

ATCR Refugee Advisory Group members

<p>Ahmed Bazoon <i>(based in Bulgaria)</i></p>	<p>Ahmed is an electrical engineer from Iraq. He worked in the independent press for 8 years in addition to his work in construction and decoration. He has been living in Bulgaria since 2015 and has worked in local NGOs for 7 years. Ahmed is the Representative of the Refugee Advisory Board Association (RAB) and a Member of the Arabic Committee for Integration.</p>
<p>Anila Noor <i>(based in the Netherlands)</i></p>	<p>A refugee feminist leader, Anila is the co-founder of the GRN, a GIWRL Policy advisor on diversity, integration & gender inclusion, and a member of the expert group on the views of migrants in the field of migration, asylum & integration. She is also a fellow of OSF, FFVT, KAICIID, and a consultant for the World Bank, the EU Commission, and UN Agencies on meaningful participation.</p>
<p>Apajok Biar <i>(based in Australia)</i></p>	<p>Apajok was born in a refugee camp in Kenya and arrived in Australia with her family at the age of two. She is the chairperson and co-founder of South Sudan Voices of Salvation Inc., and co-founder and member of Angaac women association Australia inc., supporting women in South Sudan and Australian based South Sudanese and Angaac community women. She is on the board of the Women's Museum of Australia, and a member of the Gender Audit team to UNHCR. Apajok was also recently appointed as the Chair for the Women's, Gender and Diversity working group with the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network. She has received various awards including the 2017 Western Sydney Refugee Youth Award, and the Myan Refugee Youth Scholarship as the Refugee Youth Advocate representative for Australia & New Zealand at UNHCR. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work and is undertaking a Masters on Humanitarian Assistance at Deakin University. She works as a social worker and is a mother of a beautiful 2-year-old girl.</p>
<p>Eyad Jaabary <i>(based in Argentina)</i></p>	<p>Eyad was born in Syria in 1989. He holds a degree in English Literature. In 2017, he arrived in Argentina through the Syrian refugee program. Through his role in Fundación Amal Argentina NGO, he has worked to facilitate refugee integration in the country along with UNHCR, IOM, and Amnesty international. Eyad also serves as a Representative and intercultural consultant for the Catholic Social Services/Immigration and Settlement Services (Canada).</p>
<p>Gaida Dirar <i>(based in the UK)</i></p>	<p>A public speaker, advocate, and refugee rights activist, Gaida aims to raise refugees' voices and educate communities on refugee issues. She has studied Media Journalism at Tripoli University (Libya) and is now a Politics and international relations student at the University of Hull (UK). Gaida has worked as a community development worker and resettlement worker at the British Refugee Council and has volunteered with the UNHCR Medical Team in Egypt. She provides advice to the British Refugee Council, Migration Yorkshire, UK Home office and IOM, and is a member of the Regional Refugee Integration Forum by Migration Yorkshire. In addition to her other roles, Gaida serves as a City of Sanctuary ambassador and is a member of the Sanctuary in Politics group.</p>
<p>Hasnain Sayed</p>	<p>To be provided</p>

