



Social entrepreneur wins the Les Murray Award

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- Oanh Thi Tran: From Vietnamese refugee to Fair Work Commissioner
- Ukraine enters a third year of full-scale war
- Delivering life-saving aid in silent emergencies
- Empowering refugees through higher education

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE

Elina with her son, Mykyta, at their temporary accommodation in Dnipro, Ukraine. <

Sending warmth to refugees in winter

“It was a miracle. We did not expect to receive this assistance. Now I feel more confident in the future. I understand that we will manage to pay the bills and we will stay warm.”

Winter poses significant challenges for refugees, who often flee with the little they can carry. With your support, UNHCR provided shelter, warmth and protection for thousands of families facing harsh weather in the Northern Hemisphere.

The people of Ukraine endured freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall this winter. Many were sheltering in chilly dormitories or badly damaged homes. UNHCR provided more than 600,000 people with cash assistance and reached almost 250,000 people with winter relief items such as heaters, blankets and warm clothing.

When the full-scale invasion began, Elina fled her home in Donetsk with her son and her elderly mother.

“The previous winter was terrible,” said Elina. “Blackouts, cold and greyness. We got ill several times. I had two jobs to feed my family and when my son asked for a toy or a sweet, I could not do this as I knew I had to pay my bills.”

Thanks to generous donors, Elina received cash assistance to help cover her family’s winter needs, including food, medicine and utilities.

“It was a miracle. We did not expect to receive this assistance. Now I feel more confident in the future. I understand that we will manage to pay the bills and we will stay warm.”

UNHCR also provided winter assistance to vulnerable Syrians who have endured more than 12 years of war. Khalid and Abeer fled Syria in 2016 and now live in Azraq refugee camp in Jordan. This winter, their shelter caught fire and all their belongings were destroyed. Thankfully, the family was able to move into a new shelter and received mattresses, blankets and a gas cylinder from UNHCR.

Your donations also reached extremely vulnerable families in Afghanistan. This included Afghans forced to return home from Pakistan in October 2023, and communities affected by a series of devastating earthquakes that struck Herat province that same month. ■

YOUR WINTER DONATIONS HELPED UNHCR REACH:



900,000 people in Ukraine with shelter repairs, cash, heaters and other winter supplies



101,000 people in Afghanistan with relief items such as blankets and stoves



30,000 families in Syria with winter supplies such as tarpaulins, sleeping bags and winter jackets

Sudanese newlyweds
Mussa, 25, and
Jamila, 22, at
Sherkole refugee
camp, Ethiopia.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE

Keeping hope alive in silent emergencies

Millions of people are trapped in humanitarian emergencies that don't receive the attention they deserve. With your support, UNHCR is providing aid in crises that have fallen from the headlines – including Sudan's terrifying armed conflict.

Eight million people have been displaced since fighting broke out in Sudan a year ago. Among the displaced are young newlyweds Mussa and Jamila.

The couple had been planning a joyful wedding when violence erupted in Khartoum. They married hastily and then fled to Ethiopia, leaving everything behind.

"The war was spreading," said Mussa. "That is why we fled – to save our lives. I was worried about my wife and myself. The fear of being there in that situation with your wife or children, it's disturbing."

Thanks to you, UNHCR is providing Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and other host countries with shelter and relief items, such as tents, blankets and soap. Inside Sudan, UNHCR is providing emergency supplies, assisting children who've been separated from their families,

and delivering medical supplies to struggling clinics.

Meanwhile, people in Yemen and Bangladesh are trapped in long-term crises, with no end to their suffering in sight. With support from generous donors, UNHCR is providing cash assistance, healthcare and legal aid to Yemenis devastated by a decade of conflict. In Bangladesh, UNHCR's dedicated teams are reaching vulnerable Rohingya families with therapeutic food, mental health support and vocational training.

Despite the challenges they face, Mussa and Jamila are determined to build a new life together. With his savings, Mussa opened a small shop selling food and sandals in Sherkole camp in Ethiopia.

"For me, if I have money, I feel free," he said. "I feel I have solutions to my problems. I encourage refugees to start their own businesses."

