

**Forcibly Displaced People Network** in partnership with  
Western Sydney University and Equal Asia Foundation



**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



## **2023 Queer Displacements: Leadership, Partnership and Belonging**

Draft conference program

Please note that the program is subject to change. This is a first release only.

**DAY 1: 22 February 2023** | Western Sydney University Parramatta

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Registration open</b>	
<b>Morning plenaries</b>	9:00-9:30	Welcome	<b>Welcome to the 2023 Queer Displacements conference</b> facilitated by Benjamin Oh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to country</li> <li>• Opening remarks by Renee Dixson, FDPN Chair and co-founder</li> <li>• Opening remarks by the Western Sydney University</li> </ul>
	9:30-10:00	Partnerships spotlights	<b>We are on Aboriginal land:</b> Jinny-Jane Smith and Shawnah Cady
	10:00-10:40	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Ukraine:</b> Olena Shevchenko (Insight, Ukraine) and Marianna Polevikova (For Equal Rights, Ukraine)
	10:40-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>Morning plenaries (cont.)</b>	11:00-11:40	Keynote conversations	<b>Writing from and about lived experience:</b> Danny Ramadan (author, activist)
	11:40-12:00	LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement	<b>Launch of Walk On Walk Strong: We are strong by each other and strong by our hearts</b>

Register to attend today:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2023-queer-displacements-conference-tickets-390025285127>

	Time	Theme	Sessions						
	12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch event</b> (40 min, 12:10-12:50): Interactive workshop by Nayonika Bhattacharya: <b>Understanding the cultural context: How to communicate with dignity?</b> (open access to attendees)						
<b>Afternoon plenaries</b>	13:00-13:40	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Afghanistan:</b> Artemis Akbary (Afghan LGBT)						
	13:40-14:20	Partnerships spotlights	<b>Global challenges and best practices on supporting LGBTQI+ people in forced displacement:</b> Kimahli Powell (Rainbow Railroad, Canada)						
	14:20-15:20	LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement	<b>Why lived experience matters:</b> a conversation between Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand LGBTQI+ refugee-led groups (Walk On Walk Strong Sydney, QRASP Melbourne, Rainbow Path NZ)						
	15:20-15:40	<b>Coffee break</b>							
<b>Parallel sessions</b>	15:40-16:40	Unpacking LGBTQI+ displacement	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Parallel session 1: Detention &amp; LGBTQI+ displaced people</b></th> <th><b>Parallel session 2: Activism &amp; advocacy</b></th> <th><b>Parallel session 3: Communities and Belonging with a focus on Asia</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Challenges for LGBTQI+ refugees in Korean Immigration detention,</b> Jirim Kim (GongGam Human Rights Law Foundation, Korea)</li> <li>• <b>Understanding the drivers and pathways</b></li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silencing of LGBTQI+ refugees for the name of a greater cause,</b> Tina Dixon (ANU, Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Preserving our stories as a tool of resistance,</b> Renee</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LGBTQI+ Sri Lankans' displacement and disenfranchisement in their homeland,</b> Dr Sean Perera (ANU, Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Queer experiences of orienting and</b></li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Parallel session 1: Detention &amp; LGBTQI+ displaced people</b>	<b>Parallel session 2: Activism &amp; advocacy</b>	<b>Parallel session 3: Communities and Belonging with a focus on Asia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Challenges for LGBTQI+ refugees in Korean Immigration detention,</b> Jirim Kim (GongGam Human Rights Law Foundation, Korea)</li> <li>• <b>Understanding the drivers and pathways</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silencing of LGBTQI+ refugees for the name of a greater cause,</b> Tina Dixon (ANU, Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Preserving our stories as a tool of resistance,</b> Renee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LGBTQI+ Sri Lankans' displacement and disenfranchisement in their homeland,</b> Dr Sean Perera (ANU, Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Queer experiences of orienting and</b></li> </ul>
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			<p><b>of queer displacement of forcibly displaced persons and immigration detention in Asia,</b> Michelle Soe Moe (EqualAF, Thailand)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Forgotten: Queer refugees and people seeking asylum in detention,</b> Michaela Rhode (Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, Australia)</li> </ul>	<p>Dixon (FDPN, Australia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Making Space: Policy and Practice in Services Impacting Queer Refugees in Australia,</b> Elizabeth Schmidt (Western Sydney University)</li> </ul>	<p><b>belonging within refugee communities in Southeast Asia,</b> Tamara Megaw (University of Sydney)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unwelcome Visitors: Transgender Refugees in Bangkok,</b> Prempreeda Pramroj Na Ayutthaya (Be Visible Asia, Thailand)</li> </ul>
	16:45-17:45	Unpacking LGBTIQ+ displacement	<p><b>Parallel session 4: Intersecting movements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Misidentification and racial profiling of queer refugees, asylum seekers and migrants FV victim survivors,</b> Fahad</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parallel session 5: Partnerships and best practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multicultural Engagement Plan: Addressing of multicultural and migrant LGBTQ+ leadership in</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Parallel session 6: LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement with a focus on Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promise of Hope 4 African Trans,</b> Kashindi Shabani Gady (Savie asbl NGO, Democratic Republic Congo)</li> </ul>

