



Our aim, after initial consultations, is to create an international committee of refugees (the *ICR*), **a directly elected, democratically accountable, representative body for internally displaced persons, refugees and people living in exile**. Since the *ICR* would not only be elected by, but also be made up of internally displaced persons, refugees and people living in exile, it would be both a legitimate and an authentic voice, able to represent displaced persons worldwide. We intend to develop this proposition, together with displaced persons, NGOs and other stakeholders, in a two-stage process.

### **Stage One: Mobilisation (October 2015 – October 2020)**

During this stage we will...

- (1) run an international petition to obtain a mandate and to create a global network of supporters that includes internally displaced persons, refugees and people living in exile, as well as institutional stakeholders and activists.
- (2) subject to funding, consult refugees locally (wherever you/we are), across the EU and beyond (globally) to better understand the needs of refugee communities and to strengthen our network of members and supporters.
- (3) short-list potential board members, so that, if during the next stage it is decided to go ahead with the election of the proposed committee (*ICR*), a management board capable of taking this forward can be elected/appointed.

### **Stage Two: Founding Conference (before October 2022)**

If we can attract at least 1,000 signatures and can show that there is a need for what we propose, we will, subject to funding, organise a conference before October 2022.

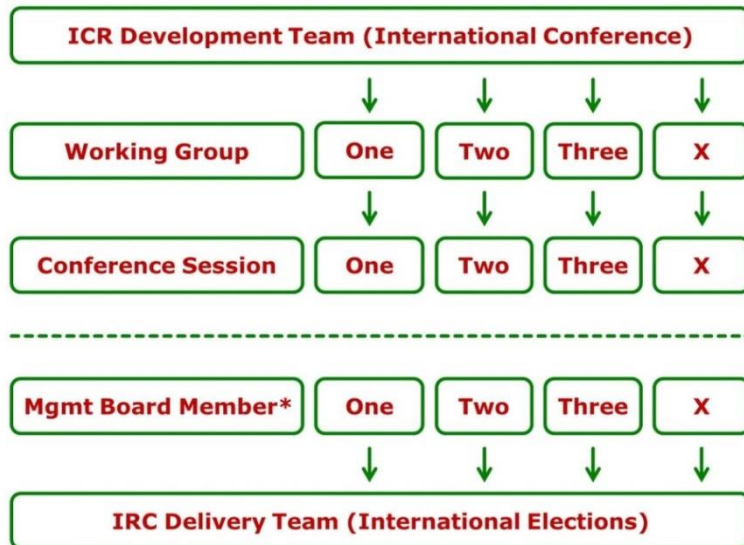
At this conference we will...

- (1) present our idea for an international committee of refugees, why we think this is needed, and how this could be done – based on the evidence collected,
- (2) organise workshops to widen and deepen the debate and explore alternatives where they exist, so that by the end every conference participant understands what is on offer, and hence is able to decide whether to support it,
- (3) cast a vote to decide whether or not to pursue the idea and call an international election to elect the proposed International Committee of Refugees (*ICR*).
- (4) If a vote is cast and it is decided to call an election, we will appoint or elect a management board to take the initiative forward and to oversee the election. The board will be dissolved once the *ICR* is elected.

## The International Committee of Refugees (ICR) How the initiative is organised



The initiative is self-managed collectively by our ICR Development Team (dt). Every internally displaced person, every refugee, every person living in exile and everyone wishing to support displaced persons can join the dt.



\*Drawn from the participating organisations and networks and elected at the conference

Every dt member (dtm for short), is entitled to establish working groups as they see fit for as long as they fully embrace our three foundational values of *openness*, *equality* and *diversity*.

If someone creates a group they are entitled to chair it. All groups are open to all dtms. No closed groups are allowed.

All working groups must be advertised on our website, so that people know they exist and are able to participate.

Every group has a defined purpose (aims and objectives). Some are discussion groups, some have a social or a technical focus. All groups will be offered slots at the proposed international conference (podium discussions, workshops etc) to present their work and share their thinking.

Working groups are the principle mechanism by which ideas get developed and work gets done. Some groups will be self-managed, others will be organised by the Democracy School or other partners. Some groups meet once a week, or once a month; others might meet on an irregular basis. All groups will be run on a voluntary basis.

Anyone wishing to set up a working group can do so by completing and returning our participation form. To download the form, please visit [refugeecommittee.org/how-the-initiative-is-organised](http://refugeecommittee.org/how-the-initiative-is-organised), to join a group visit [refugeecommittee.org/collaborate](http://refugeecommittee.org/collaborate).

The dt and its working groups are supported by the Democracy School who acts as the initiative's accountable body and lead partner. We are in the process of developing our ICR Partnership Programme, which will allow other organisations to support us, for example as media partner. Anyone interested in partnering with us should get in touch.