At home, Jamila has decorated the walls of their room with large hearts that stand out against the dark clay.

"The painting reminds me of the love I have for my husband," she said. "I am happy to be with the person I love and we wish for a bright future for our children." ■

» WITH YOUR SUPPORT, UNHCR IS PROVIDING:



SHELTER: Setting up camps, repairing shelters, providing tents and distributing mosquito nets



AID ITEMS: Providing supplies such as sleeping mats, blankets, cooking utensils, soap and buckets



CASH: Helping people cover everyday essentials such as rent, food, clothing and medicine



LIVELIHOODS: Supporting vocational training and small businesses

Activist fights pollution in the world's largest refugee camp

MOHAMMED ANOWER, 18, IS A ROHINGYA REFUGEE SPEAKING UP ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH.

> Mohammed Anower, 18, is fighting pollution and training young climate activists.



© UNHCR/Susan Hopper

Mohammed was just 12 when he fled Myanmar in 2017. Since then, around 24 square kilometres of forest in Bangladesh have been cleared to provide camps for persecuted Rohingya. These camps are hot, crowded and vulnerable to intense storms and flooding.

When Mohammed heard about a UNHCR initiative to establish Youth Environment Teams in each of the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar, he seized the opportunity to make a difference.

"We cannot leave this place, but the environment is very dirty, so we have to change it," he said.

Each team was taught about pollution and climate change, and how to

design projects to address these challenges.

Mohammed and his team knew straight away which problem they would tackle first. The stream that ran past Mohammed's shelter was clogged with waste. When the monsoon rains fell, the stream often burst its banks.

"The first thing we saw when we came out of our shelters was the filth in the stream," said Mohammed. "We could not even breathe clean air because of the smell."

With a small grant of \$200, Mohammed and his team widened the stream, increasing its capacity to handle flood water. They removed

waste and planted trees along its banks. The result is a cleaner and healthier environment, with reduced flooding and landslides, and more public space. Solar streetlights have created a much safer thoroughfare along the river banks.

Mohammed has since proven to be an enthusiastic and eloquent advocate for climate justice and is now helping to train other youth teams.

"Before, I enjoyed nature, but I had no idea about how to take care of the environment," he said. "It's essential for refugees to come together on climate issues. We all have to work collectively to mitigate the impact of climate change." ■

Oanh Thi Tran's journey from refugee to Fair Work Commissioner



^ Oanh's Australian visa. Image: Supplied.

∟ Next page, top right: Oanh (in a pink dress) with family and friends in a UNHCR refugee camp in Malaysia. Image: Supplied.



Forty years ago, Oanh Thi Tran was hidden inside the hold of her father's fishing boat as the family fled Vietnam, setting sail across the high seas towards an unknown future.

Today, she sits proudly at the bench of the Fair Work Commission as the country's first female Commissioner from a refugee background.

"It is of course the pinnacle of a career in industrial relations, in employment law, and it is an absolute privilege to have got here," Oanh said.

Part of Oanh's role with Australia's workplace tribunal involves finding resolutions to disputes.

"I would like to think that someone who looks like me gives the Australian public the confidence that the institution will give them those opportunities to make their case. I try to ensure that everyone who comes before me feels that they are heard."

Oanh and her family were among hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people who fled by boat after Communist forces took over the country at the end of the Vietnam War. At the time, the government had closed the borders and was stopping people from leaving the country.

Despite the risk of leaving, Oanh's father – a seasoned fisherman – set sail for Malaysia in search of safety and freedom for his family. "[My father] made sure the boat looked just like a fishing boat in case the Vietnamese government or authorities found [us]."

They were attacked by pirates along the way but escaped unscathed, arriving safely in Malaysia. For 12 months, they lived in a UNHCR refugee camp before the agency helped them resettle in Brisbane in 1983. The Tran family eventually rented a small house in the city's West End.

The largely migrant and refugee community was welcoming, but Oanh's parents found it hard to secure jobs. Her mother worked in a canning factory, but struggled



I cared about making sure that people were able to work safely and that their work was properly valued. I cared about social justice."

with English and finding care for Oanh, who did not want to leave her side. Her father continued to fish and was away at sea for months. He developed pneumonia and couldn't continue his work.