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			<p>Jawaid and Kate Frost (Thorne Harbour Health, Australia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Focus on queerness, race and disability,</b> Grace Edward</li> <li>• <b>Climate change and queer displacement,</b> Michelle Soe Moe (EqualAF, Thailand)</li> </ul> <p><b>organisations,</b> Loc Nguyen (ACON)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stories Out West: empowering multicultural LGBTQ+ communities in Western Sydney through story-telling,</b> Adrian Mouhajer (ACON)</li> <li>• <b>Digitising Rainbow Resilience,</b> Leanne Wang (ACON)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LGBTIQ refugee crisis in Kenya,</b> John Ssenyonjo – Lucretia (Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya)</li> <li>• <b>Internal Displacement of LGTBQI+ African Refugees in host country (South Africa),</b> Thomars Shamuyarira (The Fruit Basket, South Africa)</li> </ul>
<b>Welcome Reception</b>	17:45-19:30		Welcome from Renee Dixson and performances by Naavikaran, Mad B and Grace Edward

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**DAY 2: 23 February 2023** | Western Sydney University Parramatta

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Sessions</b>		
	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Registration open</b>			
<b>Morning plenaries</b>	9:00-9:10	Welcome	<b>Welcome to day 2</b> facilitated by Grace Edward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening remarks by Danijel Malbasa, FDPN Deputy Chair</li> </ul>		
	9:10-09:40	LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement	<b>Experiences of LGBTIQ+ migration, settlement and displacement in Australia</b> (Dr Brandy Cochrane FDPN)		
	9:40-10:20	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Latin America:</b> Bamby Salcedo (The TransLatin@ Coalition, USA)		
	10:20-11:00	LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement	<b>Safer than before, and still a long way to go: ordinary people negotiating fissures in the system (focus on Americas)</b>		
	11:00-11:20	<b>Coffee break</b>			
<b>Morning plenaries (cont.)</b>	11:20-12:30	LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement	<b>Community Dialogue</b> facilitated by Tina Dixson		
	12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch event</b> (40 min, 12:40-1:20): Interactive workshop by Jamal Hakim for <b>LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people only "Unleashing the power within"</b>		
<b>Afternoon plenaries</b>	13:30-14:10	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Asia:</b> Prof. Chunjeet Mahn (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)		
	14:10-14:50	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Asia:</b> Ryan Figueiredo (Equal Asia Foundation)		
	14:50-15:10	<b>Coffee break</b>			
<b>Parallel sessions</b>	15:10-16:10	Unpacking LGBTIQ+ displacement	<b>Parallel session 7: LGBTIQ+ displacement in Asia</b>	<b>Parallel session 8: Communities and Belonging</b>	<b>Parallel session 9: Health in LGBTIQ+ Displacement</b>

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	Time	Theme	Sessions		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How do queer migrants decide to become refugee? A case study of Indonesian gay men in Queensland</b>, Satrio Nindyo Istiko (University of Queensland)</li> <li>• <b>Partnership &amp; Belonging: Supporting LGBTI in Dire Need</b>, Suman Nepal (Blue Diamond Society, Nepal)</li> <li>• <b>Disability LGBTI / HIV</b>, Aaditya Rai (Blue Diamond Society, Nepal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mixed Identity and Belonging</b>, Mohamed Al Abri</li> <li>• <b>Welcome Community Kitchen: Sharing tastes and values</b></li> <li>• <b>Belonging. How?</b>, Ju Bavyka</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultural determinants of health system reform</b>, Bonney Corbin (MSI Australia) &amp; Multicultural Centre for Women's Health</li> <li>• <b>Sex and sexuality as the un-sexiest topic</b>, Jamal Hakim (MSI Australia)</li> </ul>
	16:15-17:15	Unpacking LGBTIQ+ displacement	<p><b>Parallel Session 10: Methods of research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bordering Bodies and Binaries: reflecting on the possibilities of creative methods in research with women from refugee backgrounds</b>, Jéan-</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parallel Session 11: Law and justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protection Applications: LGBTQIA+ and Asylum</b>, Galen Jaffurs (Refugee Legal, Australia)</li> </ul>	

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			<p>Louise Olivier (University of Newcastle)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Re-imagining Environments for Connection and Engagement (RECETAS): Testing Actions for Social Prescribing in Natural Spaces</b>, Manu Kailom (Many Colored Skies) and Nerkez Opacin (La Trobe University)</li> <li>• <b>Diasporic queer-feminist loneliness and transnational queer friendship</b>, Masha Beketova (Humboldt University, Germany)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barriers for people seeking asylum and ways the legal community can do better</b>, Alison Ryan and Sarah Dale (RACS, Australia)</li> <li>• <b>LGBTIQ+ protection and settlement challenges – the Tasmanian context</b>, Taya Ketelaar-Jones (Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service)</li> </ul>
Closing	17:15-17:45		<b>Where to next:</b> Closing reflections by Renee Dixon, Olena Shevchenko, Marianna Polevikova, Artemis Akbary, Danny Ramadan, Ryan Figueiredo, Bamby Salcedo and Churnjeet Mahn.

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