

Refugee Week 2023

Sanctuary Workshops

Date: Thursday 22 June 2023

Time: 09:30-17:00

Venue: The Exchange, Bush House NE Wing, Strand Campus

Participants: King's staff & students

Outline

For Refugee Week 2023, the King's Sanctuary Team are running a day of in-person workshops on various topics related to the global issue of forced displacement and access to higher education for forcibly displaced students and academics. Participants will attend whole group sessions at the start and end of the day, and select from a list of workshops they would like to attend throughout the day.

Please see the table on page 2 for the full schedule and workshop options.

Objectives:

- Raise awareness and increase understanding of the global issue of forced displacement and access to higher education for forcibly displaced students and academics.
- Raise awareness and increase understanding of the King's Sanctuary Programme and how King's is responding to the global issue of forced displacement.
- Enhance the ability of students and staff to respond to the global issue of forced displacement and contribute to university initiatives.
- Identify ways we can make a direct impact by exploring how processes can be improved at King's to support individuals impacted by forced displacement.

Applying

Please apply to attend the Sanctuary Workshops via this Microsoft Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/RbFQasPB4v>

On this form you will be asked to rank the workshop you would prefer to attend. We will endeavor to allocate you to your preferred option.

- Applications close: **Friday 9 June**
- Successful applicants notified: **Tuesday 13 June**

As spaces are limited, applicants should hold 22 June (09:30-17:00) in their calendars and inform the Sanctuary Team as soon as possible if they are no longer able to attend so that their place can be offered to individuals on the waiting list.

Participants will ideally participate in the whole day but please indicate on the application form if you can only attend part of the Sanctuary Workshops.

Sanctuary Workshops – schedule and workshop information

| Time | Activity | Details |
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| 09:30-10:00 | <i>Arrival, registration and networking</i> | <i>Refreshments available</i> |
| 10:00-10:50 | <p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Plenary – Forced Displacement and Seeking Sanctuary</p> <p>Icebreaker</p> | <p>Welcome and introduction Dr Nicole Mennell, Sanctuary Programme Manager</p> <p>Plenary – Forced Displacement and Seeking Sanctuary Dr Leonie Ansems de Vries, Director of the Sanctuary Programme The plenary will explore: 1) The broader context of forced migration and borders. 2) Access to HE for forcibly displaced students and academics and what is needed to support them to thrive within and beyond the university environment. 3) The objectives of the Sanctuary Workshops.</p> <p>Icebreaker activity A chance for attendees to meet one another and share their interest in forced displacement.</p> |
| 10:50-11:00 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 11:00-13:00 | Workshops A | <p>1. Widening access to Higher Education for forced migrants This session will explore the barriers to higher education for forced migrants and how these barriers can be overcome to achieve the UNHCR’s target of increasing the number of forced migrants in higher education from 6% to 15% by 2030 (the #15by30 target). Participants will have the opportunity to think through possible solutions and interventions that will help make this target a reality.</p> <p>2. Communicating about forced displacement: Challenges and opportunities Forced displacement is a regular topic in the news and across social platforms but there are many issues with the language and images that are used when communicating about this sensitive topic. This session will explore some of the challenges that arise when communicating about forced displacement and how more empowering frameworks can be developed that center the many people from across the world who are impacted by this global issue.</p> |

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| | | <p>3. Enabling the career progression & employability of forced migrants This session will explore the barriers that forced migrants experience when it comes to accessing employment opportunities and progressing in their chosen careers. Participants will explore what support King's currently provides and how this can be improved to enable forced migrants to thrive beyond higher education and achieve their career goals.</p> |
| | | <p>4. Supporting at-risk academics This session will explore the challenges that academics with a background of forced migration face in continuing in their academic careers. Participants will have the opportunity to think through possible solutions and interventions to ensure at-risk academics can access opportunities and are supported to thrive both within and beyond the university community.</p> |
| <i>13:00-14:00</i> | <i>Lunch & networking</i> | <i>Lunch provided</i> |
| 14:00-16:00 | Workshops B | <p>1. Supporting forced migrants to thrive in Higher Education This session will explore the challenges students with a background of forced migration face when they enter higher education and the impact this has on their university experience and outcomes. Participants will have the opportunity to think through possible solutions and interventions to ensure students with a background of forced migration are supported to thrive during their time at university.</p> |
| | | <p>2. The impact of forced displacement on mental health and wellbeing This session will focus on the impact that forced displacement and the asylum process has on the mental health and wellbeing of forced migrants. Led by Dr Sohail Jannesari (Global Health Lecturer at Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Postdoctoral Researcher at King's), the session will also explore how universities can act as positive places of 'sanctuary' for forcibly displaced students and academics, while acknowledging the ways in which they can exasperate feelings of isolation and displacement. Through engaging with a poetry anthology written by people seeking sanctuary, participants will have the opportunity to explore how mental health outcomes can be improved for forced migrants by giving them the space to describe their mental health experiences and take control of the narrative. Participants will have the opportunity to write their own poetic responses.</p> |

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| | | <p>3. Co-creating research with forced migrants This interactive session will explore methods of co-creating research with forced migrants. Dr Leonie Ansems de Vries (Reader in International Politics, Director of the King's Sanctuary Programme and Chair of the Migration Research Group) and Dr Kate McMillan (Senior Lecturer in Creative Practice) will discuss their research and invite workshop participants to share and reflect on the value and challenges of participatory research methods.</p> |
| | | <p>4. Art expression workshop with award winning migrant artist Anna Virabyan Anna Virabyan, an award winning migrant artist, will lead an art expression workshop focused on the experiences of forced displacement. Anna will firstly share her approach and methods, as well as art-based projects she has undertaken with individuals impacted by forced displacement. After this, participants will be guided to explore the ongoing dialogue between Art and Self through the charcoal or watercolour medium, and be supported to use artistic patterns, shapes, values of tones, free flow techniques, depths, light and shades, and verbal and non-verbal communication to create meaningful art works. Find out more about Anna's work and previous projects with King's: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/award-winning-migrant-artist-donates-artwork-to-kings View Anna's art works: https://www.instagram.com/intuit.art/</p> |
| 16:00-16:10 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 16:10-17:00 | Whole group discussion & Interactive group activity | <p>Sanctuary at King's: Next steps The group will reflect as a whole on what they have learnt through the workshops and discuss actions that are needed to make change happen.</p> |
| 18:30-20:00 | Optional activity – Never at Sea: Performance | <p>Never at Sea: Performance Never at Sea is a creative intervention at the St Mary le Strand Church which explores the intersection between forced migration and climate change. The project explores the role of creativity in creating a safe space for empathy, imagination, interdisciplinary conversations and collaborations around often divisive issues. The project has been developed in collaboration with the Refugee Council, King's Sanctuary Programme and King's Culture, King's College London.</p> |

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| | | <p>The performance has been developed in collaboration with Composer Cat Hope and Choreographer Sivan Rubinstein with performances by percussionist Louise Devenish, vocalist Marcia Lemke-Kern and dancer Lydia Walker.</p> <p>Please note this performance is ticketed and places must be booked: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/events/never-at-sea-performance</p> |
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