



## RAR 2022 National Conference

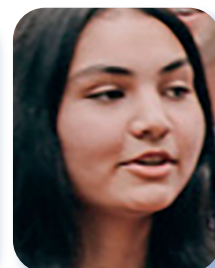
### #connecting for change

### SPEAKERS

**'All One Under the Sun'** is a remedy to racism campaign for the whole community, driven by young people and using the arts to promote inclusion, belonging, connection, education and empowerment. AOUTS is based in Coffs Harbour on Gumbaynggirr Country

First Nations young people, refugee and migrant background young people and Australian born young people were involved in the development of the campaign, creation of the original song, film clip and documentary in collaboration with professional artists. Other programs include Theatre and Hip Hop programs in schools and a whole of community festival.

Young people from Congo, Afghanistan and Iraq will present as part of the Rural Australians for Refugees conference.



**Muzafar Ali** – Muzafar Ali is a human rights activist, artist, and a former Hazara refugee from Afghanistan. He currently resides in Adelaide and is a student at the University of South Australia.

He worked for several United Nations organisations in Afghanistan. He contributed to

critical programs, such as Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups, strengthening political institutions and civil society organisations.

In 2014, he co-founded first refugee-led educational institution (Cisarua Refugee Learning Centre) in Indonesia and supported other refugees to start their own initiatives.

In Australia, Muzafar manages programs at Cisarua Learning to support refugee-led initiatives in Indonesia and Thailand.

Since Taliban's take over in August 2021, Muzafar has closely collaborated with Rural Australians for Refugees to identify and rescue the most vulnerable people from Afghanistan. He advocates for refugee agency and change of inhumane policies that punish people seeking safety.



**Tamara Domicelj** is the Country Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Australia and co-chairs the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA). She has worked in the fields of refugee protection and forced migration for two decades, and has engaged extensively in multi-sectoral

global and regional dialogues and advocacy, including as a representative of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), as the former Chair of its Regional Protection Working Group and focal point for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Tamara has held various senior roles within the sector, and has previously worked with Act for Peace, the Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW, the Refugee Council of Australia, the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors NSW, Oxfam and the Australian Human Rights Commission. Tamara holds a Master of International Social Development from UNSW and is an alumnus of the Benevolent Society's Sydney Leadership program.



**Daney Faddoul** joined the Human Rights Law Centre in March 2020 and focuses on the campaign to create an Australian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Daney has a wealth of campaigning experience from his time within the union movement, and at GetUp

where he was a Senior Campaigner and then their Political Director. At GetUp he developed and led campaigns on economic justice and oversaw all of their political engagement activities, and assisted with a wide range of high-profile campaigning, messaging, media, fundraising and policy work.

Before his time at GetUp he was negotiating enterprise agreements as an Industrial Officer within the trade union movement, and coordinating national industrial plans and campaigns.

Daney studied law at the University of Western Sydney and is passionate about creating an Australian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, because it will help prevent human rights violations from occurring, will be a powerful tool for people and communities to challenge injustice, and will foster better understanding and respect for human rights within the community.



**Dr Mehreen Faruqi** is Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens and Senator for NSW.

She became the first Muslim woman to sit in any Australian parliament when she joined the NSW Parliament in 2013. In 2018, she took

her proudly feminist and anti-racist approach to Canberra when she joined the federal Senate.

Mehreen holds the Education, Anti-Racism, Animal Welfare, and International and Global Justice portfolios for the Greens.

Mehreen's recently published memoir and manifesto is called *Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud*.



**Bern Fraser** lives on a working farm in Bpangerang country south of Wangaratta, Victoria.

She's worked in a range of education and community settings with young people and adults and has a passion for enabling the voices and lived expertise of diverse people in regional areas.

Bern is a co-convenor of Wangaratta RAR and member of Indi Supports Refugees and RAR Afghanistan Subcommittee.



**Craig Foster** – Former Soccerroo, Broadcaster, Human Rights Advocate.

Following a celebrated football career as Australia's 419th Soccerroo & 40th Captain, as well as Club Captain of Crystal Palace FC in the UK, Craig has become

one of Australia's most respected broadcasters with a 17-year, multi Logie winning career with Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Australia.

Craig is perhaps equally as well known for his work beyond the field and screen, through the social programs he has developed and supports as well as his advocacy for sport and human rights. Craig is a firm believer in sport for social change and the importance of inclusivity, non-discrimination and equality of access to sport for children.

