

# The Refugee Charter



**“Define us not by our differences but by the principles we share”**

# 1

Recognition of the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

# 2

Refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons have the right to be treated in accordance with international standards which accord respect to and protection of their fundamental human rights.

# 3

Everyone has the right to live without fear of persecution and to flee persecution.

# 4

Refugees have the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in another country without having their entry prevented and without being penalised.

# 5

No refugee or asylum seeker shall be forced to return to a country where he or she might face persecution or torture.

# 6

Refugees are entitled to the security of an effective and durable solution in the form of voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement, within a reasonable time frame.

# 7

The unity of the refugee family is a fundamental right which must be respected.

# 8

Especially vulnerable members of refugee communities are to be treated with special care and where children are involved, the rights of the child must be paramount.

# 9

Asylum seekers have a right to have their claims processed through procedures which are transparent, fair and timely.

# 10

Asylum seekers are not to be subjected to arbitrary or unreviewed detention.

# 11

States have a responsibility to create a safe and welcoming environment for refugees, free from xenophobia and discrimination.

# 12

States have a responsibility to ensure that their refugee policies are ethically sound and consistent with international legal standards.