

Refugee Week Symposium
Asylum, Migration and Community - bridging research, advocacy and
activism through creative and socially engaged research

Wednesday 11th February 2026
10am-4pm, Aula Maxima UCC.

10.15am-10.30am: Welcome and opening: President of UCC, Professor John O'Halloran followed by Professor Maggie O'Neill, Director of ISS21 and Collective Social Futures, UCC.

10.30am-11.30am: 1st panel: **Care for asylum seekers: understanding how care is enacted, experienced and sustained in current societal contexts.**

- Chair: Professor Maggie O'Neill, Department of Sociology & Criminology.
- Dr Zana Vathi, Adjunct Professor, ISS21/Migration & Integration Research Cluster: *Care for asylum seekers and refugees and anti-immigration riots in the North West of England.*
- Responses from Dr Yasmine Ahmed and Dr Amin Sharifi Isaloo both from ISS21 Populism and the Rise of the Far Right Research Cluster to share research from Ireland.

11.30am-12.00pm: Coffee break

12.00pm - 1.00pm: 2nd panel: **Palestine transnational solidarity, research, advocacy and action.**

- Chair: Dr Angela Flynn, School of Nursing and Midwifery.
- Dr Munawwar Najim, [ACoRN](#) project. *Resilience in Crisis: The Role of Palestinian Women in Social Responsibility and Educational Leadership During the 2023–2025 War — An Autoethnographic Perspective.*
- Dr Kathy Glavanis-Grantham, Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign, UCC staff committee, Together4Palestine. *From Ramallah to Cork: Palestinian Solidarity Across Space and Time.*
- Tea Surina, Palestine solidarity activist (Croatia), Martino Zibetti, no-border activist and PhD student at UCC : *(Dis)connecting modes of violence and resistance in Croatia and the Balkans --- border abolition, anti-fascism, and Palestine solidarity.*

1.00pm-1.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm-2.00pm: Performance by African Queens.

2.00pm - 3.00pm: 3rd panel: **Bridging research and activism with women seeking asylum through creative and socially engaged methods.**

- Chair: Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan, School of Applied Social Studies, UCC.
- Dr Bahriye Kemal, School of English and Digital Humanities, UCC : *Women Writing Syria*
- Dr Angela Veale, School of Applied Psychology, UCC and Dr Naomi Masheti, Cork Migrant Centre: *Forum Theatre as 'Artivism' with Immigrant Mothers-Bridging parents, practitioners and policy makers*
- Apalang Ater, MSc student in Sustainable Development, Agri-food and Co-operatives at University College Cork, and an Education Pathways Ireland Scholar: *Stakeholder engagement and storytelling at Kandaakiat Organization for Women Empowerment and Development- Uganda.*
- An interactive exercise in this session will be facilitated by Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan.

3.00pm - 4.00pm: 4th panel Educational Settings as Places of Inclusion for Refugee Children and Young People.

- Chair: Michaela Alfred-Kamara
- Dr Shirley Martin, School of Applied Social Studies, UCC: *The Role of Schools in Supporting Refugee Children's Friendships*.
- Aine Lyne, The Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Integration Project (EDNIP) Limerick.
- Dr Gemma Irvine, Vice President Equality and Diversity, Maynooth University.
- Discussion facilitated by Michaela Alfred-Kamara, Cork Educate Together Secondary School.