Craig sits on the Multicultural Council of Australia, tasked with ensuring the ongoing social harmony of Australia's diverse and changing population and works with a vast range of social programs. From indigenous football, homelessness, domestic violence, refugee advocacy as an Ambassador for Human Rights and Refugees with Amnesty Australia and an Australian Committee member for Human Rights Watch. Craig developed a primary school initiative with the Australian Government for Harmony Day, he is a former Chairman, Life Member and CEO of Professional Footballers Australia (PFA), Australia's representative body of the Soccerroos, Matildas and professional players around the world.

In early 2019, Craig led a global campaign to free Bahraini refugee Hakeem al-Araibi from a Thai prison for which he was a Finalist for the Australian Human Rights Commission Medal and developed the #GameOver campaign to call for the resettlement and freedom of around 500 refugees and asylum seekers indefinitely detained by Australia in PNG and Nauru for almost seven years.

In late 2019, the Australian Financial Review recognised Craig as a 'True Australian Leader' and more recently, Sydney Morning Herald's 'People that Defined 2019'.

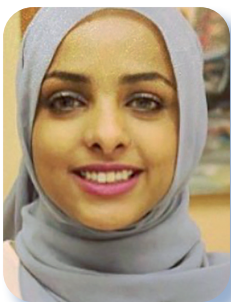
Craig holds a Master's in International Sports Management, a Postgraduate Degree in Football Management, a Professional Coaching License and a Bachelor of Laws.





**Angela Fredericks** – Angela joins us from Biloela in Central Queensland, where she works in private practice as a Social Worker. In 2018 Angela made the leap from individual advocacy on a small scale, to making national headlines as she fought for the safety of her friends, affectionately referred to as

“The Biloela Family”. She admits to having no idea what she was doing when she launched the “Home to Bilo” campaign. Now over two years later she has learnt what it takes to lead a small town’s fight into the national arena, changing the hearts and minds of many along the way.



**Entisar Hamid** – Entisar Hamid originally from Eritrea, is a graduate in Australian Migration Law and Practice and has been an advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum ever since she could remember. Born in Eritrea, Entisar migrated to Australia with her family after

fleeing war in 1999. Entisar also works and volunteers for refugee organisations including the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.



**Joan Henderson** – Joan is a member of the Uki Refugee Project, and a sponsor of a vulnerable Afghan man. She is a member of the Afghan Sponsors Group.



**Kathie Herbert** – Chairperson, BMRSG

Kathie is a life-long social justice activist and advocate with broad networks Australia wide. She has been involved in grass roots campaigns organising against the Vietnam War, Nuclear

Disarmament, Climate Change Action, Aboriginal Rights, Anti- Apartheid Movement ,conservation and environmental protection, Public Education and Women’s Liberation among others and a member of many organisations fighting for social change, including The Moratorium Movement, Student Underground, NSW Parents and Citizens Federation, Search Foundation, The Greens, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and Rural Australians for Refugees.



**Arif Hussein** is a Senior Solicitor at the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) in Sydney where he works to protect the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum.

He has spent over five years working with refugees and people seeking asylum both in Australia and in Australia’s Regional

Processing Centre on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea.

Prior to joining RACS, Arif worked at the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC). Arif’s work at the HRLC included ensuring refugee and people seeking asylum subject to Australia’s offshore processing regime received the medical treatment they urgently required, protecting the rights of people transferred for legal treatment to Australia, and working on the #KidsOffNauru Campaign.

At RACS Arif coordinates the centre’s judicial review program.



**Blaise Itabelo** – Community Engagement Manager, CRSA

Blaise was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Sadly the 1996 war in DRC forced Blaise and his family to flee and for the next decade and a half, Blaise and his

family called a Refugee Camp home. Blaise migrated to Australia in 2011 and he’s a proud Australian citizen. He has extensively worked on assisting newly arrived migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum in their settlement journey in Australia. Blaise has over ten years of experience in Community Engagement and Development with a particular interest in community capacity building and mobilisation and has held various roles with local and International NGOs including Access community services Ltd, SSI, and WorldShare.



**Gaby Judd** – founder and coordinator of the NSW branch of Grandmothers for Refugees (previously known as Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children).

