



# Refugee Women: Responding to COVID-19

9 June 2020  
15:00 – 17:00 CET  
09:00 NYC / 20:00 Bangkok

**WORLD REFUGEE & MIGRATION COUNCIL**

**GIRWL**  
Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders

A Virtual Global Conference of Refugee Women's Voices  
Led by Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders (GIRWL)

Twitter: [@WRMCouncil](https://twitter.com/WRMCouncil) [Facebook.com/WRMCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WRMCouncil)

## AGENDA

All Times Central European Time (CET)

### 15:00 – 15:15 Welcome and Conference Objectives

- [Heba Aly](#), Director, The New Humanitarian [@HebaJournalist](#)
- [Najeeba Wazefadost](#), Co-founder of Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders (GIRWL) [@NajeebaWazefado](#)

Photo slideshow: "Click Refugee Women Realities"

### 15:15 – 15:45 PANEL 1: The Global Context – How Has the International Community Responded and What Still Needs to be Done

- [Anila Noor](#), GIRWL Co-founder [@nooranila](#)
- [Madeleine Albright](#), former United States Secretary of State and former refugee [@madeleine](#)
- [Marco Mendicino](#), Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada [@marcomendicino](#)
- [Jacqueline O'Neill](#), Canadian Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security [@jacqui\\_oneill](#)
- [Jacqueline Hart](#), Senior Director for Strategy, Women's Refugee Commission

**15:45 – 16:15**

**PANEL 2: How are Refugee Women Responding Around the World to COVID-19**

- [Shaza Alrihawi](#), GIRWL Co-founder [@ShazaAlrihawi](#)
- Hasnah Hussin, Rohingya refugee woman in Malaysia
- Paty Hernandez, Salvadoran trans woman refugee in the USA
- Alima Mamohamed, refugee in Kampala, Africa

**16:15 – 16:45**

**PANEL 3: What Are Refugee Women's Unmet Needs & Capacity Gaps?**

- [Bárbara Romero](#), GIRWL Co-founder [@AndieyBarbarita](#)
- Dr. Olfat Mahmoud, Palestinian refugee in Lebanon
- Nibras Rahbe, Syrian refugee woman
- [Sarah E. Hendriks](#), Director, Policy and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women [@sarah\\_hendriks](#)

**16:45 – 16:55**

**Making Space for Us: Refugee Women as Equal Leaders**  
*Connecting, Collaborating, Organising for Change and Next Steps*

- Andrea Ayala, GIRWL Co-founder

**16:55 – 17:00**

**Closing remarks**

- [Lloyd Axworthy](#), Chair, World Refugee & Migration Council [@lloydaxworthy](#)

## Virtual Conference — Refugee Women: Responding to COVID-19

This virtual conference creates a unique refugee women-led space to achieve four goals:

- Share information on COVID-19's impact on refugee women;
- Identifying key issues, unmet needs, knowledge and capacity gaps, as well as opportunities to act in response to COVID-19;
- Mapping out the coping strategies of Refugee women globally in conflict/urban areas; and
- Articulate common areas of concern, identify areas for coordination, and assess how the policy, advocacy and public health communities can respond more effectively for meaningful refugee women participation, placing COVID-19 response in context.

**Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders (GIRWL)** is a group of refugee women-led initiatives, networks, and advocates that works with and for refugee women to 1) increase refugee women participation in shaping policies, 2) build refugee women's capacity to engage locally, nationally, regionally and globally, and 3) strategically advocate for and promote inclusive human rights approaches to forced displacement.



**Shaza Alrihawi**  
Interim chair, Global  
Refugee-led Network/  
European Coalition

[@ShazaAlrihawi](#)



**Andrea Ayala**  
Lesbian Human  
Rights Defender

[@AndreaMAyala1](#)



**Anila Noor**  
Exec. Director New  
Women Connectors &  
Steering Committee  
Member Global  
Refugee-led Network

[@nooranila](#)



**Bárbara Romero**  
Psychologist. Master  
in Social Sciences.  
Consultant &  
Researcher

[@AndieyBarbarita](#)



**Najeeba Wazefadost**  
Founding member of  
Global Refugee-led  
Network & director of  
Asia Pacific Network of  
Refugees

[@NajeebaWazefado](#)

**GIRWL**  
Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders

This conference is made possible with the generous support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Cuso International.