

REFUGEE ADVISORY GROUP

TO THE CONSULTATIONS ON RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS

Member Bios

Ana Maria Diez



Ana Maria Diez is co-founder and current President of the Coalition for Venezuela, the largest network of NGOs led by Venezuelan migrants and refugees, spanning +100 NGOs in 23 countries. The Coalition strives to promote and defend human rights, coordinating a comprehensive response to promote social economic integration of migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced people. A lawyer by profession, Ms. Diez holds a Master's degree in Public Management and certificates in Migration and Human Rights, Social inclusion and Social Leadership. Ana Maria has 9 years of experience in the humanitarian field, having worked with indigenous communities in southern Venezuela. Former Humanitarian Protection Manager for HelpAge International for Latin America and the Caribbean region, she has also led programmes in Haiti, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. Ana Maria is working on resettlement processes for Venezuelans to Canada, as well in complementary pathways in the Americas and the Caribbean. Ana Maria is a member of the LGBTIQ+ community and an activist for women's leadership.

Bahati Mnyaci



Born in Kazimiya village, South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bahati is the founder of Change Agents Advocacy, a refugee-led organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable refugee girls through advocacy campaigns, training, mentorship, and socioeconomic empowerment programmes. With over 19 years of lived experience as a refugee in Zimbabwe, Bahati has been driven to amplify the voices of those often overlooked by the international community. Trained by UNHCR in

leadership, advocacy, and public speaking, he is a public speaker advocating for investing in education to build resilience and self-reliance in displaced communities, as well as combating early child marriage. Bahati has participated in international forums such as the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, the Global Refugee Forum, and has addressed the European Parliament on the importance of access to quality education for refugees. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, an MSc in Global Management and Politics from Luiss University in Italy, and an MBA from the University of the People in the USA. After completing his last degree in Italy, Bahati returned to Zimbabwe, where he continues to serve as a refugee youth leader and role model. He actively raises awareness about the importance of education and provides guidance on complementary pathways and scholarship opportunities for refugees, assisting them with application processes. His work has empowered countless young refugees to pursue their educational dreams and build brighter futures.

Barthelemy Mwanza Ngane

 **United States of America**

Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Barthelemy was resettled in the USA in 2023 after spending 11 years in Tongogara Refugee Camp, Zimbabwe. There, he began his journey in social practice as a volunteer with UNHCR, and led community initiatives related to gender-based violence, child and youth protection, and climate change in the camp. A refugee leader and activist, he works with the Global Refugee Youth Network to coordinate the capacity building and funding channelling to refugee-led organizations. His achievements include his role as Co-Chair of UNHCR's Global Youth Advisory Council, and launching the Engaging Men in Responsible Practices to Prevent Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls (EMAP) initiative. Barthelemy has also represented his community at several UN conferences in Geneva and New York. Currently residing in the United States of America, his impact as a refugee leader continues to resonate in the global quest for refugee welfare and empowerment.

Dor Akech Achiek

 **Australia**

Dor Akech Achiek is a former refugee from South Sudan who was resettled to Australia in 2003. After nine years in a Kenyan refugee camp, he became an active member of his local community in Australia, volunteering with several organizations and initiatives for young

migrants. His roles throughout the years include youth project work with the Auburn Community Development Network (ACDN), Mount Druitt Ethnic Community Agency (MECA) and Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC). In 2011, Dor began working with Settlement Services International (SSI) as a Humanitarian Services Case Manager, Senior Team Leader and a Youth Projects Coordinator. Dor is currently the Group Head of Settlement Services at SSI, a community-based, not-for-profit humanitarian organization providing a range of services including humanitarian settlement, housing and asylum seeker assistance. His role provides strategic leadership and operational management of Settlement Services, youth services and social services delivered across SSI Group programmes nationally, and specifically in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. Dor has travelled and presented at a number of international conferences in New York, Geneva, Istanbul, Bangkok, Copenhagen and New Zealand representing refugee communities and advocating for durable solutions to global refugee issues.

Hasan Almatroud

Jordan

Hasan Almatroud is a Syrian refugee currently living in Amman, Jordan, since 2013. He is a changemaker and refugee rights advocate with a strong passion for using education and advocacy to drive community change. With seven years of experience in social and community work, Hasan is currently a programme coordinator and educator at Amala Education, where he helps facilitate the first internationally accredited secondary diploma program specifically designed for refugees—the same programme he graduated from three years ago. Alongside this role, he works as a refugee guidance counsellor on complementary pathways with WUSC. Hasan is also the founder of the New Horizons programme, which focuses on equipping refugees with essential skills and knowledge to empower them as changemakers within their communities. Hasan is currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration at the University of London, Royal Holloway. Hasan strongly believes in advocacy and education as a means to create a better world. His advocacy journey began as a member of the Canadian Refugee Education Council. Since then, he has participated and spoken at global conferences, including the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda. Hasan's work and advocacy efforts are rooted in his vision of empowering refugees and creating sustainable, community-driven solutions. He is committed to ensuring refugees' rights are recognized and advocating for durable solutions that allow them to rebuild their lives with dignity and be active agents of changes.

