

**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

Western Sydney University Parramatta 1 Parramatta Square Peter Shergold Building

**DAY 1: 22 February 2023**

	Time	Theme	Sessions
	<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>Always was always will be:</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) Facilitator: Tina Dixson
	10:40-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
	11:00-11:40	Keynote conversations	<b>Writing from and about lived experience:</b> Danny Ramadan (author, activist) Facilitator: Naavikaran

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<b>Morning plenaries (cont.)</b>	11:40-12:00	LGBTIQA+ leadership in displacement	<b>Launch of Walk On Walk Strong: We are strong by each other and strong by our hearts</b>		
	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) Facilitator: Mohamed Al Abri		
	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) Facilitator: Danijel Malbasa		
	14:20-15:20	LGBTIQA+ leadership in displacement	<b>Why lived experience matters:</b> a conversation between Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand LGBTIQA+ refugee-led groups (Walk On Walk Strong Sydney, QRASP Melbourne, Rainbow Path NZ) Facilitator: Tina Dixson		
	15:20-15:40	<b>Coffee break</b>			
<b>Parallel sessions</b>	15:40-16:40	Unpacking LGBTIQA+ displacement	<b>Parallel session 1: Detention &amp; LGBTIQA+ displaced people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Challenges for LGBTIQ refugees in Korean Immigration detention,</b> Jirim Kim (GongGam Human</li> </ul>	<b>Parallel session 2: Activism &amp; advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silencing of LGBTIQ+ refugees for the name of a</b></li> </ul>	<b>Parallel session 3: Communities and Belonging</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LGBTQI+ Sri Lankans' displacement and disenfranchisement in their homeland,</b></li> </ul>

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			<p>Rights Law Foundation, Korea)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Understanding the drivers and pathways of queer displacement of forcibly displaced persons and immigration detention in Asia</b>, Michelle Soe Moe (EqualAF, Thailand)</li> <li>• <b>Forgotten: Queer refugees and people seeking asylum in detention</b>, Michaela Rhode (Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, Australia)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitator: Lotte Wolff</p>	<p><b>greater cause</b>, Tina Dixon (ANU, Australia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preserving our stories as a tool of resistance</b>, Renee Dixon (FDPN, Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Making Space: Policy and Practice in Services Impacting Queer Refugees in Australia</b>, Elizabeth Schmidt (Western Sydney University)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitator: Tina Dixon</p>	<p>Dr Sean Perera (ANU, Australia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Queer experiences of orienting and belonging within refugee communities in Southeast Asia</b>, Tamara Megaw (University of Sydney)</li> <li>• <b>Scoping review re post settlement experiences of LGBTQ+ refugee</b>, Lucy Nicholas (Western Sydney University)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitator: Ryan Figueiredo</p>
	16:45-17:45	Unpacking LGBTIQ+ displacement	<b>Parallel session 4: Communities and Belonging</b>	<b>Parallel session 5: Partnerships and best practices</b>	<b>Parallel session 6: LGBTIQ+ leadership in displacement with a focus on Africa</b>

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	Time	Theme	Sessions
			<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> <p>Facilitated by Mohamed Al Abri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multicultural Engagement Plan: Addressing of multicultural and migrant LGBTQ+ leadership in organisations</b>, Loc Nguyen (ACON)</li> <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> <p>Facilitator: Naavikaran</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> <li>• <b>LGBTIQ refugee crisis in Kenya</b>, John Ssenyonjo – Lucretia (Kakuma refugee camp, Kenia)</li> <li>• <b>Internal Displacement of LGTBQI+ African Refugees in host country (South Africa)</b>, Thomars Shamuyarira (The Fruit Basket, South Africa)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitator: Mohamed Al Abri</p>
<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

	Time	Theme	Sessions
	<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	LGBTIQA+ leadership in displacement	<b>Experiences of LGBTIQA+ migration, settlement and displacement in Australia</b> (Dr Brandy Cochrane and Supul Wijeweera, FDPN)
	9:40-10:20	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Latin America:</b> Bamby Salcedo (The TransLatin@ Coalition, USA) Facilitator: Naavikaran
	10:20-10:50	LGBTIQA+ 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>
	10:50-11:10	Partnerships spotlights	<b>LGBTIQA+ Quotas in resettlement – a spotlight by the High Commission of Canada</b> Facilitator: Danijel Malbasa
	11:00-11:20	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>Morning plenaries (cont.)</b>	11:20-12:30	LGBTIQA+ leadership in displacement	<b>Community Dialogue</b> facilitated by Tina Dixson
	12:30-13:30	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch event 1</b> (40 min, 12:40-1:20): Interactive workshop by Jamal Hakim for <b><u>LGBTIQA+ forcibly displaced people only</u> "Unleashing the power within"</b>  <b>Lunch event 2</b> (40 min, 12:40-1:20): Interactive Q/A: Danny Ramadan on <b>Representing queer characters on page</b>
<b>Afternoon plenaries</b>	13:30-14:10	Keynote conversations	<b>Queer Categories and Colonial Legacies:</b> Prof. Chunjeet Mahn (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow) Facilitator: Renee Dixson

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	Time	Theme	Sessions		
	14:10-14:50	Keynote conversations	<b>Focus on Asia:</b> Ryan Figueiredo (Equal Asia Foundation) Facilitator: Grace Edward		
	14:50-15:10	<b>Coffee break</b>			
<b>Parallel sessions</b>	15:10-16:10	Unpacking LGBTIQ+ displacement	<p><b>Parallel session 7: LGBTIQ+ displacement in Asia</b></p> <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> <p>Facilitated by Ryan Figueiredo</p>	<p><b>Parallel session: 8 Intersecting movements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Misidentification and racial profiling of queer refugees, asylum seekers and migrants family violence victim survivors</b>, Fahad Jawaid and Kate Frost (Thorne Harbour Health, Australia)</li> <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>Facilitator: Brandy Cochrane</p>	<p><b>Parallel session 9: Health in LGBTIQ+ Displacement</b></p> <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> <li>• <b>Finding Their Voice - The health of newly arrived LGBTI + refugees</b> (Leslie Allen, NSW Refugee Health)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by Saan Ecker</p>

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	Time	Theme	Sessions		
	16:15-17:15	Unpacking LGBTIQIA+ 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-Louise Olivier (University of Newcastle)</li> <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 (RMIT)</li> <li>• <b>Diasporic queer-feminist loneliness and transnational queer friendship,</b> Masha Beketova</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parallel Session 11: Law and justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protection Applications: LGBTIQIA+ and Asylum,</b> Galen Jaffurs (Refugee Legal, Australia)</li> <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> <p>Facilitated by Danijel Malbasa</p>	<p><b>Parallel session 12: Partnerships and best practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender and sexuality diversity inclusion in the multicultural context,</b> Janet Irvine (Settlement Services International)</li> <li>• <b>Multicultural Australia - LGBTIQIA+ workplace and practice,</b> Emily Drew (Multicultural Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Counting us in - the social, cultural, and settlement experiences of LGBTIQI+ young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds in Australia,</b> Rana Ebrahimi (MYAN)</li> </ul> <p>Facilitator: Olga Cherniak</p>

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			(Humboldt University, Germany) Facilitated by Brandy Cochrane
Closing	17:15-17:45		<b>Where to next:</b> Closing reflections by Renee Dixson, Olena Shevchenko, Marianna Polevikova, Artemis Akbary, Danny Ramadan, Ryan Figueiredo, and Churnjeet Mahn.

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