GLOBAL FAMILY REUNIFICATION NETWORK
GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

Supported by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

2026 Global Family Reunification Network Annual Conference

Preliminary summary of outcomes and recommendations

The FRUN convened its fourth annual conference on 3-5 November 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was attended in person and online by a cross section of the FRUN membership, including states, civil society, UN agencies and the private sector. This annual convening in the global family reunification calendar marks an important touch point for stakeholders to re-connect as partners, share updates and discuss priorities for the year ahead.

This year, 2026, also marks the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Celebrations marking the anniversary will culminate in the 14th High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection and Solutions in Geneva 7-8 December 2026. The HC's Dialogue process is designed to build momentum towards the Global Refugee Forum at the end of 2027.

Bearing in mind this year of global events, the 2026 FRUN conference concluded with important recommendations, some of which are summarized here. A comprehensive outcome report will be prepared and shared shortly.

Agenda summary

Day 1: International perspectives, country/regional policy updates, candid perspectives on barriers and best practices solutions.

Day 2: Research gaps, values-led migration narratives and UASC.

Day 3: Partnerships, refugee-led organisations, legal support and future opportunities through CRCP and the GRF 2027.

Key Outcomes and Recommendations

1. The FRUN is united by common objectives and shared priorities, including the importance of safe pathways for families to reunite, support for the international protection system, efficiency of procedures, positive integration outcomes and procedural integrity.

2. Family unity remains highly regarded as a universal human rights principle, despite growing disparity between this widely held value and policy shifts making it harder for refugees to access family reunification.
   Recommendation: This value gap needs to be explored and better understood.

3. The best way to ensure family unity is to prevent separation, to the extent possible. Family unity is not an add-on to protection; it is protection in itself.
   Recommendation: Considerations of family unity should be paramount to the decisions and activities of all.

4. Family reunification is about more than travel from A to B. Beyond physical relocation, the success of family reunification should be measured against whether the policies decisions taken achieved their set objectives – for example, did they mitigate unsafe movements? Did they improve integration outcomes and community cohesion?
   Recommendation: M&E mechanisms need to be a systematic component of family reunification programming.

5. Policies must be grounded in lived experience. Family reunification only gives effect to the right to family unity if procedures are accessible in real terms.
   Recommendation: Policy decisions should be informed by lived experience and refugees should be engaged as experts in evaluating policy outcomes.

6. Family reunification is as much about wider society as it is about an individual family. Family unity is good for society and family unity is integral to successful integration outcomes.
   Recommendation: Greater attention should be given to support integration and reestablishing family connections after physical reunification.

7. There are many data gaps which, if addressed, can improve the evidence base for informed policy decisions and programming. This includes human rights monitoring, improved state reporting on family reunification application data and research on the connection between united families and societal cohesion.
   Recommendation: Data collection and sharing can be improved by all stakeholders.

8. The international community can work together to better connect the dots between initiatives in the refugee, migration, and human rights spaces to establish standards and share practices.
   Recommendation: international actors should strive to cross populate and collaborate on key themes like family unity, access to civil status and travel documentation, amongst others.