COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
of the U.S. National Academies
of Sciences, Engineering, and
Medicine

SYMPOSIUM
of Scholars & Practitioners

Protecting the Rights of Individuals Fleeing Conflict:
The Role of Scientists, Engineers, and Health Professionals

DECEMBER
7-8, 2017

National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC
DAY 1

8:00-8:30  BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION

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  TEA / COFFEE

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 Nziyonvira, COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa (CIVOTA)
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  LUNCH  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

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Sponsored, in part, by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the Blum-Kovler Foundation/Peter and Judy Kovler.