

The School of Law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and expert contributors from academia and humanitarian practice, invites you to a webinar exploring contemporary issues and emerging challenges in refugee, migration, and humanitarian law.

THEME

Contemporary Challenges in Refugee, Humanitarian and Migration Law: Research Priorities for a Changing World



THURSDAY,
27 NOVEMBER 2025



11H00 – 12H30
(SAST)



PLATFORM:
ZOOM

[RSVP HERE](#)

This session will highlight critical areas where academic research can inform policy, strengthen protection systems, and contribute to more just and sustainable responses to displacement. Designed for students, researchers, and academics, the discussion aims to encourage the exploration of critical research gaps, and inspire scholarship that is socially relevant, globally engaged, and responsive to the pressing realities of human mobility and protection in the modern world.



MODERATOR

Dr Sheetal Soni (UKZN)

Dr Sheetal Soni is a Senior Lecturer and the Academic Leader for Research and Higher Degrees in the School of Law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her research spans international law, bioethics, and health law, examining how legal frameworks respond to global challenges such as reproductive justice, technology governance, and human rights in armed conflict. An admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa, she is an active voice in international dialogues on law, ethics, and global justice, and regularly collaborates with global networks addressing humanitarian and human rights issues.



PANELLISTS

Mr Shriyan Sahadew (UNHCR)

Mr Shriyan Sahadew is a Legal Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), where he supports programming with governments, judiciaries, parliaments, and academia across nine Southern African and Indian Ocean countries. He is currently pursuing a Master of Laws in International Law at the University of Johannesburg. His professional interests lie in the protection of displaced persons, international refugee law, and regional cooperation in humanitarian response.



Ms Manon Cagnard (Seefar Foundation)

Ms Manon Cagnard is the Global Programme Manager at the Seefar Foundation and a migration specialist with over a decade of experience in international organisations, NGOs, and the private sector. She has previously served with the United Nations in Yemen, Mali, Senegal, and Haiti. Ms Cagnard holds a Master's in Humanitarian Action from Aix-Marseille University, an Advanced Legal Degree from Aix-en-Provence, and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Caen in France. Her work focuses on mobility, protection, and humanitarian innovation in complex contexts.



Adv Vaughn Rossouw (ICRC)

Adv Vaughn Rossouw is an admitted Advocate of the High Court of South Africa and a Legal Advisor with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Central Tracing Agency. Based at the African Centre for Medicolegal Systems, he advises State authorities and forensic stakeholders on international and domestic legal frameworks concerning missing persons, their families, and the dignified management of the dead in armed conflict and other situations of violence. He holds an LLB and an LLM (cum laude) in Public International Law from the University of Pretoria, specialising in international humanitarian law and human rights in military operations. His research has been published in leading journals, including the International Review of the Red Cross and Forced Migration Review.



Dr Jean Kanamugire (NWU)

Dr Jean Kanamugire is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at North-West University, South Africa. His research focuses on refugee and migration law, international human rights, and the constitutional protection of displaced persons. His doctoral study provided a comprehensive analysis of law and state practice on refugee integration in South Africa, highlighting gaps between legal rights and lived realities. Dr Kanamugire's current work explores the implementation of international and regional refugee instruments, state obligations, and challenges facing asylum seekers in accessing fundamental rights such as housing, work, education, and healthcare.



Mr Phebe Mavungu Clément (Pan-African Parliament)

Mr Clement Mavungu is an international lawyer from the Democratic Republic of Congo and currently serves as Legal Counsel of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). He is an alumnus of the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa and has previously worked with several leading human rights organisations, including the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Africa), the Human Rights Institute of South Africa, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). His work focuses on the African human rights system, refugee and migration law, transitional justice, and judicial reform. He has published and presented widely on human rights and governance in Africa and has led advocacy and litigation before regional and international human rights bodies.