



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

of the U.S. National Academies
of Sciences, Engineering, and
Medicine

DECEMBER
7-8, 2017

National Academy of
Sciences
2101 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC

SYMPOSIUM
of Scholars & Practitioners

Protecting the Rights of Individuals Fleeing Conflict:

The Role of Scientists,
Engineers, and Health
Professionals

DAY 1

8:00-8:30 **B R E A K F A S T / R E G I S T R A T I O N**

8:30-8:45 **Welcome**

Martin Chalfie, University Professor, Columbia University
Chair, Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

8:45-9:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *The International Refugee Regime: Reform through Rights***

Alexander Aleinikoff, University Professor, The New School and Director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility
Former United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees (2010-2015)

Creating Frameworks for Action

9:30-11:00 **Methodological and Ethical Challenges**

Chair: Karen Jacobsen, The Fletcher School, Tufts University
Francesco Checchi, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Maysa Ayoub, The American University in Cairo
Jonathan Hiskey, Vanderbilt University

How can researchers working in migration and displacement contexts ensure that their work is methodologically valid and ethically appropriate? What are the main obstacles?

11:00-11:15 **T E A / C O F F E E**

11:15-12:45 **Lessons from Practice**

Chair: Cindy Huang, Center for Global Development
Jana Mason, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Ntakamaze Nziyovira, COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa (CIYOTA)
Mark Greenberg, Migration Policy Institute
Grant Gordon, International Rescue Committee

Traditional approaches to forced displacement are insufficient for addressing today's unprecedented number of displaced persons. Where is innovation needed and how can evidence-based interventions help?

12:45-1:45 **L U N C H *With remarks by Robin Perutz, University of York & Royal Society, UK***

Dr. Perutz will discuss ongoing efforts in the UK to aid refugee scientists.

The Promise and Perils of New Technologies

1:45-3:00

Smart Phones and Digital Technology

Chair: *Alexa Schmidt, Mercy Corps*

Renee Black, PeaceGeeks International

Danielle Poole, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

Mobile phones and internet access are frequently seen as providing a lifeline for individuals forced to flee their homes. What are the opportunities and risks related to the use of ICTs in crises?

3:00-4:15

Leveraging New Data Streams

Chair: *Katharine Donato, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University*

Robert Kirkpatrick, UN Global Pulse

Lisa Singh, Department of Computer Science, Georgetown University

Chris McNaboe, The Carter Center

What insights can big data provide about forced displacement, and can these data help to protect individuals forced to flee their homes?

4:15-5:15

University Responses to Displacement Crises in the 21st Century

Chair: *Tom Rudin, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*

Ulrich Mans, Centre for Innovation / HumanityX, Leiden University

Lucy Bernholz, Digital Civil Society Lab, Stanford University

Human rights and humanitarian organizations often turn to universities to meet their research needs. Are 21st century universities equipped to provide assistance?

5:15-6:45

RECEPTION / FILM SCREENING

Please join us for a reception to be followed by a **6pm showing of *Science in Exile*** — directed by Italian filmmaker Nicole Leghissa in cooperation with The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) — a documentary that focuses on the travels and the struggles of displaced scientists who have fled conflict zones.

DAY 2

Applying Rights Protection Strategies

8:00-8:30

BREAKFAST

8:30-10:00

The Right to Health

Chair: *Gilbert Burnham, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

Ahmad Tarakji, Syrian American Medical Society

Leslie Roberts, Columbia University Medical Center

Eva Alisic, Monash University Accident Research Center

Leonard Rubenstein, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

How can health care professionals best identify and respond to the needs of refugees and other displaced individuals, in light of frequent challenges such as insecurity and difficulties with data collection?

10:00-11:30

The Right to Education

Chair: Negin Dahya, University of Washington

Paul Frisoli, International Rescue Committee

Admir Masic, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Kamiar and Arash Alaei, University at Albany, State University of New York

How is technology (e.g., mobile applications and online learning portals) being used to expand pathways to education? Is it working?

11:30-11:45

T E A / C O F F E E

11:45-1:00

The Right to Work

Chair: Christine Mahoney, University of Virginia

Paolo Verme, The World Bank

Muhammad Zaman, Boston University

Though often unable to return home for many years, displaced persons face significant obstacles when pursuing livelihoods. How are practitioners helping to create employment for displaced persons, and what is the impact on host countries?

1:00-2:15

L U N C H *Providing Support for Displaced Colleagues*

Chair: Jessica Wyndham, American Association for the Advancement of Science

S. Karly Kehoe, Saint Mary's University, Global Young Academy & Young Academy of Scotland

Sarah Willcox, Scholar Rescue Fund, Institute of International Education

Rose Anderson, Scholars at Risk

Among the tens of millions of displaced individuals worldwide are many professional colleagues. How can we best assist these individuals?

2:15-3:30

Breakout Sessions

3:30-3:45

T E A / C O F F E E

3:45-4:45

Reports from Breakout Sessions

4:45-5:00

Closing Remarks

Martin Chalfie, University Professor, Columbia University

Chair, Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

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