



# ETHICAL RESPONSES TO REFUGEE NEEDS CONFERENCE

Educate, Inform, Make Aware

9.30am	Welcome	Nirmala Naidoo / Michael Gretton	1.00pm	Q & A
9.35am	Keynote address	Michael Embaie	1.15pm	Lunch
10.25am	Q & A		2.00pm	Movie   "19 Days"
10.40am	Coffee break		2.30pm	Facilitated discussion
10.50am	Government Assisted & Privately Sponsored Refugees: 1a - Abroad Processes	Rowena Theodore Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	2.40pm	Panelist breakout sessions - auditorium, conference room & boardroom
11.10am	Government Assisted & Privately Sponsored Refugees: 1b - Inland Processes	Pretti Adhopia Immigration and Refugee Board	3.15pm	Coffee break
11.30am	2a: Resettlement: Services for Successful Integration	Naseer Ayaneer Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	3.30pm	Success stories
11.50am	2b: Barriers to Integration - Trauma, Language, Culture, Access to Education, Employment, Racism, Systemic Barriers	Pallavi Banerjee University of Calgary	4.15pm	Q & A
12.10pm	People on the Move: Ethical & Legal Responsibilities	Janet Dench Canadian Council for Refugees		

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## **MICHAEL EMBAIE**

Michael Embaie is the President of African Community Association of Calgary, a sessional Instructor at the University of Calgary, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses.

Michael has also worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a Resettlement consultant and Training expert in Eastern and Southern Africa. He has worked for the Immigration and Refugee Board for the past 25 years, and holds a Bachelor and a Master of Social Work Degree with specialization in Policy and International Social work from the University of Calgary.

## **ROWENA THEODORE**

After graduating with a degree in Psychology, Rowena returned home to her native Malaysia and began working with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Over the course of six years, Rowena worked in two units of the organization, focusing on refugee protection; she coordinated teams conducting registration interviews at the frontlines and served as a decision-maker for refugee status determination.

After moving to Canada, she began work with the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society as the Yazidi Case Manager based at the Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre. Her current role involves managing high-needs cases and crisis cases in the Yazidi refugee population, as well as coordinating services for the group on a holistic level to encourage the successful settlement of the entire community.

## **PREETI ADHOPIA**

Preeti has over twenty years of public service experience in criminal justice and administrative law. Since 2009, she has been a Board Member for the Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada where she decides refugee claims in quasi-judicial hearings. Prior to this, she was a Senior Manager at the Information & Privacy Commissioner of Alberta and investigated privacy breaches by private companies.

As the Public Complaint Director of the Calgary Police Commission, Preeti audited internal affairs cases and investigated complaints against the chief. She spent several years as a Strategic Crime Analyst and Tactical Analyst for the Calgary Police Service and worked in fraud investigation for the Toronto Housing Authority.

Preeti holds a master's degree in Criminology from the University of Toronto and completed her bachelor's degree with Honours in Sociology from McGill University.

### **NASEER AYANEE**

Naseer worked with the UNHCR in Pakistan and Afghanistan from 2000 to 2005 with the Protection, Resettlement, Repatriation and Reintegration department. There, he was running UNHCR's largest voluntary repatriation reception center during the interim and transitional government of Afghanistan.

He started working with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the US State Department with the American embassy in Afghanistan from 2005 until 2010, where he was monitoring and evaluating US funding for integration of refugees and repatriates in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. He worked closely with both the Afghan and Pakistani governments in developing policies and strategies in voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement. By the beginning of 2011 and because of his work, he was targeted and had to flee his country.

He came to Canada as Government Assisted Refugee in June 2013 and joined the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society in December of 2013. Naseer is currently the Resettlement Division Team Lead.

He holds a Masters in Sociology.

### **PALLAVI BANERJEE**

Pallavi Banerjee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Calgary. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Illinois, Chicago and then held a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University in the U.S.

Her research interests are situated at the intersection of sociology of immigration, refugee integration, gender, families and racialization. She is author of many academic and non-academic articles and is currently finishing her book manuscript tentatively titled: Dismantling Dependence: Gendered Migrations and Intersectional Visa Regimes, and working on a comparative project on resettlement of recently arrived refugees in Canada and the U.S.

Her research has won several awards. Prof. Banerjee's research on H-4 visa played a critical role in the Obama Administration's reformulation of those rules.

Before becoming an academic, Dr. Banerjee was the Child Rights Program Officer for UNICEF, India and the Asia Director of the Youth Program at Children's International.

### **JANET DENCH**

Janet Dench is the Executive Director of the Canadian Council for Refugees, where she has worked since 1990.

The CCR is a national non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada. The CCR works to keep its 200 member organizations informed, provides them with opportunities to meet and network, and undertakes advocacy on issues of concern to the membership.

In November 2013 she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sacred Letters, honoris causa, from Regis College, the Jesuit School of Theology at the University of Toronto.

# TALK SYNOPOSES

Government Assisted and Privately  
Sponsored Refugees: 1a – Abroad Processes  
Rowena Theodore

The Canadian Government works with the UN Refugee Agency and Canadian embassies overseas to assess the validity of asylum claims. This talk will center around how refugees are determined as being as such, and will briefly explore how and why the Canadian government chooses to accept them into Canadian society.

Government Assisted and Privately  
Sponsored Refugees: 1b – Inland Processes  
Preeti Adhopia

Recently, the Canadian government has had to rapidly adapt to increased numbers of refugee claimants arriving through the Canada-US border. This talk will outline the processes and procedures for asylum seekers claiming refugee status on Canadian soil.

Resettlement: Canadian Services for  
Successful Integration  
Naseer Ayanee

Once a part of Canada, refugees are offered resettlement and integration services which intend to ensure their successful and peaceful integration into the fabric of Canadian society. The talk will outline the resettlement process, touching on both global aspects of resettlement and local processes.

Barriers to Integration  
Pallavi Banerjee

This talk will explore some of the key barriers that refugees and forced migrants face in their integration to a new society. The discussion will touch on challenges caused by language barriers, religious and racial differences, as well as emerging issues of personal, psychological, and cultural insecurity, heightened by current political climates.

People on the Move: Ethical  
and Legal Responsibilities  
Janet Dench

When people are forcibly displaced from their homes, what obligations do we as Canadians have, legally and ethically? Janet Dench will explore the causes and effects of displacement, the rights of people outside their country and our moral and legal responsibilities.