



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Office Opening Hours:

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday, Wednesday &
Friday

Office Contact Details:

Phone 04 801 6839

Email info@crf.org.nz

Address: Level 4

38 Webb Street

Mt Cook

Wellington

Website:

ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Facebook:

Changemakersrefugeeforum

Whatsapp:

CRF Community
Noticeboard

Monthly Newsletter

October 2022

Update from Jacqs

Kia Ora everyone

Hope you are all enjoying the lovely sunny, summery days we have been having. Apologies for not getting a September newsletter out...but we have plenty to update you about in this newsletter.

The biggest piece of news is to update you on is the AGM and our updated board. We were fortunate to have MP Vanushi Walters get time out from 'sitting of the house' to come along and talk to us, sharing insights from her many years working in human rights and settlement.

We farewelled board members who had come to the end of their term: Amin Vaklili; Chair – Shahd El Matary; Treasurer – Farhan Ased; and ChangeMakers Founder – Adam Awad. Thank them so much for your passion and dedication to the mahi of ChangeMakers. Adam Awad has now taken on the role of Patron for ChangeMakers.

The current board consists of returning members Mardiya Abdulaziz (chair), Lana Dawit (Vice Chair), Eyob Teshome and new members Megersa Rundasa (Treasurer), Megan Williams (Legal Oversight), Aidrus Ibrahim, Melissa Denzler, Margaret John, and Oo Meh Nga. Welcome back and welcome on board to a very diverse group of people.



The current board: Back row left to right: Mardiyay Abdulaziz, Megersa Rundasa, Lana Dawit; Front row left to right: Eyob Teshome, Aidrus Ibrahim, Oo Meh Nga, Melissa Denzler, Margaret John; Absent: Megan Williams

Read on to see more of what's coming up and what's been happening

Jacqs 😊



New Zealanders of refugee background participating fully in life in Aotearoa New Zealand

Nothing About Us Without Us

A human Rights Approach

Focus On Strengths Not Weaknesses

A Shared Voice is A Strong Voice

From the Board

The latest monthly board meeting was held on 2nd November.

The board meeting consisted of former chair, Shahd, carrying out a handover. Then there was some general housekeeping for the new board including discussions around governance training and meeting schedules, as well as signing off some finances before nominations for board positions were held.

A second meeting was held on 10th November to confirm board roles and vote on the role of secretary, with Alma Adam having been given the role.

As always, the board chair can be contacted and details will be provided in the next newsletter. In the meantime, there continues to be a feedback box at the entry to the office, which will be clearly monthly.

Christmas Closure

As usual, our office will be closed over the holiday period. We will shut at end of day on Thursday 22nd December and reopen again at the start of the day on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Coming Up

Coming up we have our end of year celebration...a BBQ/Picnic at Avalon Park, Taita on 26th November from 10am to 2pm with free activities and food for community members and our partners.

We will provide sausages and kebabs on bread with onions and sauce, as well as water for drinking, but if you want more, please bring along a picnic. There will be a couple of marquees for sitting under, free access to the boats, mini golf and mini train as well as activities such as slacklining, backyard cricket, volleyball, possible sack racing and a tug of war. Facepainting and balloons will also be available. Part of childhood in New Zealand is the "lolly scramble", where wrapped sweets are thrown into the crowd of children and they scramble around collecting as many as they can...and we will be doing this too.

If you would like to catch a bus from Wellington or Porirua, you need to contact Judah to register a seat – 022 065 7831



ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum End of Year Community BBQ



Fun activities for the whole family

Free bus from Wellington and back (and possibly Porirua depending on the numbers)

Sausages and Kebabs will be provided.

Bring your own food if you want

To register for the bus, please contact:

Judah Seomeng

Ph: 0220657831

Email: judah.seomeng@crf.org.nz

Saturday, 26 November 2022

10 am - 2 pm

Avalon Park, 61 Taita Drive
Lower Hutt



What's been happening:

Turning The Curve

Turning the Curve has had a busy few months. In the last few months we have seen six new learners pass their restricted license tests and three pass their full license tests. Driving supports former refugees to gain independence and participate more fully in New Zealand life.

