

PROGRAM

Day 1 - Monday, 26th September

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION - All Attendees Kathleen Fitzpatrick Theatre (Basement) Arts West Building
9:00 AM	OPENING PLENARY Kathleen Fitzpatrick Theatre (Basement) Arts West Building Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elder Welcome by Associate Professor Harry Minas University of Melbourne & Diaspora Learning Network Denise Cauchi <i>Diaspora Action Australia & Diaspora Learning Network</i> Diaspora Initiatives in Australia: an overview Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells Minister for International Development and the Pacific Keynote Address Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie <i>Up!-Africa Ltd</i> Diasporas as Transnational Actors: perspectives from UK/Europe-Africa
10:30 AM	MORNING TEA Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building
11:00 AM	PLENARY: International Perspectives Kathleen Fitzpatrick Theatre (Basement) Arts West Building Laurent de Boeck <i>International Organization for Migration</i> Engaging with Diasporas in the Reconstruction and Transition of Countries of Origin after man-made or natural disasters - A Global overview Dr. Will Jones <i>University of Oxford</i> Challenging the State: Diasporas and authoritarian regimes Q&A with Keynote Panelists Moderated by Dr. Helen Szoke (Chief Executive of Oxfam Australia)
12:15 PM	LUNCH Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building
1:30 PM	CONCURRENT PANEL PRESENTATIONS Various Locations Stream #1 Human Development <i>Theatre A - Room 103 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building</i> Dr. Melissa Phillips <i>University of Melbourne, formerly Danish Refugee Council</i> Turning rhetoric into reality: how can INGOs partner with diasporas for development? A case study of the Danish Refugee Council's Diaspora Programme. Mohamed Munas <i>Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka</i> Beyond Remittances: Complexities of diaspora engagement in the North and East of Sri Lanka in a post-war context. Dr. Graeme Johanson <i>Centre for Organisational and Social Informatics, Monash University</i> Can mobile phone uses be monitored to better understand how to achieve improved human and economic development in the diasporas' country of origin? Moderated by Dr. Chrisanta Muli (Research Team Leader, Oxfam Australia)
	Stream #2 Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding <i>Theatre D - Room 155 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building</i> Dr. Nawal El-Gack <i>University of Canberra</i> Promoting Unity and Harmony among South Sudanese Australians: Pathways for resilience. Alexandra Owens & Daniela Gavshon <i>Public Interest Advocacy Centre</i> Diasporas in official transitional justice processes: The Sri Lankan experience.

Day 1 - Monday, 26th September

Dr. Hariz Halilovich *Centre for Global Research, RMIT*

Long-distance activism and 'Cyber villages' - The role of Bosnian diaspora in recreating, reimagining and reimagining post-conflict communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Moderated by Beth Eggleston (Director, Humanitarian Advisory Group)

Stream #3 Human Rights

Theatre C - Room 124 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building

Sanaz Nasirpour *University of Melbourne*

Women in the Diaspora: Political Mobilisation and Women's Rights in Iran.

Marama Kufi *Oromia Support Group Australia*

Connecting unconnected grassroots communities to the United Nations:

Opportunities and challenges of advocacy for human rights in the Horn of Africa.

Joseph Youhana

An Iraqi perspective

Moderated by Stephanie Cousins

(Government Relations Manager, Amnesty International Australia)

2:45 PM

AFTERNOON TEA

Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

3:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Various Locations

Workshop 1: Human Development

Room 143 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building

Education for Refugee Children: How can diaspora communities and organisations assist refugees in educating their children in the middle of their multiyear journey?

Muzafar Ali & Jolyon Hoff *Cisarua Learning Inc.*

Workshop 2: Human Development

Room 204 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

Lessons learned from Australian and International NGOs' diaspora engagement approach: Influencing change and considerations for further partnerships and linkages.

Dr. Chrisanta Muli & Henry Parham *Oxfam Australia*

Dr. Hussein Haraco *Somali Australian Council of Victoria*

Dr. Melissa Phillips *University of Melbourne, formerly Danish Refugee Council*

Aarathi Krishnan *Australian Red Cross*

Workshop 3: Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding

Room 257 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

We Want Peace: South Sudanese diaspora youth have been important actors in the peacebuilding process, using their networks, creative flair, social media and a drive to create sustainable social change. This workshop will feature case studies and live performances.

Akur Deng Barr *Abyei Youth Australia*

Ezeldin Deng *Izzy Films*

Abe Nouk *Creative Rebellion Youth*

Sarah Williams *Footprints*

Day 1 - Monday, 26th September

Moderated Discussion 1: Human Rights

Room 156 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building

Panel discussion:

This session will highlight diaspora-led human rights promotion and advocacy, from countries of residence and/or through transnational networks and explore the successes, challenges and untapped opportunities for human rights advocacy.

