

# 10 Years of Impact



UNSW  
Kaldor Centre  
for International  
Refugee Law

10  
YEARS  
of ideas  
in action



# Thank you

As we mark a decade of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all who have played a part in this journey.

## Foundational support

We are immensely grateful to Andrew and Renata Kaldor and the entire Kaldor family. Ten years ago, your vision and generosity laid the foundations for the world's first centre dedicated to advancing international refugee law. Today, we celebrate a decade of significant achievements made possible by your unwavering support.

## Our community of partners and supporters

We also deeply appreciate the essential contributions of every supporter, partner and ally of the Centre over the last decade. Your support, engagement and advocacy have been crucial to our success. Every milestone highlighted in this report is a testament to the strength and impact of our collective efforts.

As we look forward, we remain dedicated to our mission of advancing lawful, sustainable and humane solutions for, and with, refugees and other forced migrants. Thank you for your continued support.

## At a glance





*Illustration by Cecilia Humphrey.*

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# 10 years of ideas in action

The Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law is proud to mark a decade of championing principled solutions for, and with, displaced people.

The Centre was established at a very challenging time for people seeking safety in Australia. The Abbott government had just come to power with its “stop the boats” campaign. Misinformation about refugees proliferated, and the Australian government was innovating increasingly harsh, militarised responses to people seeking asylum. Meanwhile, the number of people globally forced to flee their homes reached a new high, as it has every year since.

Into this maelstrom, the Kaldor Centre brought an authoritative, non-partisan voice of reason. Established as the world’s first centre dedicated to the study of international refugee law, with the generous support of Andrew and Renata Kaldor, we quickly came to play a unique and valuable role amongst those seeking a better approach to refugee issues.

**For more than 10 years now, we have answered the big questions, informed public debate and connected and resourced others to generate lawful, sustainable and humane solutions to displacement.**

*Photograph by Damon Amb.*

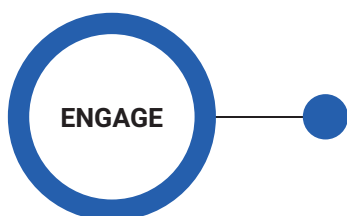




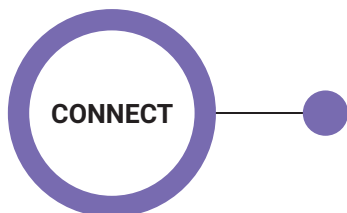
Our impact is built on three pillars:



**We produce world-leading research that supports the development of lawful, sustainable and humane solutions for people in need of protection.** As independent experts, we provide a credible, principled voice on refugee issues – correcting misinformation, sharing evidence of good practice, and undertaking the deep, long-term thinking needed to advance solutions to the challenge of displacement.



**We engage meaningfully to inform public policy debates on refugee law and forced migration.** Policymakers, civil society, lawyers, journalists and the public look to us as a trusted resource. We find innovative ways to make our work meaningful and accessible to everyone, bringing clarity amid complexity, and amplifying the voices of those with lived experiences of displacement.



**We connect and resource others in the field to help generate rights-based solutions to displacement.** We bring people together across divides to share knowledge and drive real-world change, providing a crucial bridge between research, policy and practice, and nurturing the next generation of thought leaders.

Through this strategic approach, we have directly influenced new policy and operational responses at the national, regional and international levels to strengthen protection for people fleeing the impacts of conflict, disasters, climate change, persecution, human rights violations and other humanitarian emergencies.

This report provides a snapshot of what we have achieved – with the unwavering support of our partners and supporters.

We invite you to explore the transformative impact of the Kaldor Centre, and to join us in shaping a fairer world for displaced people everywhere.

# 1

## Providing international leadership

Our scholars undertake the deep, long-term thinking necessary to advance solutions in this complex policy area.

**“The Kaldor Centre provides cutting-edge and principled research and guidance on refugee law both in Australia and internationally. Its work is evidence-based and solutions-oriented, and has supported efforts to protect and assist refugees and other forcibly displaced people by the United Nations, governments and civil society on the ground.”**

**Volker Türk**

United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights

Through rigorous, innovative research, the Centre has earned a reputation as a global intellectual powerhouse on forced migration issues.

Our expertise and strategic advice is sought out by global leaders, including national governments, key UN agencies, the World Bank, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

Jane McAdam and Guy S Goodwin-Gill are globally renowned as pioneers in the field of international refugee law. Their book, *The Refugee in International Law*, now in its fourth edition (with Emma Dunlop) is universally recognised as “one of the refugee law’s classic texts” and is used by scholars, practitioners, judges, governments and students throughout the world. It has been described as “among the most important volumes written on the subject in a generation”, and “the most authoritative statement on the current state of refugee law ... a leading volume that has already established itself as a standard reference [and which] should be included in any serious library concerned with refugee issues”.