We are also busy starting a new set of drivers for our programme with lessons underway. As a result we are looking for some remarkable women willing to volunteer their time to take a refugee-background woman for driving practice. The learner drivers have had lessons with a driving school and need practice to prepare for their restricted or full licence test. The learner driver will provide the car for practice.

Comprehensive training and ongoing support will be given to volunteers. You'll make a positive difference to her life and her family's, receive training in new skills, increase your understanding of another culture and contribute to improving driver safety on the road.

Next training scheduled for 19 November.

Contact Susan at ChangeMakers TTC@crf.org.nz or call 027 627 3971

Women's Night




The 29th October saw us finally having our Women's Night out in the Hutt Valley.

This was an opportunity for women across our communities to come together to mingle, share food, have some fun activities, do a lot of dancing, and having a bit of pampering with henna and nail varnish.

The evening was fantastic, with women coming along from Wellington, Porirua and both Hutt Cities. We had people from a range of communities, and one of the most wonderful aspects was the women feeling safe to be themselves and their dancing to each other's music. This was a fantastic evening of social inclusion and cohesion.

In response to requests, we aim to have one of these every couple of months going forward rotating between the three main city spaces of Wellington, Porirua and Hutt. Our initial aim is to gather a key bunch of women from the communities we work alongside to take the lead in organising these with the support of Hafsar and team CRF.

Thanks so much to everyone that participated, and particularly those that helped make this happen.



Have you got the drive?



VOLUNTEER WITH US


>>> We are looking for some **remarkable women** willing to volunteer their time to a **refugee background woman** for **driving practice**. <<<

>>> Full training and ongoing support provided <<<

- You need to be **over 25 years old** and have had a **full licence** for at least 2 years.
- You can volunteer in **Wellington, Porirua and the Hutt**.
- You will be **matched with a driver** and go out with her in her car **twice a week**.

For more information, please email Mylene or Susan at TTC@crf.org.nz or call us at 04 801 5812.





More what's been happening:

Holiday Activities for Families

Feedback from communities told us that Holiday Activities are great, but are often challenging for parents to get children to, due to the parents working.

So Luis jumped on and provided some holiday activities that parents could also join in, and carried them out at a range of different times and days.

The activities, which included mini golf, skating and a visit to Weta Workshop, aim at providing refugee background children and their whanau with the opportunity to learn about and try activities that are common in Wellington. Keep an eye out on facebook and whats app for summer holiday activities.



Youth Day Out



Youth Day Out" was another activity held during October. This day provided an opportunity for fun, high energy, and korero for some of the adult youth from refugee background communities.

The day started by going to mini golf then ended with us having a nice dinner together. The aim of this activity was to reconnect our youth for social activities after the impact COVID-19 has had on the communities. Further, the korero was a great opportunity to get to know more about each other, build strong relationships and exchange ideas for upcoming activities and needs for youth.

Get in touch with our youth advocate and community connector Kodrean Eashae via email: Kodrean.eashe@crf.org.nz or 022612 3240 if you are interested in our youth activities and upcoming events.

Activities Happening...

We are running, in collaboration with UP foundation, a second round of **swimming and water safety lessons**.

These have started, but people can still join. Please contact Hafsar on 020 4113 0531 for further information.



WEEKLY SWIMMING
Lessons For Women and Kids

Free of Charge

Registered by 23 October

Swimming for 7- 12 years old Kids
1pm - 1.30pm
1.30pm - 2pm
2pm - 2.30pm

Swimming for Women
2.45(approx) - 4.45pm Adult women

Location : Wellington East Girls College 131 Austin Street, Mt Victoria. (short walk from No.2 bus)

Starts on 30th of October

Contact Us
020-4113-0531
Hafsar.Tameesuddin@crf.org.nz
In partnership with UP foundation

We still have tickets to Wellington Zoo...so please get in touch with Hafsar if you and your friends would like to go as a group.