Left with few other options, the family started sewing in their garage at home to survive. Oanh remembers working on mountains of shirts as an eight-year-old girl, using her small fingers to thread sewing machines. An employer would often wake the family in the middle of the night with an order to sew hundreds of T-shirts within a day or two.

"I would go to school having not slept the night before because we had this order arrive, but I would never talk about it because of this fear," Oanh said. "My family always had a fear... that if we did anything wrong, we would be sent back. So, we were told to be very obedient."

In those early years, Oanh grew to understand the struggles migrants,

refugees and low-paid workers faced in Australia. "I cared about making sure that people were able to work safely and that their work was properly valued. I cared about social justice."

Her passion and empathy led her to study law at the University of Queensland. Oanh's first job after law school was associate to Supreme Court Justice Roslyn Atkinson who described Oanh as one of the best associates she had ever had.

Oanh later worked as a lawyer in firms that dealt with workers' rights before joining the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia. After a distinguished career in industrial relations, she was sworn in as a commissioner before a packed courtroom at the Fair Work Commission in Melbourne in 2023.

Many years have passed since Oanh was holed up in a boat escaping Vietnam, but she does not want to forget her refugee past. For a long time, Oanh and her family called themselves migrants, not refugees. Amid negative news and political rhetoric around people who arrived by boat in search of safety, there was a sense of shame.

"It's important for me to say: look I am a refugee and I'm contributing to Australian society. And so are all my brothers and sisters. They're all incredibly successful. They're happy, they're safe. And this is all any other refugee wants." ■

Social entrepreneur wins Les Murray Award



Hedayat Osyan is the winner of the 2024 Australia for UNHCR – SBS Les Murray Award for Refugee Recognition. Through his social enterprise, CommUnity Construction, Hedayat trains and employs refugees in construction, empowering them to become self-sufficient.

The Les Murray Award is given to an outstanding individual from a refugee background who is raising awareness of the plight of displaced people, and is named after beloved SBS sports commentator and Hungarian refugee, Les Murray AM.

Here, Hedayat shares his story in his own words.

I am from the Hazara community in Afghanistan. We are the most persecuted group in Afghanistan because of our faith, language, ethnicity and religion. In 2006 my father, who was a high school teacher, was arrested by the Taliban and disappeared. In 2009, when the Taliban attacked my village in Ghazni, my mum told me I had to leave because this time they would take me as well. I left my mum and two younger siblings and fled Afghanistan. I was 17.

I travelled from Kabul to Dubai, then from Dubai to Malaysia, then from Malaysia to Indonesia. Eventually I made it to Australia. It was a very tough journey. In February 2010, I received my residency and moved to Sydney. I started English classes at Marsden High School's Intensive English Centre in West Ryde and then went on to Year 11 and 12. The teachers were very supportive, but I had to work hard to catch up. I was also very traumatised.

My father believed that we can change the world through education. I followed his advice. I went to Canberra to study politics and international relations. I finished my Bachelor's degree and then I got a scholarship to do an Honours degree in art and design. I was flying. Six years before, I'd been in a country that didn't give me a chance to go to high school, let alone university.

I also worked part-time with other migrant and refugee organisations. A lot of my fellow refugees were struggling to find jobs. At that time, 64 per cent of refugees were unemployed in their first 10 years in Australia. Even now, 50 per cent of refugees are not in the workforce. This was shocking to me – how could this happen in Australia? I decided I had to do something.

Other refugees were asking me: how can we work safely, contribute to society, support our families? I did some research. There is a huge shortage of housing in every



city because of a lack of labour. On the other hand, thousands of refugees are desperately looking for a job. I decided to start a social enterprise to help refugees transition into construction. Many refugees don't have the resources, English or educational background to go to university. But some have previous experience in construction and they can transition into this industry easily.

At CommUnity we have trained 90 people, and around 60 have been employed in construction. Four of them have set up their own companies and are very successful. It's a very unique approach. We don't receive any funding from the government. We are a grassroots organisation, established by refugees, for refugees.

