

# Refugees, Migrants, Human Trafficking, and Slavery

Thursday, April 14, 2016 · University at Buffalo

## PROGRAM

9:00 Registration and Welcoming Remarks

9:30 **From the Middle East and Africa to Europe**

**Moderator: Prof. Claude Welch**, UB Department of Political Science

### **“Drivers of Displacement: How War, Repression, Terror and Neglect Led to Europe's Refugee Catastrophe”**

**Joe Stork**, Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa, Human Rights Watch

This presentation will sketch out the origins of the 2015-16 refugee crisis in Europe in the wars, military interventions, and state repression that tore apart Iraq, Syria and Libya over the past dozen years. I will recall the now-forgotten and eclipsed refugee crisis engendered by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the emergence of Islamic State (ISIS) and its predecessors in the civil strife that followed. This will include a brief review of the responses of the international community to that refugee crisis and the patterns of continued displacement from that period. I will then outline how the unsettled Iraq situation intersected with the uprising and then civil war in Syria, the country that has been the main source of refugees seeking protection in Europe. I will argue that part of the responsibility for the movement of millions of Syrians and Iraqis to Europe in 2015 lies with the international response, or lack of response, to that massive displacement when it was largely confined within those countries' borders or the neighboring states of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

### **“Understanding Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe: Might Efforts to Stem the Flow Work?”**

**Karen Jacobsen**, Acting Director, Feinstein International Center, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, and Associate Research Professor, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University

Based on recent research on Sahel migration, this presentation outlines the routes, motivations and experiences of Sub-Saharan African refugees and migrants traveling through the Sahel, en route to and returning from Europe. We consider the migration consequences of recent policy responses on the part of Europe and the U.S., including increased securitization as jihadist groups such as Boko Haram emerge in the Sahel, and increased border controls. Migration is a longstanding tradition in Africa. Does it make sense to try to prevent migration? The presentation considers whether prevention is likely or even possible, and what might work to address the dangers and inhumanity of migration.

### **“Refugees Welcome? How Europe's Incoherent Policy, Scapegoating, and Exploitation of Terrorism Have Failed Refugees”**

**Julia Hall**, Amnesty International's expert on criminal justice, counter-terrorism and human rights in Europe and Central Asia

Many European governments have justified their refusal to provide refugees and migrants with safety and longer-term international protection by invoking not only the costs, but the alleged threat of terrorism, and the cultural and social "imbalance" that might occur if large numbers of foreigners are resettled in their countries. The EU as a block and those in its neighborhood (e.g. Macedonia), and many individual European states, have denied protection to those fleeing from violence by failing to develop a coherent plan to save and resettle those who arrive by sea; pushbacks at land borders, including by the use of violence and in some cases, the erection of fences; and by procedural obstacles to submitting applications for asylum and other forms of protection. Refugee women and children have been particularly adversely affected by

*Continued over*

## PROGRAM (continued)

*Julia Hall, Refugees Welcome? continued*

Europe's failure to act. But even for those who do gain access to Europe, what often awaits is a general climate of fear and hostility (despite many well-meaning people who volunteer to offer assistance to refugees). Thus, even if admitted and granted asylum or refugee status, refugees are often far from welcome and safe. This presentation will focus on what awaits refugees and migrants as they attempt to gain access to Europe and how they are treated once they "arrive".

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 **Within Africa and From Africa to North America**  
**Moderator: Prof. Ndubueze Mbah**, UB Department of History

### **“Fighting Slavery from the Grassroots Up”**

**Karen Stauss**, Director of Programs, Free the Slaves

Free the Slaves has worked to combat modern forms of slavery in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana and Uganda, among other places in the global south. Communities and individuals who are affected by slavery have the greatest potential to sustain efforts to end it, but they are hindered by lack of effective governance and criminal law enforcement, inability to access protective services, lack of information about their human rights, and – critically – a lack of organizing for political power. Free the Slaves’ model is designed to address these challenges in collaboration with community-based NGOs, unleashing latent community power and activating stronger government responses to ensure freedom for all. Karen Stauss will describe this process, the results so far, and the challenges that remain.

### **“From Cameroon to the U.S. and From Slavery to Freedom”**

**Evelyn Chumbow**, Survivor of and Activist against Human Trafficking

Evelyn Chumbow will describe her work as an advocate to raise awareness about slavery in the United States and to help other survivors.

### **“Human Trafficking Services: From Crisis to Stability”**

**Amy Fleischauer**, Director, Survivor Support Services, International Institute of Buffalo

Amy Fleischauer will focus on the realities of human trafficking in Western New York and will outline the current local system response to this crime. Particular attention will be paid to the myriad of services offered to survivors of human trafficking in our area, and the evolving best practices in this arena.

3:30 **Wrap-Up General Discussion**

4:00 **Closing**

Sponsored by the Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Committee, University at Buffalo Asian Studies Program, Community for Global Health Equity, Departments of Comparative Literature, History and Political Science, Humanities Institute, Department of Philosophy Samuel P. Capen Chair, and Office of the Vice Provost for International Education. Co-sponsored by the University at Buffalo School of Social Work.

This symposium honors the life and work of human rights advocate Alison Des Forges.