WELLINGTON

Zoo

Community Futsal / Football has started again for children aged 5 years to 12 years.

Please contact Hafsar on 020 4113 0531 for further information.



UP

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Community Futsal/Football
For 5- 12 year old [girls and boys]

FREE SESSIONS FROM STARTING FROM 29TH OCTOBER
On Saturday from 2 to 4 pm
At: Indian Sports Centre, 48 Kemp St, Kilbirnie

CONTACT HAFSAR
WhatsApp/Phone: 0204 113 0531
Email: Hafsar.Tameesuddin@crf.org.nz

More activities happening...

Demeysa is now running **volleyball** twice a week for men from refugee background communities. This is a great opportunity for the guys to get some time together and have a bit of fitness and fun.

Swimming is also underway for the guys, but full currently, so keep an eye out for the next round on Whatsapp and Facebook



A poster for 'V-Ball Time!' featuring silhouettes of people playing volleyball. The text is in a mix of white and yellow on a dark background. A large yellow speech bubble contains the main text. A red starburst graphic is in the bottom left corner.

FREE!!

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**V-BALL TIME!
COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!
WE ARE NOW PLAYING ON FRIDAYS
(3:30-5 PM) & SUNDAYS (6-7:30 PM).
SUNDAY SESSION BEGINS 23/10/2022**

**PLEASE
RSVP BY
23/10/22**

Get in touch:
Email: demeysa.ahmed@crf.org.nz
Mob: 0220288594



A poster for Cricket Wellington featuring a photo of a child playing cricket. The text is in white and yellow on a dark background. A yellow starburst graphic is in the bottom right corner.

**DOES YOUR CHILD
WANT TO PLAY CRICKET?**

SCHOOL YEARS 2 - 8
BOYS OR GIRLS (FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS)
WELLINGTON, PORIRUA AND HUTT VALLEY

CRICKET WELLINGTON CAN HELP YOU:

PAY FOR YOUR FEES
CONNECT YOU WITH A CRICKET TEAM
PROVIDE YOU WITH SECOND HAND GEAR

**LIMITED
SPACES**

CONTACT HAFSAR AT 020 4113 0531
VIA PHONE / TEXT / WHATSAPP / VIBER

Cricket Wellington
ChangeMakers
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If your children are keen on giving cricket a go, Crick Wellington will support you.

We have also been given tickets to Cricket Games at the Basin Reserve, or games between Wellington and other cities. Keep an eye out for details of these tickets and how to get some of them.

In April, Cricket Wellington, with the support of ChangeMakers will be holding a Multicultural Backyard Cricket day...where everyone can come along and try cricket, play a game, have some ethnic good, listen to ethnic music and catch up with old friends and meet new. Keep an eye out for details.



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HŌKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Community meeting

Wellington

Tena Koutou - Greetings from Refugee and Migrant Services Immigration New Zealand

Refugee Quota Programme invite you to attend a former refugee community meeting in:
Wellington

When: 17/11/2022 @ 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Where: Venue Lifepoint Church, 61 Hopper Street, Mt Cook (Upstairs)

We would like to share information about:

- Update on Refugee Quota Programme
 - Annual composition/numbers
 - Update on reception programme
- Refugee Family Support Category
- Refugee Advisory Panel
- Community Sponsorship
- Any other business – Discussion etc

Interpretation in all the main languages will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Refugee Quota Programme

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE



Masters Scholarship in *Gender, Ethnicity and Politics*

We invite applications from suitably qualified candidates to undertake a fees-paid Masters in the topic area of 'Ethnic Minority Young Women and Politics in Aotearoa New Zealand'. Ethnic here is defined as non-Māori, non-Pākehā, non-Pacific population groups in New Zealand, and commonly refers to peoples coming from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South and Latin America, and continental/Eastern Europe.