<p>Izdhar Gaib <i>(based in Canada)</i></p>	<p>Izdhar is an Intercultural Education Facilitator, journalist, and settlement services professional. After fleeing Iraq with her husband and three children, she settled in Syria in 2004. She is the founder of the Canadian Hope for Social Services Association, working to sponsor refugees and help them to move to and settle in Canada. With a bachelor's degree in French Language and Literature from the University of Baghdad, Izdhar has experience helping immigrants to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers to achieve their educational goals. As a member of the CCE Coalition Creating Equity, Izdhar has been actively advocating for equity and inclusion in Canada, fighting against discrimination and promoting a more just and compassionate society.</p>
<p>Joseph Youhana <i>(based in Australia)</i></p>	<p>Joseph is a recognised global advocate for refugee issues since 2010. He holds a bachelor's in applied management and over 16 years of experience in the Australian NGO management sector. He is the State Director for the HOST International since 2022, and a founder of many initiatives including the only Assyrian peak refugee-led organisation (Australian Assyrian Chaldean Syriac Advocacy Network). In 2021, he was recognised as the Citizen of the Year for the Hume City Council in Victoria. Lately, Joseph has been working on a global film documentary about forgotten refugee minorities in the Middle East.</p>
<p>Julia Sheikh <i>(based in New Zealand)</i></p>	<p>Originally from Pakistan, Julia (Ismat) arrived in New Zealand as an asylum seeker with her family at the age of 10. She is currently the Clinical Team Leader for the Refugees as Survivors NZ (RASNZ) Community Mental Health team in Auckland. She is also a fully registered counsellor with expertise in trauma and culturally informed mental health care, and has a background in crisis intervention, providing clinical support to the Christchurch Mosque attack victims. Among other experiences, she has worked with Shakti, the Fatima Foundation, the Salvation Army, and NZ Police ethnic liaison officers to provide a safe place for refugee women and children at risk. Julia also works for Youthline, supporting youth with mental health issues. One of her main goals is to help people from refugee backgrounds get into employment. As a Ministry of Social Development work focus case manager, she has experience in developing and implementing successful employment strategies for job seekers. Julia is also an experienced trainer, facilitator, and educator with skills in bicultural and intercultural competencies. She is working with governmental and non-governmental organisations to build organisational cultural competency and capacity to respond to the refugee groups they serve.</p>
<p>Mohammed Naem</p>	<p>To be provided</p>
<p>Mustafa Alio <i>(based in Canada)</i></p>	<p>Mustafa was the first refugee advisor to a Canadian delegation at the GRF in 2019. He co-founded and formerly managed Jumpstart Refugee Talent, which co-created EMPP. Mustafa has contributed articles on refugees' issues to various publications, including the Independent, The New York Times, the Stanford Social Innovation Review, and the Forced Migration Review. For his work, Mustafa received the Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division) award from the Office of the Governor General in Canada in 2021. He is the Managing Director of R-SEAT.</p>
<p>Najeeba Wazefadost <i>(based in Australia)</i></p>	<p>Najeeba is an advocate, educator, public speaker, and researcher. In September 2000, she fled Afghanistan with her parents and sought asylum in Australia at the age of ten. She is the co-founder of the Global Refugee Network, the Global Independent</p>

	<p>Refugee Women Leaders and the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees and has been actively involved in the development of refugee-led networks at both the regional and global level. She has also been a gender audit to UNHCR.</p>
<p>Nga Vương-Sandoval <i>(based in USA)</i></p>	<p>After fleeing Vietnam, Nga and her family spent years in refugee camps. Today, Nga concurrently serves as the US Refugee Advisory Board Project Manager and the Immigration DEI Advisor at 3i Law Firm. She previously served in homeland security with a focus in counterterrorism and counterintelligence and as an adjunct professor at two universities. She's a TEDx Presenter and is active in various advocacy roles including being a Refugee Congress Honorary Delegate, a member of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, a Vice-Chair of the Program Services Committee for the Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Board of Directors, and a Noble Ambassador for Christina Noble Children's Foundation. Nga's advocacy work was recognized by UNHCR for AAPI Heritage Month in a spotlight story Badge of Honor, and she has received the Colorado Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Community Service.</p>
<p>Nhial Deng <i>(based in Canada)</i></p>	<p>Nhial is a South Sudanese refugee, writer, youth advocate, community activist, and organizer. He spent 11 years in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and now attends Huron University. As a youth leader and community activist in Kakuma, Nhial initiated several youth projects, such as the Refugee Youth Peace Ambassadors and SheLeads Kakuma. He is passionate about the role of education, mentorship, and social entrepreneurship as powerful tool for refugee youth, and advocates for education, intersectional feminism, social justice, and meaningful youth engagement. Nhial is providing advice to governments, international humanitarian organizations, foundations, universities, and the private sector on issues ranging from refugee education to DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) and gender justice to peacebuilding. He is a recipient of the FilmAid 2021 Student Award, the World Vision Hero for Children: Courage Award 2023, and the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Award from the Government of Canada.</p>
<p>Noor Azizah <i>(based in Australia)</i></p>	<p>Noor is a former Rohingya refugee. She resettled with her family in Sydney at the age of 8. She holds a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney. Noor is currently working as a Second Dialect teacher and is a member of various advisory boards, including the Asia Justice & Rights, the Gender Audit Team (UNSW & UNHCR), the U.S. Consulate General's Sydney Youth Advisory Council, and the International Rohingya women's network Fortify Rights. Noor was named one of YAIA's 2022 Young Women to Watch in International Affairs and was selected as an Australian delegate for the Young Pacific Leaders Conference 2023.</p>
<p>Rabia Mohamad Talal Almbaid <i>(based in New Zealand)</i></p>	<p>Rabia is a former refugee from Syria who has called New Zealand home since 2017. He has a background in Leadership and Applied Management. He currently works with the New Zealand Police as a Senior Partnerships Advisor. Rabia is part of the New Zealand Refugee Advisory Panel, and brings insights of lived experience into working with NGOs and government agencies.</p>

