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2011 Refugee Conference

Looking To The Future, Learning From The Past
A conference to mark 60 years of the Refugee Convention



14-17 June 2011 | University of New South Wales | Kensington Campus, Sydney Australia

2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. These conventions were milestones in the recognition of the rights of people displaced by persecution and in the development of an international human rights framework. To mark the anniversary the UNSW Centre for Refugee Research and key refugee advocates and practitioners have partnered to facilitate this conference with a national and international focus. The conference will provide a timely opportunity to reflect on the strengths and achievements of the Refugee Convention and refugee protection system, and to consider what further action is needed to secure the rights of refugees during flight, in countries of asylum and in resettlement.

Conference Overview

Key Themes

- Regional protection frameworks
- International and Regional context of durable solutions: Ending protracted situations
- Asylum and settlement in Australia and New Zealand

The four day program will include **plenary sessions and workshops**, as well as a series of dialogues with a strong focus on the Asia Pacific region. The dialogues will include a **youth forum** and **academics and practitioners workshop**, as well as a much anticipated **women's dialogue**. Participants will be invited to engage in these events and debates as a means to showcase good practice and inform the national and international policy frameworks over the coming decade.

Speaker Highlights



Dr Eileen Pittaway
Director, UNSW Centre
for Refugee Research



Paul Power
CEO, Refugee Council
of Australia



Dr Melika Sheikh-Eldin
Manager, Settlement Partnerships
Adult Multicultural
Educational Services

Date/Time	Session
Tuesday 14 June	
<p>9:30am - 5:30pm</p>	<p>Women's Dialogue The Women's Dialogue will present the views of resettled refugee women nationally and internationally. The Women's Dialogue will be an adjunct to the seven international Women's Dialogues that are providing a report on refugee women and pledges for refugee protection leading into the UNHCR December 2011 commemoration events.</p> <p>Youth Forum The Youth Forum will provide a platform for young leaders from across Australia to come together to identify and discuss issues that impact the lives of refugee youth both locally and internationally. The Forum will provide participants with the opportunity to engage with human rights frameworks and participate in leadership and advocacy training to develop strategies to promote and represent the rights of refugee youth at a national and international policy level.</p> <p>Academics and Practitioners Workshop The workshop, <i>Reflection, Evaluation and Research</i> includes the themes of: Health and Service Delivery Challenges; Innovations and Responses; Young People, Youth, Identity; Family and Community; Practitioner and Service Delivery Reflections.</p>
Wednesday 15 June	
<p>9:00am – 10.30am</p> <p>11:00am – 2.00pm</p> <p>3:00 – 6:00pm</p> <p>6:00- 8:00pm</p>	<p>Youth Forum → Q&A Session</p> <p>Academics and Practitioners Workshop: Reflection, Evaluation and Research → Final Session: New Concepts and Emerging Policy Debates</p> <p>Opening Plenary Session → Welcome to Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senator Kate Lundy, Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs; and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister ▪ Melika Yassin Sheikh-Eldin, Adult Multicultural Education Services ▪ Rick Towle, Regional Representative, UNHCR, Regional Office for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific <p><i>Regional Protection Frameworks</i></p> <p>SESSION 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The geopolitical dynamics of refugee protection ▪ Legal perspectives of regional protection frameworks ▪ Psychosocial perspective of regional protection frameworks (health/social impact on people) ▪ Regional protection advocacy: A civil society perspective <p>Speakers include: Professor Jane McAdam, Faculty of Law UNSW; Rick Towle, UNHCR; Dr Savitri Taylor, La Trobe University; Grant Mitchell, International Detention Coalition and Dr Zachary Steel, Faculty of Medicine UNSW.</p> <p>SESSION 2A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refugee status determination and access to UNHCR <p>Speakers include: Anoop Sukumaran, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network; Tamara Domicelj, OXFAM and Associate Professor Michelle Foster, University of Melbourne.</p> <p>SESSION 2B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reception and detention (including discussions of accommodation and service provision) <p>Speakers include: Robyn Sampson, La Trobe Refugee Research Centre and International Detention Coalition; Caz Coleman, Hotham Mission and Ignacio Correa-Velez, LaTrobe Refugee Research Centre.</p> <p>Welcome Reception: A story from each decade</p>
Thursday 16 June	
<p>9:00am – 1:00pm</p>	<p><i>International and Regional context of durable solutions: Ending protracted situations</i></p> <p>SESSION 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Durable solutions; what are they? Challenges and approaches for UNHCR, a global overview ▪ Civil society concerns with current state approaches to resolving protracted refugee situations <p>Speakers include: Dr Jeff Crisp, UNHCR</p> <p>SESSION 2 Focus on challenges in the Asia Pacific region including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Civil society and refugee responses to camp situations in Thailand ▪ Civil society engagement with urban refugees in Malaysia ▪ Statelessness with a focus on specific populations in the region <p>Speakers include: Sally Thompson, Thai Burma Border Consortium; S.C.Chandrasekaran, Organisation for the Relief of Tamil Eelam Refugees and Renuka Balasubramaniam, Lawyers for Liberty, Malaysia.</p>