Alexandra Owens & Daniela Gavshon *Public Interest Advocacy Centre*

Nas Omar *Ogaden Community*

Marama Kufi *Oromia Support Group Australia*

Antony Gratian *Australian Tamil Congress*

Moderated by Stephanie Cousins

(Government Relations Manager, Amnesty International Australia)

Moderated Discussion 2: Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding

Room 227 (Level 1) Old Arts

Panel discussion:

Dr. Valentina Baú *University of New South Wales*

Breaking the Conflict Cycle, Building Peaceful Communities: Participatory photography and storytelling with African diasporas in Sydney.

Dr. Siew Fang Law *Victoria University*

Conflict Resolution in Higher Education: the usefulness of conflict analysis tools to reflect and engage diaspora in peacebuilding.

Peter Pal *The Union of Greater Upper Nile States Inc., Dandenong*

Diaspora Efforts in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding.

Moderated by Dr. Tania Miletic

(Research Fellow, University of Melbourne)

Showcase: Case Studies (Streams #1, #2, #3)

Theatre C - Room 124 (Ground floor) Old Arts Building

Hadi Zaher & Wais Yaqubi *Akademios Society*

The young, creative, multi-skilled and tech-savvy generation leads the delivery of education projects in Quetta.

Haroun Kofi *Nuba Mountains International Association of Australia - Victoria*

The Nuba People - Who are they and what's happening now?

Shesh Ghale *Non Resident Nepali Association*

Strengthening government support and actively engaging the diaspora in enhancing the lives of their compatriots in Nepal and an overview on emergency relief in Nepal in relation to the recent earthquake.

Emmanuel Musoni *Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development International*

Dialogue for Peace Initiative: bringing Great Lakes Region diaspora communities together for dialogue and discussions aiming at appeasing the magnitude of hatred and resentments.

Dr. Charles Mphande & Dr. Paola Bilbrough *Victoria University*

Virtual Discourses and Mobilising for Reconciliation, Peace and Nation (re-) Building: Victorian and Global South Sudanese.

Moderated by Dr. Devaki Monani

(Lecturer, Australian Catholic University)

4:45 PM

END OF DAY 1

6:00 PM

CONFERENCE DINNER (Ticket holders only)

A networking opportunity in an intimate setting at the University of Melbourne's Tsubu Bar (halal & vegetarian-friendly)

Day 2 - Tuesday, 27th September

9:00 AM

PLENARY: LOOKING AT OUR REGION

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Theatre (Basement) Arts West Building

Brief Recap of Day 1 by Aarathi Krishnan *International Policy Manager, Australian Red Cross*
HE Abel Guterres *Ambassador of Timor-Leste to Australia, New Zealand and Republic of Fiji*
The Role of the Diaspora in Nation Building: Reflections from Timor-Leste
Finau Limuloa *International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Suva*
Beyond Canned Tuna: Pacific diasporas and humanitarian response
Jeremy Liyanage *Bridging Lanka*
Transcending Dissent: 'Dialogue through action' for reconciliation in Sri Lanka
Q & A with Keynote Panel

Moderated by **Dr. Helen Szoke** (*Chief Executive, Oxfam Australia*)

10:50 AM

MORNING TEA

Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

11:15 AM

CONCURRENT PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Various locations

Stream #4 Economic Development

Theatre A - Room 103 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building

Matthew Neuhaus (*Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*)

Diaspora Economic Engagement in Africa.

Dr. Danura Miriyagalla (*Apexah*)

Somali Diaspora Investment: Creating peace and prosperity in a fragile state.

Christine Makumbe (*Australia Zimbabwe Business Council*)

Fostering bilateral trade and investment between Australia and Zimbabwe.

Moderated by **Andrew Hewett**
(*Deputy Chair, Diaspora Action Australia*)

Stream #5 Humanitarian Issues & Responses

Theatre D - Room 155 (Ground floor) Old Arts Building

Louise Olliff (*University of Melbourne*) From Resettled Refugees to Humanitarian Actors: Diaspora-led humanitarianism and the international refugee regime.

Najeeba Wazefadost (*Hazara Women of Australia*) Nothing About Us Without Us.

Dr. Roannie Ng Shiu (*Australian National University*)

Pacific Communities in Action: Responses to natural disasters in the Pacific.

Moderated by **Joanna Pradela** (*Head of Policy, ACFID*)

Stream #6 Settlement in Host Countries

Theatre C - Room 124 (Ground floor) Old Arts Building

Shukufa Tahiri (*Refugee Council of Australia*)

The Strength Within: The role of refugee community-based organisations in Australia.