Last year, one of my teachers from Marsden High School contacted me and said they had a group of orphans from Afghanistan who were very traumatised and struggling to settle in. I knew what that was like.

I worked with them twice a week over three terms. They all transitioned into high school and I helped some of them find part-time work. They call me 'teacher' and I am so happy and proud that I made a huge impact on their lives.

I also began working with a group of young refugees who had recently come to Australia and were struggling mentally. They asked for my help to find somewhere to play soccer. I secured a grant so they have a place to play every week as well as uniforms. They've now been playing regularly for 10 months. They have a sense of belonging. All of them are attending English classes and working. They go fishing together. This kind of work gives me lots of energy.

Winning the Les Murray Award was the most exciting and happy moment. I really admire Les Murray's work in Australia. As a former refugee, he made a huge contribution to Australian media and to other

“Social enterprises like mine make a huge contribution to society. We help refugees thrive and become independent.”

refugees. Being selected for the award is a huge achievement for me.

Social enterprises like mine make a huge contribution to society. We help refugees thrive and become independent. We want to prove refugees are resilient, hard workers and bring new skills to society if you give them opportunity.

Hedayat Osyan will appear at our World Refugee Day lunch on Thursday 20 June. Visit unrefugees.org.au/events to find out more.

In the community



▲ Young refugee leaders attend a session on responsibility-sharing at the Global Refugee Forum.

» YOUR VOICE MADE A DIFFERENCE AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

Last year, over one million people signed a UNHCR petition calling on world leaders to uphold the rights of people fleeing war, violence and persecution.

UNHCR took your message to the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, where decision-makers from around the world gathered to address the urgent challenges displaced people are facing.

The forum concluded with \$3.3 billion in financial commitments and over 1,600 pledges from governments, the private sector and other organisations to improve refugee lives and support host communities.

The Australian Government made 23 pledges on matters including resettlement, education, mental health and immigration detention. Australia also committed \$265 million in funding, including \$235 million to support displaced Rohingya and vulnerable communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, celebrated the display of unity at the forum and thanked refugee delegates for their contributions.

The commitments offer hope to the 114 million people who are forcibly displaced around the world. Now, the focus shifts to turning pledges into action.

“We do need hope. But the one thing we need more than hope is action,” said Evode Hakizimana, a Burundian refugee living in Zimbabwe. ■

» IFTAR EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR CLEAN WATER IN AFGHANISTAN

In March, Australia for UNHCR hosted its third annual iftar dinner, raising \$50,000 to provide Afghan families with clean water.

The dinner, hosted by Afghan-Australian lawyer and designer Anjilla Seddeqi, was a special night of reflection and learning during the holy month of Ramadan.

Guests heard from Fatima Yousufi, captain of the Afghan Women’s National Football Team. Fatima and her team fled Afghanistan in 2021 and found refuge in Australia. Since then, Fatima has used her platform to advocate for the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and for the participation of her exiled team in international competitions.

While her journey has not been easy, she is grateful for the power of sport to heal, unite and inspire hope.

“Playing soccer is magical for me,” she said. “It heals the wounds of war and personal trauma. Especially when I’m on the field, I feel safe.”

Guests also heard from Farah Atahee, who worked as a judge in Afghanistan for nearly a decade, overseeing the trials of high-ranking members of the Taliban. Farah fled her homeland with more than a dozen other female judges and is now working to rebuild her legal career in Australia. ■



▲ Australia for UNHCR Ambassador Zaheda Ghani (right) interviews Farah Atahee (left) and Fatima Yousufi.

» ROHINGYA REFUGEE TURNS BODYBUILDING DREAM INTO REALITY

Growing up in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, Noor Kabir was inspired by the movie *Rocky*. Now, he is the world's first Rohingya bodybuilding champion, encouraging others to pursue their dreams.

Noor was born in Cox's Bazar, which hosts almost one million Rohingya refugees. The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim minority that started fleeing Myanmar in the 1970s.

"As a Rohingya, you have no nationality," said Noor. "You feel like nobody."

