



RSC SHORT COURSE

Palestine Refugees and International Law

13–14 March 2026

Beirut, Lebanon

This two-day short course places the Palestinian refugee case study within the broader context of the international human rights regime. It examines, within a human rights framework, the policies and practices of Middle Eastern states as they impinge upon Palestinian refugees. Through a mix of lectures, working group exercises and interactive sessions, participants will engage actively and critically with the contemporary debates in international law, and analyse the specific context of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel).

The short course commences with the background of the Palestinian refugee crisis, with special attention to the socio-political historical context and legal status of Palestinian refugees in the region. This is followed by a careful examination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including its philosophical underpinnings and ensuing human rights instruments in international law. The key themes, which have taken centre stage in the debate on the Palestinian refugee crisis, are statelessness, right of return, repatriation, self-determination, restitution compensation, and protection. These themes are critically examined along with current discussions about the respective roles of UNRWA, UNHCR and the UNCCP in the Palestinian refugee case.

This course is suitable for: experienced practitioners; graduate researchers; parliamentarians and staff; members of the legal profession; government officials; and personnel of inter-governmental and nongovernmental organisations.

Instructors

Professor Dawn Chatty is Emeritus Professor in Anthropology and Forced Migration and Former Director of The Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, 2011-2014. She is a social anthropologist and has conducted extensive research among Palestinian and other forced migrants in the Middle East. Some of her recent works include *Children of Palestine: Experiencing Forced Migration in the Middle East* (ed. with Gillian Lewando-Hundt), Berghahn Press, 2005; *Dispossession and Displacement in the Modern Middle East*, Cambridge University Press, 2010, and *Syria: The Making and Unmaking of a Refugee State*, Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd, 2018.

Professor Susan M. Akram is Clinical Professor at Boston University School of Law, teaching immigration law, comparative refugee law, and international human rights law. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Washington DC (JD), and the Institut International des Droits de l'Homme, Strasbourg (Diploma in international human rights). She is a past Fulbright Senior Scholar in Palestine, teaching at Al-Quds University/Palestine School of Law in East Jerusalem.

Location

Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut, Bliss St, Beirut, Lebanon

How to apply

Apply via the online application form at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/palestine

For all enquiries please contact rsc-outreach@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Fee: £450

The fee includes tuition, lunch and all course materials. Participants will need to meet their own travel, accommodation and other subsistence costs, and arrange any country entry requirements.

Instructions for payment of the course fee will be sent with your offer of a place. Your place will be confirmed once payment has been received. Offers are made on a first-come-first-served basis to suitably qualified and experienced applicants. The application form may be closed earlier than the stated date, should full capacity be reached.

Maximum 24 spaces, with three fully funded places available for doctoral students and NGO staff.

Closing date for applications: 5pm on 13 February 2026

Closing date for receipt of fees: 27 February 2026

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