<p>Rez Gardi <i>(based in New Zealand)</i></p>	<p>Rez is an international lawyer and human rights activist, and New Zealand's first female Kurdish lawyer. She was also the first Kurd to graduate from Harvard Law School, where she received an LLM as part of a Fulbright Scholarship. Rez has worked in Iraq as a Harvard Human Rights Fellow in support of cases prosecuting ISIS for its genocidal campaign against the Yezidis. She is the founder of 'Empower' and a member of R-Seat. She represented New Zealand at the first Global Refugee Youth Consultations in 2016 and helped establish the Global Youth Advisory Council to the UNHCR. Rez has also received various awards including 2017 Young New Zealander of the Year, 2019 Outstanding Youth Delegate Award at the UN Youth Assembly, and 2021 Peace Ambassador for the One Young World Summit.</p>
<p>Seconde Nyanzobe <i>(based in Canada)</i></p>	<p>Seconde is a refugee serving refugees, a peacebuilder and human rights defender. She holds a diploma in teaching French language, social psychology and Canadian Immigration Law. She is a co-founder and advocacy officer at ISOKO Partners for Peace and Gender Equality and a GRN board member. Seconde has been advocating for the implementation and localization of the UN Resolutions 1325 and 2250 related to Women, Youth, Peace and Security. She is working for a community-based organization in Canada as a resettlement advisor and resettlement case manager.</p>
<p>Shaza Rihawi <i>(based in Germany)</i></p>	<p>Shaza is a human rights activist and Syrian refugee. She is a co-founder, Steering Committee member, and Chairwoman of the Global Refugee-led Network, a member of the Gender Audit team for UNHCR, the co-founder of Network for Refugee Voices, and a former member of the European Migrant Advisory Board. She is also a board member of New Women Connectors and the co-founder of Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders. She has been involved with human rights advocacy and has first-hand experience in dealing with crisis mitigation from working on SGBV cases with UNHCR Syria. Previously, Shaza worked with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Centre for Strategic Studies in Syria. She holds a postgraduate degree in sociology and a master's in psychosocial work and political science from Syracuse University. At present, Shaza is a research assistant at the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories.</p>
<p>Syed Hasnain <i>(based in Italy)</i></p>	<p>Syed was born in Afghanistan. After fleeing at the age of ten, he went through Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece until he finally reached Italy in 2007 where he was recognized as a refugee. He started taking Italian lessons and engaging with refugees, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors as a social worker, cultural mediator, and legal adviser. Syed has worked with several humanitarian NGOs (Save the Children, Jesuit Refugee Services, INTERSOS and MSF). In 2019, he co-founded the European Coalition of Migrants and Refugees to advocate for refugee involvement in policy making. In April of the same year, together with other six refugees, he founded the first national union of refugees in Italy (UNIRE) to shift the narrative around refugees. As a UNIRE president, Syed is a member of the expert group on the views of migrants in the field of migration, asylum and integration at the EU Commission. In addition to his other roles, Syed is currently working as project officer and social media manager with Missing Children Europe organization on Miniila App, an application providing legal information and</p>

	<p>support to migrant children in 8 European countries. He holds a degree in political science and international relations from the University of Sapienza.</p>
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