

Kolkata Declaration, 2018

Protection of refugees and migrants is a crucial concern for human rights in every part of the world. Although discourses on the reasons, ramifications and plausible resolutions of the present migrant crisis are not unanimous, the significance of the crisis cannot be ignored. Conflicts and cartographic politics between nation states, civil strife, communal clashes, political and economic instabilities, and ecological events continue, with greater force, to trigger and complicate the condition of refugees and migrants. Simultaneously, the COVID-19 pandemic and several other public health emergencies have made the lives of people from different marginal backgrounds, including refugees and migrants, increasingly vulnerable. Acknowledging the severity of the migrant question in South Asia, the Calcutta Research Group (CRG) took the initiative of preparing a resolution on protection of refugees and migrants during its Third Annual Research and Orientation Workshop and Conference in 2018.

The [Kolkata Declaration](#)—valuable for its understanding of the gravity and nuances of migration in the present period, its articulation of the South Asian milieu of this phenomenon, its expression of solidarity with the victims of forced displacement, and its assessment of international efforts to ameliorate the distress of such uprootedness—portrayed the perch from which CRG views migration, and reinforced its identity as an informed interlocutor on the subject. Prepared in the wake of the two Global Compacts of 2018 (the Global Compact on Refugees; the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration), the matters to which the Declaration turned its attention are fundamental to CRG’s research agenda and its valued association with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna.

CRG has initiated the translation of the Declaration into other languages, in particular those of the South Asian region, in an effort to spread the message of protection of the basic rights of refugees and migrants worldwide.