James Maker Atem

United States of America

James Maker Atem was forced to leave Sudan in the early 2000s because of the civil war and became a refugee in Kenya for twenty years. Despite numerous challenges in Kakuma camp, he earned a UNHCR-funded scholarship to a local university, where he completed his BA in Conflict Resolution. After that, James received a scholarship to Columbia University in the United States where he completed a Master's degree in International Affairs. He is currently a Refugee Advisor at the Welcome Corps on Campus and supports the Refugee Advisory Group, NGOs and governments, bringing seven years of expertise in humanitarian efforts, higher education, resettlement and the protection of civilians. His professional journey includes roles such as Tertiary Connected Learning Coordinator with the UNHCR in Kenya, Lecturer at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kenya and, most recently, Programme Management Intern at the UN Office of Counter Terrorism. James actively contributes as a guest speaker on the Protection of Civilians for UNMISS within the Department of Peace Operations and has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of International Affairs at Columbia University. He is skilled in data analysis, communication, editing, research, and critical thinking and is fluent in English, Kiswahili, and Arabic.

Madiha Ali Changezi

New Zealand

Madiha Ali is a former refugee from Pakistan who lived in Indonesia for five years before being resettled to New Zealand in 2018. She graduated from the University of Waikato with her LLB (Hons) majoring in Law and Political Science. Currently, she is working at the Auckland High Court as a Judges' Clerk and is on her way to be admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand. Apart from her interest in law, she is a community advocate and spends most of her time outside work doing community work. She is currently part of the New Zealand Refugee Advisory Panel (NZRAP) and the New Zealand National Refugee Youth Council (NZNRYC). She also sits on multiple governance boards and advisory groups such as the Migration Advisory Group at Red Cross and Committee Member at Seed Waikato. Passionate about young people, Madiha advocates for the inclusion of migrant and refugee young people in policies and decision-making. She is currently part of the Ministry of Youth Development Advisory Group. She strongly believes in using her opportunities to bring awareness to the issues her community is facing.

Matendo Makoti

Netherlands

Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Matendo Makoti arrived in the Netherlands in 2011 as a resettled refugee. In the DRC, he was studying law but due to the war he had to flee for his safety. In Kenya, he was raising awareness and advocating for a peaceful cohabitation in different communities. As a counsellor and trainer of trainers, he advocated for mental health, prevention of SGBV, peacebuilding and healthy manhood. One year after completing his integration and citizenship programme in the Netherlands, he joined the Dutch Refugee council as a volunteer, guiding and supporting newcomers towards a successful integration and participation in their new community. He also worked in a project “mentorship”, visiting and talking with different municipalities about resettlement, making video materials about life in the Netherlands used in cultural orientation sessions, attending refugees during cultural orientation and providing a warm welcome at the airport upon arrival. Matendo now works as a case manager with the Ministry of Safety and Justice. He is also a pastor and a member of the RRAG (Resettled refugees advisory group) helping bridge the gap between government, resettled refugees and the host community to promote a peaceful cohabitation and successful integration in the Dutch society.

Nadine Umutoni Wa Shema

Australia

Dr Shema is an overseas trained medical doctor, a public health professional and a refugee advocate. She is also the co-founder of the Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development (GLAPD) and serves as the agency’s Settlement Operations Manager and Public Relations Officer. Dr Shema holds a double Master’s degree in Public Health and Health Management (UNSW). Since her 2011 arrival in Australia, she has devoted herself to the welfare of refugees and migrants from the troubled Great Lakes region of Africa (mainly Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC) as well as the whole Africa by promoting peace, harmony and development, both in Australia and internationally. Dr Shema was one of the advisors at the Advisory Group on Australia-Africa Relations (AGAAR) in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade between 2017 and 2020. Her success in creating positive intercultural exchanges led to her being acknowledged by Celebration of African Australians Inc. as an influential African Australian and at the 2017 Rotary Inspirational Women’s Awards.