“On retirement, I became involved with my local Amnesty group. I accompanied one of the other members to Villawood Detention

Centre, and became a weekly visitor for three years. It was there that I first saw children in detention. The children were well fed and clothed but were living in

detention. During this period I became a grandmother for the first time. It was impossible for me to reconcile the freedom and safety my grandson was born into, with that of children living (and sometimes born into) detention. At this point I formed the Grandmothers group. With the majority of refugee children out of locked detention, in 2018 we expanded our focus to include all refugees impacted by Australia's harsh refugee policies."



Advocacy Group. This group is a part of the Sunshine Coast Refugee Action Network.

**Robert Kann**

Robert is a member of the Welcome to Maleny Refugee



**Ann Koenig** – Ann is a member of the Welcome to Maleny Refugee Advocacy Group. They have sponsored people from Afghanistan to come to Australia and are in regular contact with them, as well as providing financial support. She is a member of the Afghan Sponsors Group



**Danijel Malbasa** has been working as an employment lawyer for over 12 years. Prior to joining Australia's largest blue collar trade union where he works as a Senior National Legal Officer, he worked in corporate law firms in Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne. He holds degrees

in Law, International Relations and Masters in Law. He is admitted as a Solicitor and Barrister in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and in the High Court of Australia.

Since 2009, driven by personal experience of living through multiple wars, becoming a refugee twice-over, and spending his childhood in a refugee camp, Danijel has been working on various initiatives to better support people seeking asylum and refugees in Australia and to humanise their plight. This included participating in the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) Advocacy and Power Program in 2010 aimed at empowering people with a lived experience to become advocates. He volunteers as a Migration Agent and Solicitor at various community legal centres, such as Refugee Legal Inc., assisting people seeking asylum to complete their protection visas.

His advocacy on forced displacement has been published in The Age, The Guardian, Canberra Times and in three books of short stories aimed at humanising the refugee experience. He serves on the advisory committee for the National Refugee-led Advocacy and Advisory Committee (NRAAG) and is the Deputy Chair of the Forcibly Displaced People Network (FDPN) Australia's first refugee-led advocacy group for LGBTIQ+ refugees.

In 2022, Danijel was awarded the inaugural UNHCR SBS Les Murray Award for Refugee Recognition as well as the Victorian Refugee Awards 2022 Achievement Award from the Victorian Multicultural Commission."



**Julie Macken** – Julie Macken spent over a decade working as a Senior Writer with The Australian Financial Review covering the emerging issues surrounding Australia's treatment of those seeking asylum by boat from 1996 to 2007. She has worked

as a political and communication consultant to both Federal Labor and the NSW Greens. She is currently finishing her PhD entitled; Wounded Nation: why Australia turned to torture. She works part-time with the Justice and Peace Office Sydney.



**Sharlene McKenzie OAM**

is a Wiradjuri woman who grew up on the South Coast of NSW. She is the mother of three adult children and a Grandmother to three. Her work in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities began at a young age. Sharlene was a

Board member of her Local Aboriginal Land Council and participated in the piloting of many programs such as the Circle Sentencing Program.

Sharlene moved to Sydney some 15 years ago. She completed a Diploma of Community and Social Development at UWS and began working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of South- East Sydney.

Sharlene also has a deep passion for supporting people with complex mental health issues and is a member of the Suicide Prevention Lived Experience Network. She also works with and advocates for community members who have acquired brain injuries and in contact with the criminal justice system.

Sharlene is also very passionate about building the capacity of organisations to successfully engage with



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and aiding them to form respectful partnerships that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to deliver the programs that they have designed to community.

Sharlene delivers Cultural Awareness Training to organisations and individuals. She also provides Cultural Supervision to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working in the wider NGO sector.



**Esmatullah NOORI** (Esmat)  
Here is Esmat's story:

"I am volunteer for BMRSG.

I want to share very briefly my story.

I was born 1989 in Kabul Afghanistan exactly while the war started between Mujahidin groups.

I experienced all 4 years war while I was still little kid I was very young boy when Taliban took Afghanistan for the first time, I was witness of violence, torture, killing, schools were closed, women couldn't go out, poverty was on the highest level etc...

From 2002 Kabul started a bit better life under new government and democracy I enjoyed my life for till 2012 working at UK embassy and studying law being among family and friends was very wonderful I wanted to be a lawyer stand for women's rights in Afghanistan but unfortunately I found guilty by Taliban sharia law for working and serving alcohol and I was about to get killed then I had to leave and immigrate the new journey started from 2012 from Indonesia, it's long story but anyway I lived in Indonesia for more than 4 years. I spent 2 years in detention working as volunteer with JRS, IOM, UNHCR and Indonesian immigration, also teaching English classes inside detention I learned a lot my life has changed living among 10 different communities every day was a challenge life was very hard men, women children all were suffering from depression uncertainty, all sorts of problems.

