#ByRefugees: Strengthening refugee-led humanitarian response during the Covid-19 pandemic

**Series conveners:** Alexander Betts and Andonis Marden (Refugee Studies Centre)  
Shaza Al Rihawi, Anila Noor, Najeeba Wazefadost, and Mustafa Alio (Global Refugee-Led Network)

This seminar series focuses on refugee-led assistance and protection in the context of Covid-19. It features panels of individuals whose work is shaping how we understand and support refugee-led responses during crisis. Their accomplishments – whether as practitioners, policy influencers, funders, or community responders – challenge conventional top-down approaches to humanitarian assistance. These approaches are increasingly important in the current context, in which traditional humanitarian capacity has been stretched and forced to adapt. Refugee-led organisations are on the frontline of the response, in both refugee camps and cities.

The series will explore how refugees are responding to the current crisis, reflect on how they can be supported by external actors, and consider the prospects for creating lasting forms of participatory humanitarian governance. The majority of panelists are refugees.

Seminars will take place over Zoom and YouTube Live. They will allow time for Q&A sessions with the speakers. The series will be recorded and made available online.

For complete details, visit: [https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/rsc-public-seminar-series-trinity-term-2020](https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/rsc-public-seminar-series-trinity-term-2020)

6 May

**Global agenda setting, from the bottom up: the Global Refugee-Led Network (GRN)**

- **Mustafa Alio** – Refugee Advisor, Co-founder, Jumpstart Refugee Talent (Canada)  
- **Shaza Al Rihawi** – Founding Member and Interim Chair, GRN (Germany)  
- **Anila Noor** – Steering Committee Member, GRN (Netherlands)  
- **Najeeba Wazefadost** – Founding Member, GRN and Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (Australia)

13 May

**Without recognition, without assistance: Refugee-led responses in urban contexts**

- **Bahati Ghislain** – Executive Director, Kintsugi (Nairobi)  
- **Robert Hakiza** – Executive Director, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (Kampala)  
- **Janemary Ruhundwa** – Executive Director, Dignity Kwanza (Dar es Salaam)
20 May

New partnerships: How international organisations can support refugee-led organisations
Dana Al Anzy – Partnership Associate, Civil Society and NGO Division, UNHCR (Geneva)
Edmund Page – CEO, Xavier Project (Kenya & Uganda)

27 May

Rapid response to funding gaps: Philanthropic support for refugee-led initiatives
Anna Crowley – International Migration Initiative, Open Society Foundation (London)
Annemieke de Jong – Refugee Livelihoods Programme, IKEA Foundation (Leiden)
Anders Knudsen – DEMAC Initiative (Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination), Danish Refugee Council (Copenhagen)

10 June

Limited room to manoeuvre: Refugee-led responses in camp settings
Nhial Deng – Chair, Refugee Youth Peace Ambassadors (Kakuma camp, Kenya)
Innocent Magambi – Executive Director, There is Hope (Dzaleka camp, Malawi)
Samuel Ouma Mijwang’a – Registered Nurse, Emergency Response Team, Kenya Red Cross Society (Dadaab camp, Kenya)

17 June

Affecting change from within: Refugees in international humanitarian organisations
Joelle Hangi – Intern, Innovation Service, UNHCR Regional Bureau in the East, Horn, and Great Lakes Regions of Africa (Nairobi)
Bahati Ernestine Hategekimana – Youth Activities Coordinator, Community Based Protection Unit, UNHCR Kenya Country Office (Nairobi)
Foni Joyce – Co-Chair, UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council (Nairobi)

24 June, 3:00-4:30pm BST
The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture
Mobility and immobility in the time of coronavirus: reflections from long-term study of migration and displacement
Professor Laura Hammond – Department of Development Studies, SOAS University of London