Sara Kuwatly



Sara Kuwatly, a former refugee from Syria, was resettled in Canada in 2016 through the Student Refugee Program (SRP) facilitated by World University Service of Canada (WUSC). Sara fled to Lebanon in 2013 where she lived for three years before starting a new chapter in Canada. Sara earned her Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Guelph, where she played a vital role in refugee support. She served as the chair of the WUSC Local Committee and later as the SRP coordinator. Currently, Sara works as a programme officer with the SRP Student Selection and Support team at WUSC and volunteers as an Arabic-English translator for LGBTQ+ refugees. She is also pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Migration and Diaspora Studies at Carleton University furthering her expertise and dedication to refugee issues.

Stellah Nikuze



Stellah Nikuze is a 24-year-old refugee from Uganda. In the mid 90's, Stellah's parents fled Rwanda during the genocide and she was born in the refugee settlement; it was the only home she know. Being born in the refugee camp, she saw first-hand the challenges refugees face including lack of access to education and health, and poverty because of unemployment and restrictions in movement. Stellah is committed to addressing these issues affecting mostly girls and women in my community. She is now a student at Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. In addition, she is the president of World University service of Canada (WUSC) at her University, a student club that advocates for rights, policies, and laws, and for better support for refugees pursuing their studies in Canada. Stellah is also the co-founder of the Hodari Foundation, a refugee-led organization in Uganda based on Kyaka II refugee resettlement. Hodari Foundations supports refugee families with livelihoods, helps provide access to education to refugee children, most of whom are girls and youth, and supports people with disabilities in the refugee settlement and host community.

Suzan Husseini

Japan

Suzan Husseini is originally from Syria and travelled to Japan on an education pathway. Suzan currently is a PhD student in international relations at Waseda University's Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies pursuing the topic of complementary pathways to admission. She holds a master's degree in the same field from Waseda University and a bachelor's degree in English Translation from the University of Aleppo in Syria. Suzan is a co-delegate of EmPATHy, a youth organization founded in November 2022 to raise awareness in Japan about the hardships of refugees and to provide assistance to both newcomers and existing forcibly displaced persons. She is also a representative of Japan Bridge / Rebuilding Hope, a Syrian group that has joined forces with several NGOs to launch a fundraising campaign to assist families affected by the earthquake that struck northern Syria and southern Türkiye on February 6, 2023. Suzan has over three years of experience in Türkiye working with international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) such as Qatar Red Crescent and Global Communities. In addition, she has nine years of experience as a translator in Syria and Türkiye, five years of experience working at the British Council in Japan and is currently a project officer at Pathways Japan. Suzan values the human right to education, sustainable development goals, and advocacy for refugee protection. She provides education consultation to support students in Japan on their journey. Suzan has good problem-solving skills and a calm personality. In 2023, she participated in the second Global Refugee Forum 2023 as a co-delegate of EmPATHy, and CRCP 2024 as a member of Pathways Japan.

Tahira Ali

Canada

Tahira was resettled to Canada in 2017. She is a full-time teacher in an Elementary school in Toronto Ontario. She identified Community Sponsorship Program (G5) as an effective and practical pathway for refugees in Indonesia to start a new life in Canada. Three months after her arrival, she formed a group of five Canadians, raised funds and resettled the first refugee from Indonesia. Apart from teaching, she is also working as Complementary Pathway Manager for Cisarua Learning Ltd (CLL), an Australian charity organization. Since 2017, she has been involved and assisted resettlement process for 73 refugees from Indonesia through the G5 Program. As a community advocate and volunteer, Tahira organizes regular trainings to community members about changes and updates regarding resettlement processes and G5.

Vivian Shaima

Jordan

Vivian is a courageous advocate for refugee rights, a social worker, and an educator. Her lived experience as a refugee fuels her dedication to advocating for marginalized communities. She is committed to reducing social injustice and driving community change. Vivian lived in Iraq until 2014 when ISIS forced her family to flee. They became internally displaced before fleeing to Jordan in search of safety. Today, Vivian brings experience across several key areas, focusing on advocacy, education in emergencies, teaching, youth skills, digital learning, mental health and psychosocial support, and complementary pathways for refugees. Currently, Vivian is a refugee guidance counsellor for a refugee-led programme of complementary pathways in Jordan with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), supported by UNHCR. In this role, she conducts sessions and offers individual support to help refugees access higher education, labour market and family reunification opportunities outside Jordan. She also serves as an educator at Amala, leading the first internationally accredited secondary diploma for global refugees in Jordan. Vivian is also a member of the Canadian Refugee Education Council, an advisory body that provides strategic advice to Global Affairs Canada, hosted by World Vision Canada, working to increase access to quality education for displaced children and youth in refugee communities.