When he was 11, Noor saw a movie about a struggling fighter who overcomes the odds to become the world heavyweight boxing champion. "In the camp, there was no future. Rocky gave me motivation," he said.

At 16, Noor arrived in Australia after a dangerous journey at sea. He was unable to read, write or speak English. Despite the challenges of moving to a different country, he held on to his dream of becoming a top athlete just like Rocky.

Noor worked odd jobs, joined a local gym and sought help from a bodybuilding coach. With dedication and hard work, Noor won first place at a bodybuilding competition in 2021.

"That was one of the best feelings I've had in all my life," he said.

Noor's next dream is to compete on the international stage.

"I want to inspire my people, and others who are growing up with hardships, to not give up." ■



» RAISING AWARENESS DURING RAMADAN

This Ramadan, millions of refugees were forced to observe their faith in extreme hardship. To raise awareness of their plight, Australia for UNHCR ran a stall at Auburn Central in Sydney. The stall provided information about UNHCR's work with vulnerable refugee families in countries such as Yemen, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

Generous Auburn locals chose to donate their Zakat to assist vulnerable families. Zakat is an obligatory payment Muslims are required to make as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. In accordance with Islamic principles, UNHCR distributes 100 per cent of Zakat donations to families in need, either as cash or in the form of relief items such as tents and blankets. ■



» GOODWILL AMBASSADOR NEIL GAIMAN VISITS SYDNEY

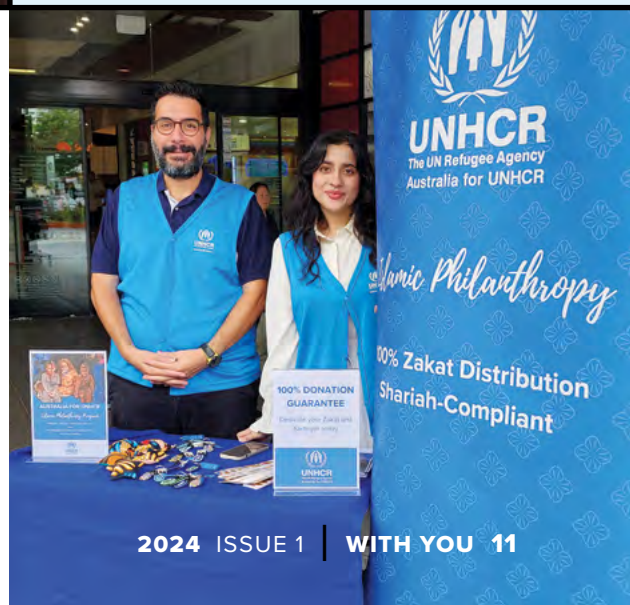
Neil Gaiman, acclaimed author and UNHCR Global Goodwill Ambassador, visited Sydney in January to perform at the Sydney Opera House. On his visit, he also signed copies of his book, *What You Need to be Warm*, to raise awareness for refugees facing freezing conditions in parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

What You Need to be Warm was released in October 2023 to critical acclaim and made the New York Times' top 10 list for children's illustrated books. It explores the fundamental right to feel secure, regardless of who you are or where you come from.

The poem – accompanied by artwork from 13 illustrators – was inspired by 25,000 words Mr Gaiman crowdsourced from his Twitter followers, who reflected on their memories of warmth.

"I wrote [the book] to remind people that when it gets cold, as it is right now in a lot of other countries, refugees need support," said Mr Gaiman. "The sale of every copy will support the vital work of UNHCR."

You can order *What You Need to be Warm* from your local bookstore. ■



Yana leads with courage in war-torn Ukraine

WHEN WAR FIRST BROKE OUT IN EASTERN UKRAINE IN 2014, YANA LIUBYMOVA HAD TO FLEE HER HOME AND START OVER AGAIN.

“The person that I was before 2014 no longer exists,” she said. “They took everything from me.”

Yana worked hard to rebuild her life. She started a successful business and co-founded a local organisation helping displaced people integrate into new communities. She also became head of the new Council for Internally Displaced People (IDP Council), acting as a liaison with authorities in Luhansk.