I know it wasn't easy but I was trying my best to keep people busy with positive activities such as studying, playing football, volleyball, handicrafts, and other classes besides all those problems and challenges I enjoyed being there for those communities and helping them with language it was my biggest achievement.

I have been living in Australia since December 2016 and of course I have been enjoying my life."



**Marie Sellstrom** – Marie stepped up as the first National President of RAR when it was formed in 2017. She serves as President for two years, then continues on the National Committee. She has taken the lead on Afghan sponsorship since August 2021. She is convenor of the Afghanistan Subcommittee, the Detention Sub-committee, the Human Rights Subcommittee. She is a member of Mansfield RAR, and leads the Indi electorate network of RAR groups.



**Jonathan Strauss** – Jonathan is a member of the Cairns RAR. He has been Secretary of RAR National for the past three years and has now accepted the position of RAR National President.



**Susan Templeman MP** – Susan Templeman was elected to Parliament in 2016, and has just been re-elected for a third term in Macquarie.

She worked as a journalist in Canberra and overseas before settling in the Blue Mountains in the 1990s, running her own

business for nearly 25 years.

Married to Ron with two adult children, it was her daughter's diagnosis with a mental illness that led her into politics with the aim of making the mental health system better, and she has been a strong supporter of the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group for many years.

She serves in the current government as not only the Member for Macquarie but in a new role as Special Envoy for the Arts.



**Kat Vella** – Kat is a member of Griffith RAR and a member of the RAR National Committee. She is the Communications Convenor for RAR.



**Nicole Watkins**, Community Development Manager, CRSA

Nicole is a community development practitioner with ten years' experience working in not for profit and government agencies. Nicole completed a Masters of Social Development from UNSW

and has extensive experience working in the refugee sector with agencies such as Australian Red Cross and Settlement Services International. She is passionate about building community capacity to drive long lasting and sustainable change that delivers meaningful outcomes for the community.

### **Women for Change**

A world where all women can play an empowered and valued part in society – this is the vision of Women for Change Vision, a registered not-for-profit association.

Women for Change was founded in 2019 by its current President, Lida Hazara Nayeab. It now has 62 members: 59 Hazara women and three Hazara men from Melbourne's southeast. Their commitment is to support their fellow girls, women and families in Australia and Afghanistan. They provide education, employment, and social support to vulnerable and isolated girls and women locally in Victoria, and in the Bamyan region of Afghanistan.

Women for Change's work in Afghanistan began with providing orphaned children with education, clothes, stationery and food. Due to their immense poverty and lack of identification documents, the children cannot attend government schools. They attend classes in a cave in the harsh mountainous area of Bayman province.

The members of Women for Change living in Australia donate \$10.00 or more per month to support the children. This provides life's basics for the children and employs a trained teacher to run their classes.

Building on this success, Women for Change has widened the scope of its work through the following projects:

- **Felt Making Enterprise:** 11 widowed women with disabilities, or with children with disabilities, were provided with \$60 to develop their felt businesses. Felt bedding is recognised in Afghanistan as having therapeutic properties
- **Wool Spinning Enterprise:** the women produce wool yarn during the winter months, when it is too cold to make felt. They purchase materials from nearby farmers, further supporting the local economy.
- **Carpet Making Training:** 17 young girls, most of whom were child labourers, are gaining skills and knowledge in carpet making. A trainer was employed and \$40 allowed the girls to participate in the training instead of labouring.
- **Responsive Multi-Education Classes:** 300 girls take part in classes in a range of areas and delivery formats which meet girls' educational needs. This includes basic literacy, university preparation and public speaking classes.

Women for Change want to partner with Rural Australians for Refugees to enable young people up to the age of 15 years who live on the streets in Afghanistan to work to pay for their food. Otherwise they will become reliant on charity.

If you would like to donate to this program you can donate a lump sum or contribute \$10.00, \$20.00 or more per month to:

#### **Women for Change:**

BSB: 063619 : Account Number: 111 569 23

For more information on Women for Change, email [women2019forchange@gmail.com](mailto:women2019forchange@gmail.com), or see [www.hazarawomenforchange.com](http://www.hazarawomenforchange.com) or [www.facebook.com/hazarawomenforchange/](https://www.facebook.com/hazarawomenforchange/)