Their work informs jurisprudence in courts worldwide, including the High Court of Australia, the Supreme Courts of the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, and the Court of Justice of the European Union.





Illustration by Cecilia Humphrey for our video, 'Cruel, costly and ineffective: The failure of offshore processing in Australia', an engaging explainer to accompany our policy brief showing why Australia's policies should not be replicated elsewhere.

## Averting the spread of offshore processing

Madeline Gleeson is internationally recognised as an authority on Australia's policy of offshore processing. Her award-winning book, *Offshore: Behind the wire on Manus and Nauru*, is regarded as the definitive account of the policy's early years. Today, as the UK, Denmark and other countries consider offshore processing, she is a sought-after expert on lessons learned from Australia.

Madeline has appeared before the UK House of Commons, addressed the Westminster Legal Policy Forum, and convened a roundtable to equip 40 UK civil society organisations with insights from Australia's experience. UK parliamentary debates have repeatedly cited the Centre's work, as has civil society. On a key day of parliamentary deliberations, Madeline's was the Twitter account most mentioned by the Scottish National Party, who were advocating for a more humane approach. Following this, the UK offshore processing proposal faced considerable opposition from across the political spectrum in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Both within and outside the UK, the Centre continues to advise policymakers, civil society, UN officials and governments to avert the spread of offshore processing.



Explore our work on  
offshore processing

## 2

## Pioneering work on displacement in the context of climate change

We are at the forefront of global efforts to ensure protection for people displaced by the impacts of climate change and disasters.



*Illustration by Cecilia Humphrey for our Climate Mobility Hub.*

When Jane McAdam first set out to research displacement in the context of climate change and disasters, the field was uncharted. Today, climate mobility is a hot topic of forced migration policy, profoundly shaped by her pioneering and ongoing work. Jane conceptualised “climate change-related displacement” in international law in ways that continue to inform national, regional and global responses today.

For instance, the Centre was invited to lead the drafting of the world-first Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility, working closely with Pacific governments, civil society and other experts. The Framework – endorsed by the Pacific Islands Forum in 2023 – seeks to ensure that the region is “resilient and ‘future-ready’ by being able to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the hazardous impacts of climate change, including in relation to mobility”.

This followed the Centre’s impact on the landmark Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – an agreement endorsed by 152 countries in 2018 – which highlights the need to create safe and dignified mobility pathways for people facing climate risks. According to Walter Kälin, Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, “Much of what is reflected in the Compact would not have been possible without the conceptual work done by the Kaldor Centre”.



The Centre was at the forefront of shaping the UN Refugee Agency's approach to climate-related displacement, with Jane McAdam and Guy S Goodwin-Gill appointed in 2017 to help develop its institutional strategy on the issue. Their thinking informed UNHCR's 2020 guidance on disaster and climate change-related protection claims, ultimately shaping the protection people receive on the ground.

Today, movement in the context of climate change and disasters is a high-priority policy challenge. In the lead-up to COP28 in 2023, we launched the Kaldor Centre Principles on Climate Mobility. This comprehensive toolkit has been widely welcomed as a much-needed resource, including by UNHCR, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, Climate Migration Council and the Migration, Climate Adaptation and Finance Working Group, the latter linking investors with our work.

We have actively contributed to the public discussion of climate mobility through extensive media engagement and, notably, our digital portal, the Climate Mobility Hub. Launched in late 2023 with the generous support of the Knights Family Jabula Foundation, this dynamic online resource is an interactive "101" on all aspects of climate mobility, bringing effective responses to life and amplifying the voices of affected communities in the Pacific. It has been widely shared around the world.

For her pioneering contributions to this field, Jane was honoured as an Officer of the Order of Australia (2021), received the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Human Rights (2017) and Australian Human Rights Award for Law (2022) and was named a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader (2013).



**Explore the Kaldor  
Centre Principles on  
Climate Mobility**



**Explore the Climate  
Mobility Hub**

**"[Jane McAdam is] a real authority on matters of human mobility ... It is important also to rely on knowledge and expertise, and she represents that very, very significantly."**

**Filippo Grandi**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



## 3

## Driving law and policy reform

Our research generates valuable policy-relevant insights, and our principled policy engagement helps to drive real reform.

The Centre's non-partisan approach and academic rigour means that our advice reaches policymakers at the highest levels, including senior government officials and parliamentarians across the political spectrum.

Our researchers are regularly invited to provide briefings on the legal dimensions of Australia's policies to the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Attorney-General's Department and other policymakers.

Our well-regarded Policy Brief Series provides clear analysis and policy recommendations on key displacement challenges, informing decision-making in Australia and abroad.

In our policy brief, *Climate change, disasters and mobility: A roadmap for Australian action*, Jane McAdam and Jonathan Pryke explained how and why Australia should develop migration pathways to enable people to move if they need to, thus harnessing migration as a climate adaptation strategy. We provided extensive briefings to senior government officials, and reiterated the policy brief's recommendations in parliamentary submissions and media engagements. Two key recommendations have since been implemented: a Pacific Engagement Visa to facilitate permanent migration from the Pacific, and a special mobility pathway for people from Tuvalu.







Portrait of Zaki Haidari from our project 'Temporary'. Photograph by Abdul Karim Hekmat.

## Reforming temporary protection visas

Our 2022 policy brief, *Temporary protection visas in Australia: A reform proposal*, provided a principled, practical framework for transitioning people in the so-called 'legacy caseload' to permanent status. Co-authors Mary Anne Kenny, Nicholas Procter and Carol Grech developed the recommendations in consultation with many stakeholders, including lawyers, civil society and refugees.

The brief attracted national media coverage and enjoyed strong support across the refugee sector, facilitating a consistent approach to advocacy. We carried out polling (with the well-regarded Behavioural Insights Team) showing the reform proposal had widespread public support. We tested various message framings to support effective advocacy on the reform. We directly briefed key policymakers on the policy brief and polling data, including the Minister for Immigration and senior officials of the Department of Home Affairs.

The policy brief was used as a reference document by key decision-makers working to reform the temporary protection regime. In February 2023, the government announced a pathway to permanency for people on temporary protection visas through measures that directly implemented recommendations made in the policy brief.

# 4

## Holding lawmakers to account

We scrutinise laws and policies to ensure they uphold international obligations, helping to stop bad laws in their tracks.

The Centre provides an authoritative voice on the international legal implications of Australia's refugee laws and policies. Since its establishment, we have scrutinised every proposed piece of legislation relating to refugees, making submissions to relevant parliamentary inquiries. Our work has been cited in parliamentary debates on issues including offshore processing, boat turnbacks, the use of force in immigration detention, citizenship and the reform of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. We have also made many submissions to UN special procedures and other international bodies, as well as to foreign governments, including the UK and US.

Even if the prevailing policy environment is inimical to broader law reform, it is critical to ensure there is a clear public record of account. These efforts reinforce expectations of parliamentary transparency and accountability, and help to inform accurate media reporting.







## 5

## Harnessing innovation for refugee protection

We are unlocking the potential of technology and data to make refugee processes fairer.

The Kaldor Centre Data Lab has generated unprecedented insights into Australia's asylum procedures. Using cutting-edge computational approaches to extract and analyse data from large volumes of court documents, the Data Lab demonstrates how to leverage technology to make the legal system fairer.

Drawing on these insights, we are driving tangible law reform. Our findings on the importance of legal representation for fairer, more efficient asylum procedures informed the government's announcement to re-instate funding for free refugee legal services in 2023.

Our strong media and policy engagement helped shift the public debate around using data to improve accountability, quality and consistency in decision-making. The Australian Law Reform Commission cited our findings to support its groundbreaking recommendation that statistics should be used by courts to reduce social and cognitive biases in decision-making.

The Data Lab provided an invaluable evidence base for the reform of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). For instance, the Data Lab shows that asylum seekers were half as likely to succeed before a Coalition-appointed tribunal member than one appointed by Labor, and that politicised appointments may be contributing to case backlogs. We shared these insights in briefings to parliamentarians, the AAT and civil society, and in numerous parliamentary submissions. Our work was widely cited in parliament, by other organisations, and in the Senate report that recommended the AAT be abolished and replaced with a new body – which the federal government is currently implementing.

Lawyers are also using the Data Lab to inform their litigation strategy. It is democratising access to jurimetrics at a time when most analytics are restricted to those who can afford expensive proprietary products. As one refugee lawyer shared:

**" 'Know your judge' is an old adage amongst barristers. The Data Lab provides access to resources that help identify relevant decisions of judges and is a valuable resource for traversing and filtering decisions in an area of law where the volume of case law is one of the biggest challenges for practitioners. "**

In 2024 we will also launch the new Hear Me Out platform, which uses generative AI to guide ordinary citizens through various government complaint bodies. This collaboration with the National Justice Project, funded by the NSW Government Access to Justice Innovation Fund, will be one of the world's first direct-to-consumer, generative-AI-powered, online legal self-help tools.



*Incoming Kaldor Centre Director Daniel Ghezelbash leads our work on technology and refugee protection.*

**"It's really all about transparency. We believe that using publicly available information, to scrutinise the behaviour of the courts and tribunals, is not only healthy for democracy, but also enhances the authority and reputation of these institutions ... It also creates an evidence base for improving the fairness of refugee determination procedures in Australia."**

**Daniel Ghezelbash** on the ABC Radio National Law Report's feature episode highlighting the Kaldor Centre Data Lab



**Explore our work  
on technology  
and protection**



## 6

## Amplifying the voices of displaced people

We leverage our platforms and networks to strengthen the impact of those most affected.

Too often, people who have been displaced are sidelined in the public conversation about forced migration. Yet their expertise, experience and insight are absolutely vital to advancing broader understanding – and driving change.

The Centre is committed to creating and sharing spaces to amplify the voices and expertise of people who have experienced displacement, including in our events and creative communications projects.

We invest time, care and resources into taking an ethical, trauma-informed approach to working with our collaborators, built on relationships of mutual respect. Refugees and other displaced people have trusted us to create a supportive and respectful platform for their stories and expertise. Leveraging our networks, we bring together innovative partnerships – bringing media reach and top creative talent to amplify the voices of those with lived experience, backed up by the Centre's academic authority.

When the strength of first-person experience joins with the Centre's legal expertise and resources, we can powerfully change hearts and minds.



*Our Climate Mobility Hub provides a platform for communities affected by climate change to share their perspectives. Illustration by Cecilia Humphrey.*



Portrait of Hani Abdile from our project 'Temporary'. Photograph by Amir Kamrani.

## Our award-winning storytelling project: *Temporary*

Our podcast and storytelling project *Temporary* put the voices of people seeking asylum front-and-centre. We led this ambitious collaboration with Guardian Australia, the UNSW Centre for Ideas, the Refugee Advice & Casework Service, Refugee Art Project and others.

At the fore were six storytellers – Zaki, Hani, Elaheh, Kumar, Arman and Yehye – who worked with us to reveal the hidden lives of those who fled to Australia seeking protection and instead found endless uncertainty. The series also featured powerful commissioned photography, illustrations and music by people seeking asylum. Some of the refugees involved accepted media and speaking opportunities through their participation, reaching wider audiences.

*Temporary* touched audiences around the world. It is shared in schools and has reached more than 150,000 listeners. The project won multiple awards in Australia (including the Australian Podcast Awards' 2021 Gold for Best Current Affairs) and internationally (including Best Longform award from the American Society of Journalists and Authors). One reviewer encapsulated the project's impact:

"This podcast gives you such a clear understanding on the history of immigration policy in Australia and then tells you straight from the source what that looks like in real life. It's heartbreaking to listen to but has allowed me to start this conversation with others and start asking what I can do to help."



Explore 'Temporary'

# 7

## Bringing a voice of reason to the refugee debate

In a public debate so often characterised by misinformation and polarisation, the Kaldor Centre is a voice of reason.

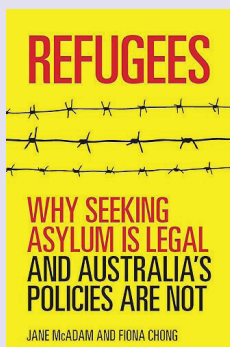
Our robust media and public engagement provides a much-needed source of objective, evidence-based information to help inform the discussion of refugee issues. With thousands of media appearances on radio, television, print and online, our experts reach an audience of more than 27 million on average each year.

Our factsheets and explainers offer accessible, accurate answers to anyone seeking reliable information on key refugee issues. Our creative digital content – videos, podcasts and infographics – makes complex legal and policy matters engaging for a broad audience.

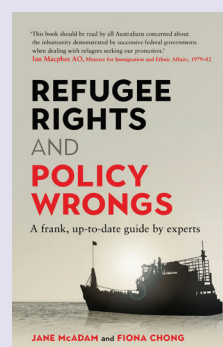
Our valued Weekly News Roundup reaches a global readership, while our range of popular books provides greatly needed clarity and context.

Our public events attract leading thinkers, practitioners, policymakers and people with lived experience of displacement for discussions that illuminate key contemporary issues. We have hosted thousands of people at events to foster better understanding and drive solutions, while recordings multiply our audience reach. Our experts have also featured in hundreds of external speaking engagements, including the Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Intelligence Squared Debate, the Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane Writers' Festivals, and rural and regional community events.

Our award-winning, popular books provide clarity and context to a general audience.



**By Jane McAdam and Fiona Chong (2014).** Shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, the judges said "the authors have succeeded in writing a book that is both informative and easily understood".



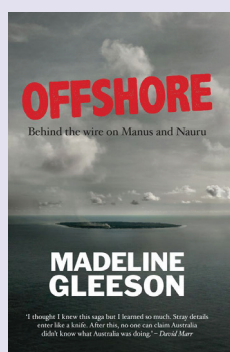
**By Jane McAdam and Fiona Chong (2019).** This fully revised version of the authors' popular 2014 book was described by Kerry Phelps as a counter-attack on the "war on truth" in the public debate about asylum.



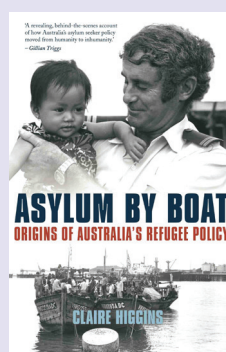


"As a working journalist, I find the Kaldor Centre incredibly useful. The publications, the factsheets, the books that have been published take the debate around forced migration outside of the bubble that it sometimes exists in, to the broader Australian community – to explain exactly what is happening in this country, what is happening around the world. Because this is one of the policy challenges that this country will be facing for decades."

**Ben Doherty**  
Guardian Australia



**By Madeline Gleeson (2016).** Winner of a Victorian Premier's Literary Award, this revealing account was an Australian Book Review "Book of the Year"; shortlisted for the Queensland and NSW Premier's Literary Awards; and longlisted for Walkley, Stella and Australian Book Industry awards.



**By Claire Higgins (2017).** Longlisted for the Council of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Book Awards, this "superb history ... of political nerve and leadership in the face of prejudice" illuminates the Fraser government's response to boat arrivals from Vietnam. A study in shaping public opinion.

## 8

## Resourcing and connecting changemakers

We play a unique catalysing role in the refugee sector ecosystem.

As a trusted source of expertise, we are a crucial resource for civil society, refugee-led organisations and legal practitioners in their policy and advocacy work.

Our research – translated into factsheets, policy briefs, submissions and more – is the ‘go-to’ resource for many organisations seeking clear, reliable information on refugee law and policy.

**“The work of the Kaldor Centre assists me with everything from direct conversations and regular updates on issues, to providing expertise on specific pieces of legislation or submissions to parliamentary inquiries. Whenever we need expert legal advice or legal opinion, it is wonderful to be able to talk to the team at the Kaldor Centre to ensure that we have got our facts and figures correct. We are incredibly fortunate to have a resource like the Kaldor Centre.”**

**Graham Thom**  
Refugee Coordinator  
Amnesty International

Our strong and deep relationships across the sector make us a valued advisor and collaborator. We connect a vast network of thought leaders, policymakers, legal practitioners and civil society representatives across Australia and the globe.

**“I will be forever grateful for the early advice and guidance I received from the Kaldor Centre, without which I would never have had the confidence to persevere with what eventually became Talent Beyond Boundaries.”**

**Talent Beyond Boundaries in Australia considers itself an example of your impact.”**

**John Cameron**  
Co-Founder  
Talent Beyond Boundaries



*Minister for Immigration Andrew Giles answers questions from refugees and others in the sector, appearing with Nyadol Nyuon OAM at our 2022 conference.*

We work closely with others across the sector to coordinate quick, expert responses to legal and policy developments. We convene the national Legal Centres Teleconference, providing a valuable forum for information-sharing and coordination, particularly in responding to new legislative developments.

**"The Kaldor Centre has been to RACS one of our most treasured partners and allies this past decade. We have always been able to turn to the Kaldor Centre as a trusted place of advice, strategic guidance and analysis, which has been so critical and fundamental to the advancement and protection of the rights of refugees in this country. It has been a difficult 10 years in law and policy and Australia's treatment of people seeking asylum, I can't imagine there to have been a more critical time to have had the voice of the Kaldor Centre front and centre in legal objectivity – calling for justice."**

**Sarah Dale**

Centre Director & Principal Solicitor  
Refugee Advice & Casework Service

## Creating the Kaldor Centre Principles for Australian Refugee Policy

At a politically testing time, we distilled decades of combined research to set out a stable foundation for policymaking: the Kaldor Centre Principles for Australian Refugee Policy.

This flagship document – and accompanying Key Priorities – provides a roadmap for reform that is both principled and pragmatic. It clearly explains how Australia can develop a more humane, sustainable and manageable approach that simultaneously benefits displaced people and the Australian community. With real-world examples of good practice from Australia's history and from abroad, it sets out a positive alternative narrative grounded in shared values of fairness and decency.

The Principles have been hailed as a valuable touchstone document and resource by senior government officials and civil society alike. As one organisation shared:

**"The Principles are concise yet comprehensive and are grounded in sound ethics and practice throughout the international community. They are a highly valuable resource for us in our advocacy for refugees in our local area and nationally."**



Explore the  
Principles



## 9

## Standing with refugees to advance meaningful participation

We are committed to advancing meaningful refugee participation, and to continually reflecting on how good allyship can be embedded in our work.

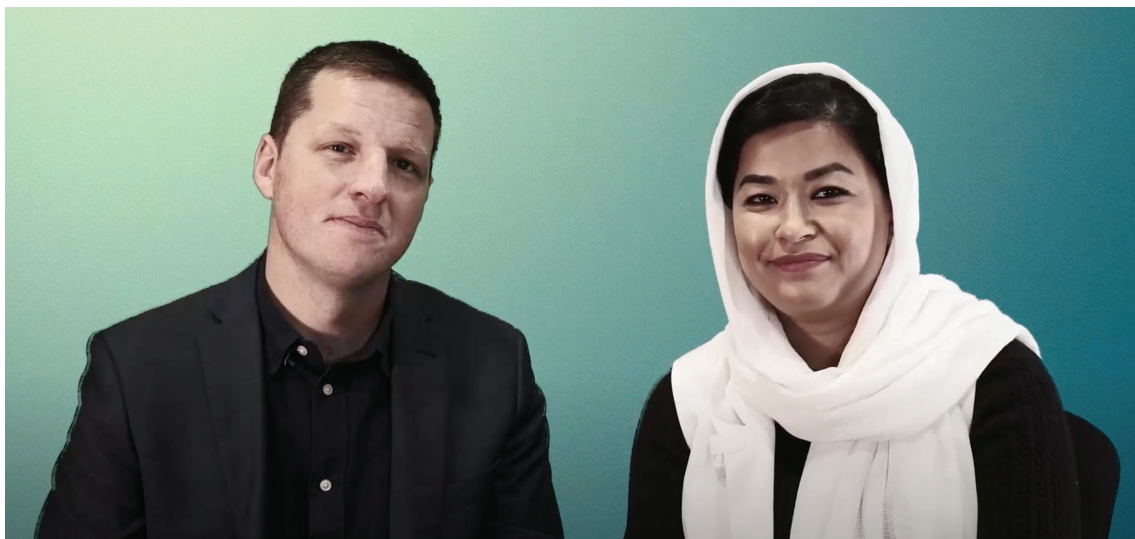
Most of us take for granted the right to have a voice in decisions that affect our lives, yet refugees are routinely excluded from decision-making processes. This not only denies them agency but also leads to poorly informed policies and practices. Refugees have consistently called for their agency to be recognised, and to be included in decision-making processes affecting them.

The Centre is undertaking pioneering research and policy engagement on the international legal reforms needed to promote meaningful refugee participation in decision-making, led by Tristan Harley. This research is conducted in partnership with a range of refugee-led organisations, drawing on longstanding and deep collaborative relationships.

**"The Kaldor Centre has been instrumental in amplifying the work of refugee-led organisations across the region. The support and collaboration the Centre has given my organisation, APNOR, has enabled us to not only enhance our advocacy efforts, but to strengthen our research and expand our networks. We've learned the importance of strategic advocacy, of evidence-based research, of effective communication. We've been able to gain a lot of insight into navigating the legal frameworks and enhancing our capacity to create meaningful change."**

**Najeeba Wazefadost**

Founder, Asia-Pacific Network of Refugees



*Tristan Harley and Najeeba Wazefadost lead the ongoing collaboration between the Kaldor Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network of Refugees.*



*Illustration by Cecilia Humphrey for a video explainer on the Guidelines for Co-Produced Research.*

## Developing guidelines for co-produced research with displaced people

We seek to actively contribute to a community of good practice in relation to refugee participation and ethical research collaborations with displaced communities. In 2023, the Centre co-developed new Guidelines for Co-Produced Research with Refugees and Other People with Lived Experience of Displacement (available in English, Arabic, French and Spanish). These were prepared through an inclusive consultation process and have been endorsed by 17 organisations to date, including prominent refugee-led networks. The guidelines are being used to encourage ethical collaboration amongst actors engaged in refugee research. They are featured as an underpinning principle for UNHCR's Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network, have been showcased as a good practice by UNHCR, and highlighted at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum in a roundtable on how to advance collaboration between academic and refugee-led organisations.

"The Guidelines for Co-produced Research with Refugees and Other People with Lived Experience of Displacement provide crucial and clear information on the principles and strategies for how to ethically and meaningfully include refugees and forcibly displaced people in research processes. Co-produced research is of paramount importance in fostering more equitable and effective research that can inform policy and help address the myriad of challenges faced by forcibly displaced people, globally."

**Rêz Gardî**

Co-Managing Director

R-SEAT (Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table)



Explore our work on  
advancing meaningful  
refugee participation



## 10

## Supporting the next generation of thought leaders

We support the next generation of forced migration scholars and promote the inclusion of researchers from backgrounds typically under-represented in the academy.



*Our Mentoring Program Coordinator, Oudai Tozan, with Senior Research Fellow and founding Emerging Scholars Network Coordinator Claire Higgins and a guest at our 2023 conference.*

Our Emerging Scholars Network is a global community of early-career researchers working on forced migration issues, linking scholars across the globe. Sharing ideas across disciplines and institutions, members bring expertise in areas as diverse as law, health, history, political theory and engineering. Significantly, 28% of network members identify as having lived experience of displacement.

The Network provides emerging scholars with opportunities to connect and collaborate, showcase their research and learn about career opportunities. Affectionately referred to by one member as “our Woodstock”, the Network’s annual workshop provides a highly valued opportunity for scholars to present and receive feedback on their scholarship in a supportive environment.

Centre members provide supervision to an outstanding cohort of doctoral candidates, of whom nine have been awarded their PhD since the Centre’s establishment. We have taught thousands of students at UNSW and beyond. Our expertise gives students, scholars and practitioners a greater understanding of refugee law, forced migration and human rights. Our internships, too, provide a transformative experiential learning opportunity for the next generation.



## Displaced Scholars Mentoring Program

Navigating the early stages of a career is hard at the best of times, but people who have experienced displacement often face significant additional obstacles. To tackle this challenge, the Kaldor Centre established a Displaced Scholars Mentoring Program in 2021, a pioneering program designed specifically to support early-career scholars in our field who have experienced displacement.

To date, the program has offered mentoring and skills development to 86 displaced scholars. It has had a transformative impact.

In the 2023 post-program survey, 93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the program helped them build their knowledge and skills, and 89% said that it helped them make progress towards their academic and professional goals. The program has fostered a nurturing community, with former mentees rejoining the program as mentors, and several mentors returning each year to offer their support to up-and-coming researchers. Both mentors and mentees have found the program to be a deeply rewarding experience of mutual learning, and many mentoring partnerships have led to joint publications and ongoing collaborations.

Our program has been held up as an example of good practice that has inspired other mentoring initiatives for refugee scholars.

**"Applying to participate in this mentoring program was the best-ever decision in my scholarly journey. My gratitude goes to my mentor and the team at the Kaldor Centre."**

**Gabriel**  
Former mentee



**"Being a part of this program provided me with a much-needed sense of belonging and community. It not only connected me with experienced mentors who generously shared their knowledge and expertise but also proved to be instrumental in my academic and research journey. The mentorship I received significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth. This sense of belonging is crucial for displaced scholars who often feel isolated in their academic endeavors. The support and guidance this program offers have been invaluable, and I am genuinely grateful for the opportunity to participate in it."**

**Subthiga**  
Former mentee





*Photograph by Jamila Shah for our project 'Temporary'.*

# Looking to the future

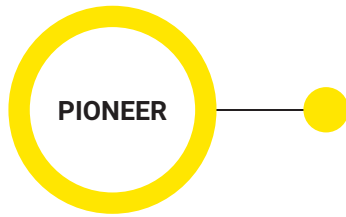
Over the past decade, the Kaldor Centre has cemented its formidable reputation as the world's foremost centre for thought-leadership on refugee law and forced migration. Countless people have benefited from our rigorous research and principled engagement.

We look back over the past decade with a proud sense of achievement, and towards the next decade with a profound sense of purpose.

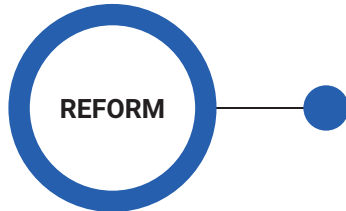
The need for the Centre's work will only increase in coming years. In the face of accelerating change and disruption, we face both unprecedented challenges and uncharted opportunities to advance protection for displaced people. Holding fast to the timeless foundational principles of international refugee law, we can revisit perpetual challenges through new lenses.

Working in a spirit of collaboration, we will build upon our strong foundations to advance our mission to develop and promote lawful, sustainable and humane solutions for, and with, people in need of protection.

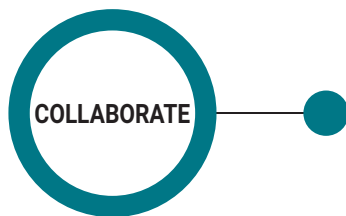
## Our ambitious plans include:



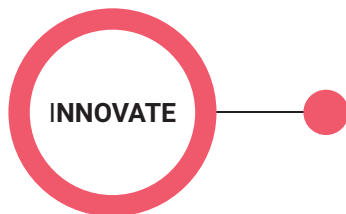
**Developing game-changing insights to transform scholarship, policy and practice concerning evacuations from conflicts, disasters and other humanitarian crises, through our new Evacuations Research Hub.** This flagship initiative, led by Jane McAdam under her prestigious Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship, will bring a new team of scholars to the Centre to identify the legal and policy innovations needed to ensure that evacuations respect human rights and do not lead to prolonged displacement.



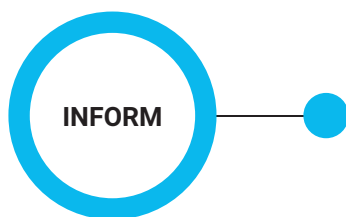
**Collaborating with refugee leaders to drive international law reform on refugee participation in decision-making processes.** Tristan Harley and our partners will work to address a major gap in international legal frameworks by developing an international declaration elaborating a right of refugees to participate in decisions that affect them. This project will mobilise a diverse coalition to establish clear principles and promote best practice for engaging refugees in decision-making.



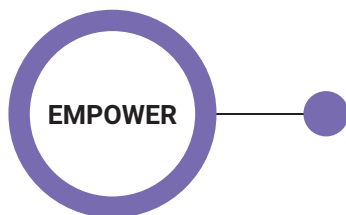
**Informing the design of an employer-sponsored displaced talent migration program that can alleviate skill shortages in rural Australia.** Through Claire Higgins's collaboration with Talent Beyond Boundaries, Regional Australia Institute, ANU and UNSW Business, this Australian Research Council Linkage project seizes upon domestic and international momentum to establish complementary pathways to help refugees find safety.



**Leveraging cutting-edge technology, including generative AI, to understand, compare and improve asylum systems and decision-making.** Daniel Ghezelbash will lead our collaboration with data labs in Canada and Denmark, to develop pioneering applications of generative AI that will increase transparency and accountability, and lay the ground work for world-first data-driven comparative analysis of decision-making in asylum cases.



**Standing firm as a voice of principle on displacement issues, bringing evidence and expertise to bear on public debates at home and abroad.** This will include continued vigilance as other countries consider 'copycat' policies on offshore processing and boat turnbacks, building on Madeline Gleeson's leading work, as well as ongoing public and policy engagement to advance reform in Australia.



**Providing transformative opportunities for displaced scholars, building upon the success of our Displaced Scholars Mentoring Program.** We will actively seek to create and share spaces to showcase refugee expertise, and to stand as allies with displaced people and refugee-led organisations.

**We are committed to pursuing our shared vision of a world where refugees and other forced migrants are protected, respected and heard. Thank you for walking together with us towards that future.**



## Join us in shaping a fairer future

As we reflect on a decade of dedicated service and significant impact at the Kaldor Centre, we are profoundly grateful for the support and partnership of our entire community. Your involvement has been crucial in enabling us to pursue our mission of developing principled solutions for, and with, displaced people.

## Your role in continuing the momentum

Looking ahead, the challenges remain significant, and so does the need for your support. We invite you to continue this journey with us, as we seek to expand our impact and tackle new challenges in refugee law and policy. Here's how you can help:

### Donate

Your financial contributions enable us to sustain and expand our research, outreach, and advocacy efforts.



### Share

Help amplify our message. Share our research and stories with your network to increase awareness and understanding of refugee issues.

### Engage

Join our events, subscribe to our newsletter, and follow us on social media. Stay informed and involved in the discussions that shape policy and lives.



Together, we can build a fairer world for displaced people everywhere.

## For more information, please contact:

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Front cover image credit: Photography by Jamila Shah for the Kaldor Centre's project 'Temporary'.

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### Acknowledgement of Country

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