We intend to offer a ONE year fees scholarship to undertake a 120-point thesis as part of a Marsden Grant-funded research project entitled '*Double jeopardy or double advantage? Ethnic women in New Zealand politics*' and will be undertaken at the School of Population Health, The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, The University of Auckland starting in March 2023.

The Project: Background

Although ethnic minority women are increasingly visible actors within mainstream politics in western democracies, there is little scholarship focusing on their experiences. This dearth is especially evident in the context of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Like elsewhere in the Anglo-European world, ethnic women in New Zealand are integral to politics – e.g., as MPs, councillors, party members, and political candidates – yet, they are overlooked in academic research. This research seeks, at one level, to understand the experiences of ethnic women as politicians within New Zealand's political systems. Conceptually, however, their lived realities are a window to examining the complex intersections between gender, ethnicity, culture and politics in New Zealand's bicultural and multi-ethnic democracy, especially through the perspectives of the marginalised among minorities.

Uniquely 'about and by' ethnic women, this research draws on an analytical framework that focuses on aspects of representation, identity, discrimination and governance. This study is timely, contributing to emergent international scholarship on intersectionality and mainstream politics while also providing insights for practical consideration for current and prospective ethnic women politicians in NZ. The Masters student's project can develop a theme related to the main project or related to the topic of ethnicity, gender/young women and politics.

Candidate Qualification

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates with a high motivation to contribute to an emerging area of ethnic feminist politics scholarship in New Zealand. Students with familiarity in feminist political theory, intersectionality scholarship, and New Zealand politics are especially welcomed to apply.

Students must have taken research methodology courses in their undergraduate or post-graduate study. Familiarity with and/or prior work experience in ethnic minority communities is an advantage.

Students must ideally have the capability and capacity for independent work while also contributing to a team of ethnic women scholars. Timely completion is vital to this project and we are particularly keen to invite students who have a track record of successfully managing deadlines. The successful candidate will also attend regular meetings with the team, which will include the Principal Investigator, Associate Investigator, Post-Doctoral Fellow, and Research Associates.

Application Details

Students eligible to enrol in a Masters may express an interest in the project to Dr Flora Galy-Badenas, flora.galy-badenas@auckland.ac.nz, (Research Fellow, EWP project) by November 30th, 2022.

You may be asked to provide the following documents: (a) a cover letter outlining your interest in this project; (b) your curriculum vitae including the names and contact details of two referees; (c) a half-page statement of outlining a proposed topic you might do research on; (d) copies of academic transcripts; and (e) a sample of your writing, either published or part of previous course work.

For more information contact:

Dr Flora Galy-Badenas, flora.galy-badenas@auckland.ac.nz

Assoc. Professor Rachel Simon-Kumar, r.simon-kumar@auckland.ac.nz.

Amplifying Mokopuna Voice in the Curriculum Refresh

"As Aotearoa has evolved, the curriculum has remained the same. All ākonga (learners) need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum. We have recognised this, and it is time for change." - Curriculum Voices Group

The New Zealand Curriculum is being refreshed to better reflect the aspirations and expectations of Aotearoa, New Zealand. This refresh is taking place until 2025.

Kia kuru pounamu te rongō | All mokopuna live their best lives

The Children's Commissioner, Judge Francis Eivers (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato), advocates for the 1.2 million mokopuna in Aotearoa. Access to and participation in inclusive and equitable education for all mokopuna is a crucial priority for the Office of the Children's Commissioner. Together we will amplify, advocate and protect the voices of all mokopuna throughout this journey.

Use your voice to transform education:

The Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Ministry of Education have come together to ensure the voices of mokopuna are honoured. This partnership is a shared commitment to mokopuna being central to and visible in the future of education.

We are inviting **you** to nominate mokopuna for a Youth Voices Group that will champion *how* the voices of children and young people are heard across the country. They will do this by:

- Sharing their unique perspectives, insights and lived experiences.
- Developing their own ways of working and collective work programme.
- Deciding *how* to interact with and feedback to the other groups involved.
- Designing mokopuna engagement across the country.