But when Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, she was displaced yet again.

Hours before her town came under Russian occupation, Yana packed some documents and fled west with her dog. They spent days travelling across the country, eventually finding temporary shelter in Ivano-Frankivsk in western Ukraine.

“It feels like you are moving in a tunnel and, at a certain point, can barely control what is happening,” Yana said.

“I had a very strong sense of *déjà vu* when everyone needed food, a place to sleep, safe shelter and a place to wash. We already saw this in 2014, only this time, it was not about one or two regions. The war reached every corner of Ukraine, leaving no family untouched.”

During the first month of the full-scale invasion, over 10 million people

were forced to flee. Two years later, Ukrainians are still living in terror. Around 40 per cent of the population needs humanitarian assistance, especially in frontline areas devastated by intense fighting.

With no end to the war in sight, Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, has appealed for more international aid for Ukraine.

“The fighting has escalated and the humanitarian situation in the country is dramatic and urgent. Ukrainian resilience remains strong and inspiring. But their fortitude cannot be taken for granted and the international community must step up and help – and must do so now.”

Yana remained committed to helping others, even after being displaced a second time. She continued her work as head of the IDP Council for Luhansk, helping people find accommodation and support, and moved to Kyiv to work at the Ombudsperson’s Office.

She has held on to one guiding principle over the years.

“Do not put life on pause,” she said. “Would I do anything differently if I knew I would lose my home twice? No. I would try to help even more. In those moments when it feels as if I cannot do it anymore, I think of people who are not able to help themselves. I choose to be responsible for them. And I cannot afford to stop.” ■


Yana Liubymova, 41, draws on her own experience of displacement to support others fleeing the war.



UNHCR aims to reach 2.7 million people with aid this year. Visit unrefugees.org.au/ukraine to find out more about how you can make a difference.



SCAN ME



“When it feels as if I cannot do it anymore, I think of people who are not able to help themselves. I choose to be responsible for them. And I cannot afford to stop.”

SITUATION SNAPSHOT

- » **40% of people** in Ukraine need humanitarian aid
- » **6.4 million Ukrainians** are refugees
- » **3.7 million people** are internally displaced
- » **80% of refugees** have at least one **urgent, unmet need** such as food or healthcare
- » **50% of refugee children** aren't enrolled in school in host countries

HOW UNHCR IS HELPING



Providing cash assistance so vulnerable families can afford food, medicine, clothing, accommodation and bills



Sending relief items such as blankets, solar lamps and hygiene kits to frontline areas



Repairing damaged homes and refurbishing accommodation centres



Helping refugees access work, education and healthcare in host countries

Dr Nilab Akhmad: My journey as a double refugee

With your support, UNHCR's Aiming Higher program is providing scholarships that empower refugees to access higher education, reach their potential and give back to their communities. Thanks to you, ambitious refugees like Nilab are earning degrees and building better futures.

Nilab Akhmad fled Afghanistan as a girl and found safety in Ukraine with her family. But when the war began, she was displaced yet again – interrupting her dream of becoming a dentist. Here, she shares her story in her own words.

“

They say that lightning doesn't strike twice. Well, it did for me and my family.”

They say that lightning doesn't strike twice. Well, it did for me and my family. After leaving Afghanistan, we arrived in Ukraine. With me, I took my dream of becoming a great dentist because I had seen in Afghanistan how women and girls were blocked from seeing male dentists.

Initially, I feared that my background would be a barrier to continuing my education, not to mention the language barrier. Yet in Ukraine I found a community that embraced diversity with open arms, making me feel warm and accepted. The people of Ukraine soon dispelled my worries about being a refugee in their country.

After some years in Ukraine, I was feeling settled and succeeded in continuing my education. However, I still faced one major hurdle: none of the tertiary educational institutions I wanted to study at provided financial support specifically for refugee students. Undeterred, I secured admission to the dental faculty at a private university in Odesa and was fortunate that my father was able to find a way to pay my fees.

