



# Refugee Law Project

School of Law, Makerere University  
A Centre for Justice and Forced Migrants



## Call for Expression of Interest for participation in a regional conference on forced migration to be held in Kampala, Uganda

**Theme: From Policy to Practice; Making Refugee-Host Relations a win-win**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

### Introduction

Refugee Law Project (RLP) has over the years provided support to forced migrants from within and beyond the region. With almost eighteen years' experience, RLP has built expertise and made milestones providing services in support of forced migrants.

On the basis of this expertise, Refugee Law Project's Access to Justice Program will host a two-day regional conference on forced migration 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 under the theme "**From Policy to Practice; Making Refugee-Host Relations a win-win**". The conference comes on the heels of the [Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees](#) that was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 where pledges and commitments were made to support Uganda in addressing the refugee question. The conference will also be a precursor to the annual commemoration of the [International Day of Peace](#) slated for 21<sup>st</sup> September with this year's theme being "*Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for all*".

Conflicts and tension in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa mirror the transnational nature of contemporary conflicts whose consequences in one country affects another, especially the neighbouring countries, through refugee flows. In the last decade, Africa has witnessed a high number of conflicts as a result of political instability, human rights abuses among others, and these have greatly affected the continent's progress.

Uganda has been applauded for having one of the best inclusive legal and policy frameworks governing refugees in Africa and beyond. In line with this spirit, Uganda is currently hosting over 1.3 million refugees, the second largest refugee population in the world after Turkey.

Notwithstanding the progress made in assisting refugees, gaps still exist in service provision. There have been instances of unrest between the nationals and refugees in the country. Uganda has come up with several strategies such as the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), the Refugees and Host Population Empowerment Project (ReHOPE) and through the global initiative which advocates for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to be able to address the disparities between refugees and the host communities to create an enabling environment for hosting refugees. However, the country still faces challenges of marshalling together enough resources to fund the above initiatives therefore failing to effectively tackle absorption of refugees despite the constructive liberal refugee policies.

The conference will therefore seek to analyse the progressive refugee policies *vis-a-vis* the practice while addressing the realities of refugees and also taking care of the concerns of the host population. It will focus on the following key areas among others;

- Realities of the progressive legal and policy frameworks governing refugees in Uganda



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- An analysis of the self-reliance strategy as a form of refugee management
- The viability of existing strategies to address the disparities between refugees and their hosts (STA, ReHOPE, CRRF)
- Ensuring the protection of refugees with mixed migratory movements within the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.
- Screening for experiences of violence among South Sudanese refugees: Uncovering hidden realities
- Approaches to refugee management and protection from other refugee hosting countries from the region.
- Strategic litigation- Experiences from the region

## **Methodology**

RLP will invite experienced forced migration practitioners, scholars, academicians, researchers, students, policy makers, humanitarian aid workers from within and beyond the continent shaping the discourse on forced migration within the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. The program of the conference will be structured to engage both theory and practical experience of the participants.

## **Participants of the Conference**

The participants will be drawn from Government institutions, Civil Society Organisations, development partners and Members of Parliament.

## **Application Requirements**

- Application letter stating your interest in the conference
- Current CV

## **Application Procedure**

- 1) Send a copy of your application to [s.alupo@refugeelawproject.org](mailto:s.alupo@refugeelawproject.org) AND [p.katenda@refugeelawproject.org](mailto:p.katenda@refugeelawproject.org) with the subject **Regional conference on forced migration**
- 2) Deadline for submitting applications is **1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, 5pm EAT**

For any further information about this conference, please call +256-776897186