The Youth Voices Group will bring together up to 30 young people from diverse communities and experiences.

Who are we looking for?

Mokopuna aged roughly between 15-17 from all walks of life. Within the wider Youth Voices Group, caucuses (smaller groups) will support safe and open discussion between people with shared experiences. This function is being developed in response to community feedback, and our commitment to ensuring genuine and inclusive participation. The caucuses will evolve and grow to meet the needs of the group, beginning with:

- ***Tangata Whenua Caucus:*** Mokopuna who whakapapa Māori.
- ***Pasifika Caucus:*** Mokopuna who descend from the Pacific nations.
- ***Resettled Caucus:*** Mokopuna with refugee, asylum or new migrant experience.
- ***Disabled Caucus:*** Mokopuna with lived experience of disability.

Make a nomination for the Youth Voices Groups:

It truly does take a village, and we will not ask any mokopuna to participate without ensuring they are fully supported throughout this kaupapa. While we will provide safe, positive, and meaningful experiences, the true magic comes from honouring trusted relationships young people already have within their communities.

We are asking schools, kura, communities, hapū, iwi and organisations who work with mokopuna across the education spectrum to make nominations for the Youth Voices Group.

By making a nomination, you are also committing to support the nominated mokopuna throughout their journey in the Youth Voices Group. This is an unpaid responsibility for the support people, but we will cover your expenses and be respectful of your time. We want to build lasting relationships beyond this kaupapa, and we look forward to getting to know you and your community through this work.

Selecting the Youth Voices Groups from nominations:

A bespoke Selection Panel will ensure a comprehensive representation of communities and backgrounds in the Youth Voices Group. Selections will be made using an equity approach to be inclusive of ethnically diverse, rainbow, rural and care-experienced mokopuna, especially those who are currently underserved by the education system and who are not often represented in other youth advisory groups.

What is the workload?

The Youth Voices Group will meet 8 times during 2023 as a collective, or in caucus. The Youth Voices Group will collectively determine their work program, when and how they will meet, and communicate throughout the year. The first and last hui will be held over two days in the capital to open and close the kaupapa for the year, and to determine the path into 2024.

We will keep the process flexible and inclusive. Still, we understand that things change and will support mokopuna through the process if they choose to step away. This could involve a replacement from the same community or the selection of another nominee.

Honouring your contribution:

The selected Youth Voices Group members will receive \$200 for each of the 8 meetings in 2023. All expenses will be paid for by the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Ministry of Education. This includes travel, accommodation, food, and resources for all selected nominees to participate fully and freely.

All mokopuna have different pathways to navigate, and we are committed to removing barriers along the way. We will work with the support person or organisation who nominated the mokopuna to overcome any challenges.

Submit the nomination form to educationvoices@occ.org.nz or on the OCC website by 21 November 2022. Or contact us on the above email to connect with the team.

Key dates:

2022

- 21 November: Nominations close for the Youth Voices Groups
- 29 November: Selection Panel sits.
- 2 December: Youth Voices Groups announced, and all nominees notified.

2023

Term 1 (30 January – 6 April):

- Saturday 15 February: Mihi Whakatau for Youth Voices Groups | Wellington
- Sunday 16 February: Hui Timatatanga | First meeting of Youth Voices Groups

Term 4 (4 October – 20 December *) *Exam period ends 30 November

- Saturday 10 December: Final meeting for Youth Voices Groups
- Sunday 11 December: Hui Whakanui | Celebration of the year

2024 and beyond will be decided with the Youth Voices Groups as part of their work programme.

Thank you to our funders, supporters, and volunteers

It is with the support of the following organisations, as well as a lot of individuals that donate or volunteer with us, that we are able to work towards our missions of “New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa new Zealand life” . We also send out a special thanks to Red Cross, Catholic Social Service, Sisters of Compassion, Reach Out Counselling and CCDHB for the immense amount of support they are providing to our communities and our work