Dr. Melika Y. Sheikh-Eldin (*AMES Australia*)

The role of the diaspora in successful settlement.

Mae Sie Win (*Karenni Association of Victoria*)

A case study of the Karenni Community in Victoria.

Moderated by **Thomas Sinkovits** OAM
(*Immigration Expert, former Diplomat, formerly with IOM*)

12:30 PM

LUNCH

Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

Day 2 - Tuesday, 27th September

1:45 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Various locations

Workshop 4: Economic Development

Room 143 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building

From Funder to Design Partner through Design Thinking: This workshop will unpack and share the design process which led to the discovery of a more practical solution for economic development and, in the process, critically transformed the role of this Sri Lankan diaspora organisation from funder to partner.

Facilitated by Tamara Pararajasingham (Palmera)

Workshop 5: Humanitarian Issues and Responses

Room 227 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

Diasporas and Volunteering: Diaspora members seeking to volunteer in their countries of origin have significant assets to offer, and face substantial barriers, both related to their diaspora status. This workshop will open discussion and stimulate information sharing on the potential for diaspora volunteering.

Facilitated by Mark Deasey (Australian Volunteers International)

Workshop 6: Humanitarian Issues and Responses

Room 257 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

The Potential for Diasporas to Assist in a Disaster Recovery Context: Using Samoa and Fiji as examples, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the most effective options for assisting in recovery after natural or human-made disasters, such as volunteering, provision of goods and technology.

Facilitated by Karen Medica (Monash University) and Ganesh Sen (Reach for Your Future Foundation)

Workshop 7: Economic Development

Room 156 (Ground Floor) Old Arts Building

Remittances, Investment and Aid - Innovative models for Development: This workshop/discussion will highlight some innovative models that have led to increased diaspora investment into developing countries. It will provide an opportunity to explore productive uses of remittances if new models can be developed through partnerships with multiple stakeholders.

Lawson Mavondo (BT Finance)
Berhan Jaber (African Small Business Association)
3rd presenter TBC

Facilitated by Dr. Danura Miriyagalla (Apexah)

Moderated Discussion 3: Settlement in Host Countries

Room 204 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

Panel discussion:

Dr. Devaki Monani (Australian Catholic University) How do you find our country?: Narratives of Arab, Burmese, African and Indian Diaspora shaping Australian agriculture.
Emmanuel Musoni (Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development International - GLAPD Int.) Regional and rural resettlement of community members from bigger cities.
Hilary Bucumi (AMES Australia) Community Guides Program, AMES.

Moderated by Hala Abdelnour (Chair, Diaspora Action Australia)

Day 2 - Tuesday, 27th September

Showcase: Case Studies (Streams #4, #5, #6)

Theatre C - Room 124 (Ground floor) Old Arts Building

Nkosana Mafico (Council for Young Africans Living Abroad) Engaging with African Youth - A better model for development.

Ordan Andreevski (United Macedonian Diaspora) Advancing Australia Macedonia Economic Links - The presentation builds on the landmark ARC Linkage Project (2012) on Diasporas in Australia: Current and potential links with the homeland launched at Parliament House in 2012 which explored the broad dimensions of ties between the Italian, Macedonian, Tongan and Vietnamese diasporas and their homelands.

Kathy Thompson & Tee Toh (The Hope Project) Exploring the partnership between the diaspora Karen refugee community in Melbourne and non-Karen residents to respond to the humanitarian situation on the Thai Burma border.

Chris Piper & George Salloum (Syrian Community/ Humanitarian Community Forum) The SC/HC Forum is the coming together of three main stakeholder groups deeply involved in supporting humanitarian action relating to the Syrian humanitarian crisis across the Middle East.

Adibeh Abdo-Attia (Syrian Orthodox Women's Association) An overview of the role of the Syrian Orthodox Diaspora Community in humanitarian and peace causes including assisting the settlement of newly arrived migrants.

Facilitated by Louise Olliff (Senior Policy Officer, Refugee Council of Australia)

3:15 PM

AFTERNOON TEA

Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building

3:45 PM

CLOSING PLENARY

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Theatre (Basement) Arts West Building

Reflections on the conference:

Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie (Director, Up!-Africa Ltd.)

Paul Bird (CEO, Australian Volunteers International)

3rd presenter TBC

Moderated by Aarathi Krishnan (International Policy Manager, Australian Red Cross)

Denise Cauchi (Diaspora Action Australia & Diaspora Learning Network)

Closing and ways forward

5:00 PM

POST-CONFERENCE RECEPTION

Old Arts Hall - Room 222 (Level 1) Old Arts Building