

Equitable Partnerships

A Strategy Towards Localization and Meaningful Participation

Why Equitable Partnerships?

Research shows that affected communities and proximate actors are more likely to lead responses that are accountable, legitimate, transparent, effective, and impactful. However, due to structural racism and bias, proximate actors, especially refugee-led organizations (RLOs), have been systemically excluded from funding streams, strategy development, and decision-making processes.

International NGOs (INGOS) and multilateral organizations can help address this by building equitable partnerships with local actors, including RLOs. The elements of equitable partnerships can also apply to donors and host community-led organizations working with RLOs.

Equitable partnerships are crucial because they address the power dynamics that enable international actors to dictate the rules of the game. By shifting power to those most proximate, projects will be better designed and implemented, work better toward community interests, and ultimately, result in greater impact.



1.

Resource equitable partnerships with time and money.

2.

Institutionalize and incentivize equitable partnerships in policies, procedures, and working methods.

3.

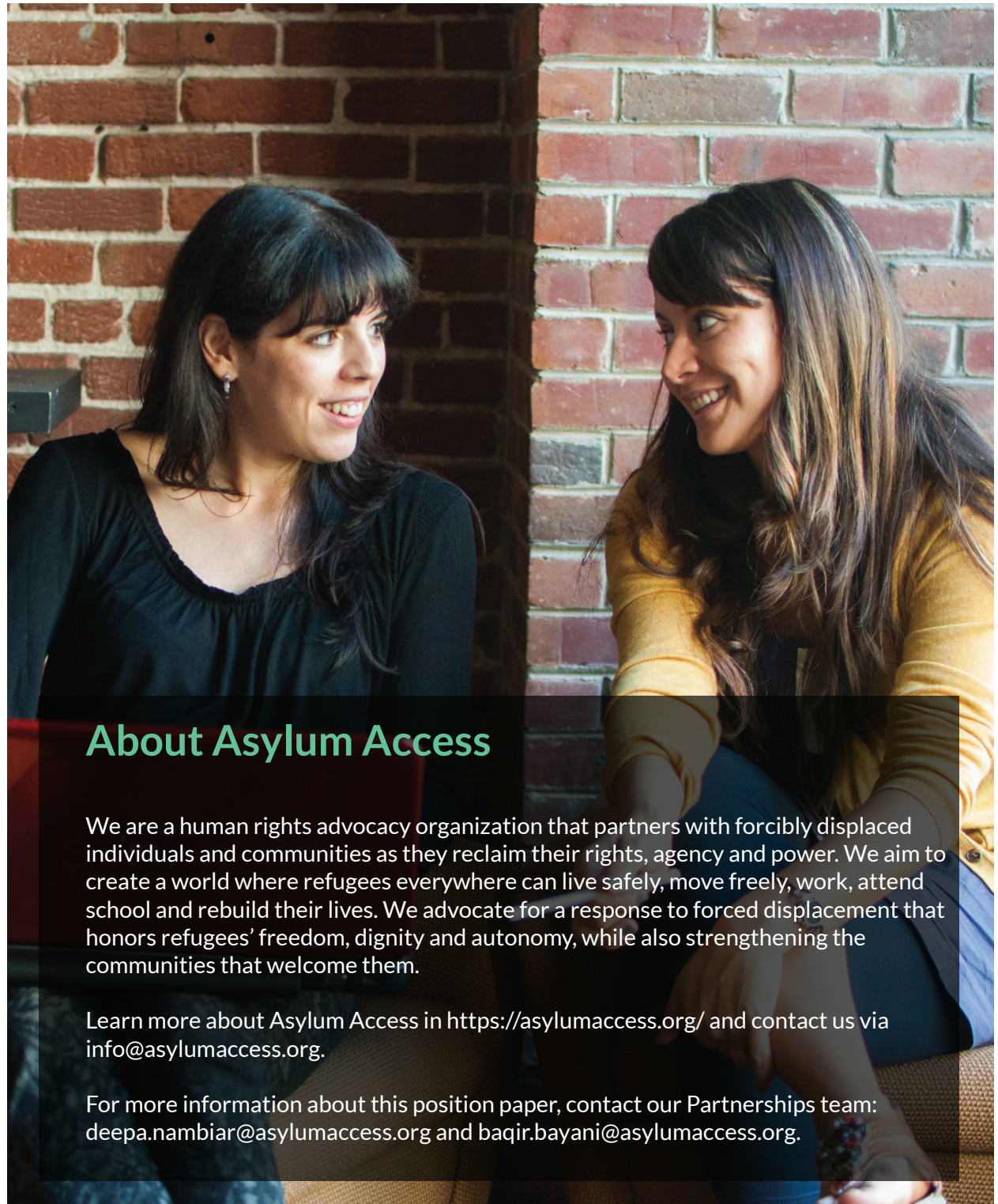
Engage donors to facilitate equitable partnerships through their funding approaches and interactions with local actors.

Asylum Access first shared its Position Paper “Building Equitable Partnerships: Shifting Power in Forced Displacement” in 2021. In 2023, we underwent an independent review of our partnerships, which led to an updated position paper on equitable partnerships and to the creation of an Equitable Partnerships Accountability Toolkit, which is available to any organization that is on a similar journey of learning how to embrace equity during all interactions with local partners.

**Full 2023 position paper
and list of recommendations**



**Equitable Partnerships
Accountability Toolkit**



About Asylum Access

We are a human rights advocacy organization that partners with forcibly displaced individuals and communities as they reclaim their rights, agency and power. We aim to create a world where refugees everywhere can live safely, move freely, work, attend school and rebuild their lives. We advocate for a response to forced displacement that honors refugees’ freedom, dignity and autonomy, while also strengthening the communities that welcome them.

Learn more about Asylum Access in <https://asylumaccess.org/> and contact us via info@asylumaccess.org.

For more information about this position paper, contact our Partnerships team: deepa.nambiar@asylumaccess.org and baqir.bayani@asylumaccess.org.