Date/Time	Session
Thursday 16 June	
9:00am-1:00pm	<p>SESSION 3 Four concurrent workshops covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Camps: Asia Pacific Region ▪ Camps: International Protracted Situations ▪ Urban: Issues of SGBV ▪ Stateless and "statuslessness" <p>Speakers include: Dr Graham Thom, Amnesty International Australia; Dr Linda Bartolomei, Centre for Refugee Research UNSW; Cheery Zahau, Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB); Zachary Lomo, Doctoral Law Student Cambridge and former Head of the Refugee Law Project, Kampala.</p> <p><i>Asylum and Settlement in Australia and New Zealand</i></p>
2:30-6:00 pm	<p>SESSION 1 This plenary session will provide a refugee perspective on the asylum and settlement issues facing Australia and New Zealand. Speakers include: Michael White, New Zealand Human Rights Commission.</p> <p>SESSION 2 Concurrent workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The past 30 years of Australian refugee settlement; What we have learned, what we have yet to learn ▪ Reflections on the Women at Risk program ▪ Youth perspectives on refugee resettlement ▪ Settlement in regional Australia ▪ Models of engaging refugees in settlement support <p>Speakers include: Paris Aristotle, Foundation House; Meg Davies, Townsville Multicultural Support Group Inc; Joseph Youhama, AMES; Monireh Sabet, AMES; Rebecca Eckert, Centre for Refugee Research, UNSW and Nadine Liddy, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia).</p> <p>SESSION 3 Concurrent workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refugee settlement in New Zealand ▪ The role of family in effective settlement ▪ Does Australia benefit from refugee settlement? ▪ The impact of detention on long term settlement ▪ Comparisons of Australian and New Zealand asylum policies <p>Speakers include: Rolf Driver, Federal Magistrate; Rodger Haines QC (New Zealand); Adam Awad and Kafeba Mandela, New Zealand National Refugee Network; Mohamed Dukuly, STARTTS; Abdul Hekmat, Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre; Brooke McDonald Wilmsen, LaTrobe University and Ida Kaplan, Foundation House.</p>
6:00-8:00pm	<p>UNSW FOUNDATION BRAINFOOD LECTURE SERIES Professor Jane McAdam, UNSW Faculty of Law speaking with Dr Jeff Crisp, UNHCR.</p>
Friday 17 June	
9:30am-1:00pm	<p>SESSION 1 Key outcomes presented from the Women's Dialogue, Youth Forum and the three conference streams: Regional Protection Frameworks: International and Regional Context of Durable Solutions: Ending Protracted Situations: and Asylum and Settlement in Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>SESSION 2 Facilitated group discussion to identify three recommendations for government and three Pledges to be taken to UNHCR.</p> <p>SESSION 3 Keynote speakers: Mr Peter Hughes and The Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship</p> <p>This session will provide the opportunity to plan the strategic use of Conference outcomes, to lead positive action at a local, national, regional and international level, including into the UNHCR Commemoration planning and pledging process. This session will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concrete recommendations to present to federal governments and to carry forward to the UNHCR ▪ Commemoration Ministerial Meetings in December 2011 ▪ Advocacy actions to carry forward in the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs in Geneva in June 2011
2:00-4:00pm	<p>Where to from here? Keynote speakers: Dr Eileen Pittaway, Zachary Lomo and Cheery Zahua.</p>

Further details and ongoing updates available on the conference website.

REGISTER ONLINE

<http://refugeeconf2011.arts.unsw.edu.au/registration.html>

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Academic / Government / Corporate

- \$950 Full conference and Academics and Practitioners Workshop
- \$730 Full conference
- \$275 Day rate
- \$295 Academics and Practitioner's Workshop

Community Organisation / Individual

- \$660 Full conference and Academics and Practitioners Workshop
- \$470 Full conference
- \$165 Day rate
- \$220 Academics and Practitioner's Workshop
- \$35 Women's Dialogue – restricted numbers
- \$35 Youth Forum – restricted numbers

Concession

- \$440 Full conference and Academics and Practitioners Workshop
- \$350 Full conference
- \$95 Day rate
- \$125 Academics and Practitioner's Workshop
- \$35 Women's Dialogue – restricted numbers
- \$35 Youth Forum – restricted numbers

UNSW Centre For Refugee Research



Centre for
Refugee Research

The Centre for Refugee Research is hosted by the School of Social Sciences and International Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UNSW. Working closely with a broad network of other academic institutions, refugee organisations and advocacy groups both nationally and internationally the Centre examines issues relevant to refugee and forced displacement within a human rights framework that aims to provide an analysis of all aspects of the refugee experience, and to evaluate the effectiveness of current human rights instruments for refugee populations.

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