

What does an ideal refugee protection system look like? PROTECT's research holds some answers.

In 2021, the Refugee Convention of 1951 marks its 70th anniversary, at the same time, global displacement reached an all-time high. Over the past year, we have seen the Moria camp burn to the ground, and how Covid-19 has negatively affected the most vulnerable refugees and migrants, forcing humanitarian organizations to shut down their work, and causing a standstill in asylum procedures. Lockdowns have turned reception centers into detention centers – and last but not least, once again TV screens are filling up with images of Afghans fleeing a country in deep crisis.

86 per cent of all refugees live in poor developing countries, which lack the necessary means to handle and support large refugee flows.

In 2018, a number of countries signed the UN's Refugee and Migration Compacts, two new agreements aiming at consolidating the objectives and obligations outlined by the Refugee convention. One of the Compacts' most important goals is securing a better and more fair distribution of the world's refugees: [over 60 per cent of all refugees are currently hosted by ten countries](#).

The EU funded research project [PROTECT](#) studies the Compacts' potential and how they impact global refugee protection and governance – and ultimately whether they have a positive impact on states' ability and will to fulfil the objectives of the Refugee Convention.

At our fully-digital [Midterm Conference on 26 - 27 August 2021](#), we will share our initial findings with the world. Here, we will take stock of current challenges – and solutions – linked to global refugee protection. We will propose answers to the following questions:

- Is the international refugee protection system an efficient tool to meet today's massive humanitarian challenges? If not, how can it be improved?
- Are the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees a new opportunity, or a hindrance, for advancing the right to international protection?
- What about the European Commission's latest proposal on a New Migration and Asylum Pact and the current CEAS?
- How are the EU, Canada, and South Africa facing protection challenges?
- What kind of pressures are decision-makers encountering when making and implementing refugee and asylum policies?

Practicalities:

In order to avoid Zoom fatigue, we have pre-recorded many of the conference talks, available [here](#). At the conference, you can catch short live presentations and interactive [Q&A through Padlet](#). We have invited speakers representing both academia and the policy world.