With the unwavering support of my family and a lot of hard studying, I completed the first two years of university and then applied for a UNHCR scholarship. Thankfully, my diligent studies and excellent exam scores meant I was granted the scholarship, which enabled me to finish the course. I will always remember the moment when I heard the happy news about the scholarship!

But when the full-scale war began, hostilities compelled us to move onwards once again, to seek safety in

another country, this time Germany. I became a 'double refugee'. At that time, I was in the final semester of my Master's degree and, once again, life was full of unbearable uncertainty, complications and doubts. Would Germany be as welcoming as Ukraine? Would I be able to learn another new language and adapt to another new culture? I wanted to start my PhD, but at the same time I was struggling even to find an apartment.

At that moment, I thought back to my idol – Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani student who suffered so much for her right to receive an education, and who has done so much for female education. Every time I read about her courage, it gave me courage of my own to forge ahead. I have stood strong and today I am embarking on a PhD in therapeutic dentistry to become the best I can be.

I haven't forgotten those who were left behind, like my friend Sarah, who recently finished school and wanted to go to university until the de facto authorities forbade women from doing so. Kabul fell one day before she was due to take her final exam, and Sarah's ambitions of becoming a politician were cut short along with her education.

My journey has been marked by a multitude of challenges – cultural, educational, financial, religious and linguistic. Yet I believe I am living testament to the indomitable spirit of refugees. I want to be a voice for those who I can't help directly. I want to encourage them, and other women and girls, to embrace their aspirations, to surmount the challenges, to nurture an unyielding spirit of determination.

I hope powerful and influential people read my story and my message and are inspired to help women and girls across the world to achieve their potential as I have done. ■

You can help more refugees like Nilab access higher education and reach their potential. To find out more about Aiming Higher, please contact Aylin Salt on (02) 9276 6871 or email ASalt@unrefugees.org.au.



GIFTS IN WILLS

Why Fiona chose to leave a transformational gift in her Will for refugees

Dr Fiona Wallace made the generous decision to continue caring for refugees beyond her own lifetime. We talk to Fiona about how leaving a gift to Australia for UNHCR in her Will can help refugees in the future.

Can you tell us a bit more about yourself?

I'm a doctor in rural Tasmania, specialising in emergency medicine and general practice. I am transitioning to looking after residents in aged care facilities in my region to provide them with consistent and quality care. Outside of work, I enjoy making ceramics and fostering cats from the shelter.

What inspired you to leave a gift in your Will?

The things that define your chances in life more than anything else are your health and education opportunities in childhood. From immunisation to literacy, setting up

a child for their best life is the most important thing we can do for society. I want to make sure that any extra money I have earned in my lifetime goes where it can make a difference.

How did you write your Will and include a gift to refugees?

It is important to have a Will and the free online platform offered by Gathered Here made it very easy. My estate affairs are not complex, so I didn't need to see a solicitor and pay an expensive fee. I went to the Gathered Here website and followed their steps. It was simple and quick, and the benefits of leaving a gift to a charity like UNHCR are huge. ■

How do you want to be remembered? Visit wills.gatheredhere.com.au to write your free Will today or contact our Planned Giving Manager, Aylin Salt, on (02) 9276 6871, or email ASalt@unrefugees.org.au, for a confidential discussion about how to ensure your values live on.



Congolese refugee Kashindi, 14, dreams of becoming a teacher.

Empowering refugee children through education

More than half of all refugee children are not enrolled in school. That's seven million children missing out on the life-changing power of education.

By leaving a gift in their Will, generous people like Fiona are helping refugee children access quality education. These gifts can support UNHCR's Primary Impact program, which aims to provide 120,000 out-of-school children in 16 countries with access to primary education, empowering refugees like Kashindi to build a brighter future.

Kashindi fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo with her family and is now living and studying in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

"I love school. I learned to speak English and understand mathematics and science, my favourite subject," she said.

Education has helped Kashindi find a sense of purpose. She dreams of becoming a teacher so she can help other refugee students, just like her teachers have helped her. ■



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS AND LOYAL SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING AUSTRALIA FOR UNHCR'S LIFE-CHANGING WORK POSSIBLE.

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