitments.