

WORK EXPERIENCE

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| Mar 2019-Present | Refugees International <i>Senior Advocate, Women and Girls</i> | Washington, DC, USA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead Refugees International's women and girls' program and gender-related advocacy strategy;• Track gender dynamics of displacement crises worldwide;• Develop partnerships with local organizations and advocate for the inclusion of refugee-led organizations (RLOs) in the humanitarian system;• Conduct research trips to humanitarian crises and interview NGOs, UN agencies, government officials, human rights defenders, displaced people and host communities to assess conditions;• Publish reports analyzing risks and capabilities of displaced women and girls and the programs designed to serve them;• Make policy recommendations and meet with decision-makers to advocate for those recommendations;• Engage in public speaking and writing to raise public awareness about forced displacement and humanitarian crises. | |
| Sept 2017-Mar 2019 | HIAS <i>Director, Protection Programs</i> | Silver Spring, MD, USA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided timely and effective protection programming to refugees and asylum-seekers, improving the protection components of HIAS' country operations;• Developed programs for country operations to effectively respond to the protection needs of at-risk refugees;• Created strategies for refugee resettlement, access to asylum and child protection;• Trained HIAS staff, government officials, pro-bono lawyers and other agency staff on international refugee law and utilizing a rights-based approach in policy making. | |
| Mar 2016-Sept 2017 | HIAS <i>Field Coordinator, Durable Solutions</i> | Silver Spring, MD, USA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensured effective implementation of HIAS durable solutions related activities;• Worked as the Acting Country Director for a new HIAS office in Greece from November 2016-January 2017, which included hiring and managing a group of lawyers, writing SOPs and putting them in place, developing partnerships with NGOs and UNHCR, leading training sessions for staff and leading group legal information sessions for asylum-seekers;• Developed and managed a resettlement deployment program between HIAS and UNHCR which involved hiring four staff, training them, arranging their placements within UNHCR offices and managing their continued resettlement work of Syrians from Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon;• Represented HIAS with UNHCR, other NGOs, government agencies and refugee communities;• Prepared written documents and information to be used in advocacy efforts with US government agencies, Congress and for the purposes of policy making. | |
| Jan 2016-Mar 2016 | Social Impact <i>Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist</i> | Arlington, VA, USA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted a field-based post-project sustainability evaluation of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress (FFP) activities in Bangladesh;• Interviewed partners, beneficiaries and government officials for data collection purposes;• Analyzed the data and wrote an in-depth evaluation report on USDA's activities in Bangladesh and their utility. | |
| Apr 2015-Dec 2015 | Social Impact <i>Subject Matter Expert</i> | Arlington, VA, USA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluated vulnerabilities in overseas Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) funded by U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM);• Conducted field-based evaluations in Ecuador, Kenya and Turkey to determine how to best detect, prevent and eliminate internal malfeasance, wrote in-depth case studies and developed a monitoring tool;• Wrote a synthesis report, presented findings to PRM and advised the State Department on how to proceed with refugee resettlement activities. | |
| Aug 2014-Apr 2015 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <i>Associate Resettlement Officer</i> | Zahle, Lebanon |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessed the shelter, education, livelihood and protection needs of Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers in Lebanon, identifying vulnerable individuals for resettlement and making referrals for additional assistance;• Conducted refugee status determination and resettlement interviews with Syrian asylum-seekers;• Prepared the submission of cases to resettlement countries. | |

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| Oct 2013- Dec 2013 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <i>Child Protection Specialist (deployed by RefugePoint)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized a bi-monthly panel made up of UNHCR, NGO and government officials to discuss individual cases and create new protection mechanisms and programs; Identified children at risk and wrote protection assessments; Wrote Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). | Nakivale, Uganda |
| Jul 2011- Aug 2013 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <i>Protection Officer (deployed by RefugePoint)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted interviews with all Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and wrote related assessments; Organized meetings with UN agencies, NGOs and government officials to improve responses to child protection issues; Drafted and implemented of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding child protection and created livelihoods programming directed at young people; Wrote a report highlighting challenges faced by UASC and recommendations on appropriate interventions which was widely disseminated to UNHCR and NGOs globally; Identified vulnerable refugees, reviewed their files and made decisions regarding need for resettlement; Interviewed refugees and wrote case histories in preparation for resettlement; Followed-up on cases submitted for resettlement including medical documentation, custody documentation etc.; Counseled refugees on the status of their cases and general information campaigns concerning durable solutions. | Cairo, Egypt |
| Jul 2010- Jul 2011 | RefugePoint <i>Protection Officer-GBV focal point</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created programming related to gender-based violence, education and livelihoods for refugees in Nairobi; Collaborated with senior staff at headquarters to provide information needed for donor reporting; Interviewed refugees from East Africa, assessed refugee claims and prepared protection assessments; Researched country of origin information and continuously wrote and updated reference materials; Trained new RefugePoint staff on issues facing urban and camp-based refugees; Prepared a staff-wide training on UNHCR urban refugee policies and the Kenya Refugee Act of 2006. | Nairobi, Kenya |
| Oct 2009- Apr 2010 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <i>Resettlement Expert (deployed by RefugePoint)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked in close collaboration with medical NGOs and practitioners to identify, review, interview and write up Resettlement Registration Forms (RRFs) for refugees suffering from life-threatening medical conditions; Managed the medical resettlement program in the Dadaab refugee camps, including organizing bi-monthly panels to make decisions on refugee referrals for resettlement, tracking the referrals and counseling refugees on resettlement decisions; Conducted two trainings on the mechanics of medical resettlement and how to appropriately use the UNHCR Medical Assessment Form (MAF). | Dadaab, Kenya |
| Sep 2008- Sep 2009 | The Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Research Coordinator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted extensive research and wrote a literature review on women involved in peace processes and the effectiveness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325; Wrote a proposal to obtain funding for a one-year research project assessing UN SCR 1325. Coordinated a critical oral history project entitled "U.S.-Iran Relations: Missed Opportunities." | Cambridge, MA, USA |
| May 2008- Aug 2008 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <i>Resettlement Expert (deployed by RefugePoint)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) doctors to identify refugees with medical conditions who could benefit from resettlement; Created a database of refugees in need of protection and resettlement due to severe medical conditions; Interviewed approximately 350 refugees and prepared RRFs, which were submitted to the U.S. embassy in Nairobi. | Dadaab, Kenya |
| May 2007- Aug 2007 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <i>Resettlement Intern</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed refugee claims and conducted legal research and analysis; Developed a resettlement program for non-Somali refugee populations. | Dadaab, Kenya |
| Sep 2006- Feb 2007 | The Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Research Coordinator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzed and assembled a group of papers for United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) regarding legal, health, political and social issues affecting refugee women in post-conflict situations; Conducted extensive research and compiled a literature review entitled "Women, Migration and Conflict." | Cambridge, MA, USA |

PUBLICATIONS

- “No Model of Refuge: Sudanese Refugees in Egypt,” *Refugees International*, 21 February 2025
- “Pay Attention to the Fighting in Congo,” *USA Today*, 2 May 2024
- “Ensuring Women’s Protection Amid Rising Conflict in Eastern DRC,” *Refugees International*, 5 April 2024
- “Pakistan Must Stop Deporting Afghan Women to a Gender Apartheid State,” *Newsweek*, 18 December 2023
- “The U.S. Must Honor its Promises to Afghanistan’s Women Journalists,” *The Hill*, 5 August 2023
- “‘They Left Us Without Any Support’: Afghans in Pakistan Waiting for Solutions,” *Refugees International*, 6 July 2023
- “Preparing for the Unpredictable: Ensuring the Protection and Inclusion of Refugees from Ukraine in Romania and Moldova,” *Refugees International*, 6 October 2022
- “Now, There is Nothing Safe: A Roadmap for Investing in Afghan Women and Girls,” *Refugees International*, 1 April 2022
- “Afghan Women and Girls Under Immediate Threat: The Responsibility to Protect and Assist is Just Beginning,” *Refugees International*, 7 October 2021
- “The U.S. Is Failing to Protect Pregnant Asylum Seekers at the Border,” *Newsweek*, 16 June 2021
- “Women in Tigray Face Increased Risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse,” *Refugees International*, 26 August 2021
- “A Crisis of Care: Sexual and Reproductive Health Competes for Attention Amid Conflict and Displacement in Mali,” *Refugees International*, 15 April 2021
- “On International Women’s Day, We Must Listen to Refugee Women,” *Elle*, 8 March 2021
- “A Lasting Peace in Afghanistan Must Include All Afghans,” *The National Interest*, 18 December 2020
- “Critical Policy Advice for President-elect Biden: A Comprehensive Approach for Displaced Women and Girls,” *Refugees International*, 11 December 2020
- “Exacerbating the Other Epidemic: How COVID-19 is Increasing Violence against Displaced Women and Girls,” *Refugees International*, 4 August 2020
- “Gender Matters: COVID-19’s Outsized Impact on Displaced Women and Girls,” *Refugees International*, 7 May 2020
- “Without Essential Protections: A Roadmap to Safeguard the Rights of Asylum Seekers in Greece,” *Refugees International*, 23 April 2020
- “Seeking Asylum in Greece: Women and Unaccompanied Children Struggle to Survive,” *Refugees International*, 23 February 2020
- “People Are Struggling to Survive on Our Borders, But Solutions Are in Reach,” *The Hill*, 23 January 2020
- “Still in Danger: Women and Girls Face Sexual Violence in South Sudan Despite Peace Deal,” *Refugees International*, 17 October 2019
- “Devastation and Displacement: Unprecedented Cyclones in Mozambique and Zimbabwe a Sign of What’s to Come?” *Refugees International*, 13 August 2019
- “Searching for Safety: Confronting Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Venezuelan Women and Girls,” *Refugees International*, 5 August 2019
- “Evaluating Vulnerabilities and Developing Mitigation Strategies to Prevent Potential Staff Malfeasance at Resettlement Support Centers,” *Social Impact*, December 2015
- “The Process for Interviewing, Vetting and Resettling Syrian Refugees in America is Incredibly Long and Thorough,” *Foreign Policy*, 30 November 2015
- “Conducting Best Interest Assessments for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Cairo: Collaborative project between UNHCR Cairo and RefugePoint April 2012 – September 2012,” *RefugePoint*, January 2013

EDUCATION

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| 2013 | Oxford University International Summer School in Forced Migration Certificate Program | <i>Oxford, UK</i> |
| 2012 | International Institute of Humanitarian Law International Migration Law Certificate Program | <i>San Remo, Italy</i> |
| 2006-2008 | The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy, Fields of study: Human Security, Forced Migration and International Organizations | <i>Medford, MA, USA</i> |
| 2007-2008 | Harvard University Humanitarian Studies Initiative Certificate Program | <i>Cambridge, MA, USA</i> |
| 1999-2005 | Brigham Young University Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Sociology | <i>Provo, UT, USA</i> |