For more information, please email Roger Des Forges at [rvd@buffalo.edu](mailto:rvd@buffalo.edu), Ellen Dussourd at [dussourd@buffalo.edu](mailto:dussourd@buffalo.edu), or Shaun Irlam at [irlam@buffalo.edu](mailto:irlam@buffalo.edu)



# Refugees, Migrants, Human Trafficking, and Slavery

Thursday, April 14, 2016 · University at Buffalo

## SPEAKERS



**Joe Stork**, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division, is a general expert on human rights issues in the region. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1996, Stork co-founded the Middle East Research & Information Project (MERIP) and served as chief editor of *Middle East Report*, its bimonthly magazine. Author of numerous books and widely published articles on the Middle East, he has lectured widely at universities and public forums around the world. Stork served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey and holds an M.A. in International Affairs/Middle East Studies from Columbia University.



**Karen Jacobsen** is Acting Director, Feinstein International Center, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, and Associate Research Professor, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, where she also directs the Refugees and Forced Migration Program. She has taught and conducted research in the field of forced migration for twenty years, and consults and writes widely on this topic. She is particularly interested in the livelihoods of refugees and other displaced people, and the ways in which they regain their dignity and financial independence, and her book addresses this issue. From 2013-14, she headed the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) in Geneva, on leave of absence from Tufts. From 2000-2005, she directed the Alchemy Project, which explored the use of microfinance as a

way to support people in refugee camps and other displacement settings. Her current research focuses on urban displacement and information gathering in conflict-affected settings. She is South African by birth and travels there frequently. She received her B.A. from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and her PhD in Political Science from MIT.



**Julia Hall** is a human rights lawyer and Amnesty International's expert on criminal justice, counter-terrorism and human rights in Europe and Central Asia. She works for Amnesty's international secretariat in London, England. Her work has focused largely on accountability for human rights violations in countries with a history of political violence; asylum and migration; and on violations committed by countries around the world in the context of the global "war on terrorism," including torture and enforced disappearance. She is an expert on national security-related issues, including states of emergency.

Previously, Ms. Hall was senior legal counsel in the Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Program at Human Rights Watch, where she worked from 1996-2009. At HRW, she covered the conflicts in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and researched migration and asylum issues in the European Union. After September 11, 2001, she covered counter-terrorism operations by the U.S. and in Europe, including the military commissions and resettlement of Guantanamo Bay detainees. In July 2008, she monitored the military commission of Salim Hamdan, Osama bin Laden's former driver, at Guantanamo Bay.

Ms. Hall currently lives in Buffalo, New York, with her husband Patrick Mahoney and two children, Liam and Kate, both of whom attend City Honors School. Ms. Hall telecommutes to her London office daily, and has travelled widely throughout the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Australia, Europe, and Central Asia.



**Karen Stauss** is the Director of Programs for Free the Slaves, an international anti-slavery organization dedicated to combating the systems that allow slavery to persist around the world. She is responsible for overseeing the organization's policy advocacy work and its partnerships with community-based organizations in five countries. She has served as adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University Law Center and the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs. Previously, Karen was Managing Attorney and Policy Counsel at Polaris Project, a national organization dedicated to combating human trafficking in the United States, where she was involved in drafting and advocacy for federal and state anti-trafficking laws. She also provided legal representation to survivors of modern slavery.

Before joining Polaris Project, Karen opened the Human Rights Watch field office in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where she spent two and a half years. She was supervised throughout that period by Alison Des Forges. Her work there included investigating war crimes and other human rights abuses in the DRC, conducting advocacy, and strengthening the network of Congolese human rights groups. She holds a law degree from Columbia Law School.



**Amy Fleischauer** is the Director of Survivor Support Services at the International Institute of Buffalo (IIB), where she supervises a team of case managers and advocates working with survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Ms. Fleischauer has served as the co-facilitator of the Western District of New York's Anti-Trafficking Task Force since its inception in 2007. She also serves as the Quality Support Specialist for the USCRI Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, providing training and technical assistance for organizations administering direct care to foreign-born survivors of human trafficking across thirty four states. She represents the immigrant victim services perspective on the New York State Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, a position she was appointed to by Governor Cuomo in 2012. She also testifies as an expert witness on domestic violence-related trauma for state-level criminal cases.

Ms. Fleischauer has a MSW from Columbia University, a certificate in Trauma Counseling from UB, and specific expertise in program planning. She provides training to national audiences on the implementation of trauma-informed care within victim services programs. She was awarded the 2010 FBI Directors Community Leadership Award for her commitment to collaborative efforts in supporting survivors and serves on the board of Freedom Network USA and is an active member of the NY Anti-Trafficking Network.



**Evelyn Chumbow** is a survivor of child labor trafficking turned anti-trafficking activist and public speaker who has focused her life's work on ending modern day slavery, a crime impacting some 35M victims globally. She was brought to the U.S. from Cameroon at the age of nine and forced to cook, clean, and care for her trafficker's children. She was never paid for her work, and any hope that she might escape was undermined by the constant beatings she received from her trafficker. For seven years, she lived in constant fear, working day and night. She was prevented from contacting her family, attending school and enjoying things that many children take for granted; instead, she was a modern day slave -- not in some far-flung country, but here in the U.S. After years of captivity, she finally escaped and her trafficker was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

In December 2015, Evelyn graduated with a B.S. in Homeland Security studies from the University of Maryland University College. She was recently appointed by the President of the United States to serve as U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to his administration. Since January 2015, she has also interned at the law firm of Baker & McKenzie LLP in Washington D.C., where she has the opportunity to support human trafficking and human rights-related pro bono initiatives. Today, she serves as an advisor to human trafficking NGOs, and has been invited to brief government agencies about human trafficking from a survivor's perspective, including the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and the Department of Justice. She is invited to speak around the world about her experience, including at the White House. She serves as an ambassador for the ICE Foundation's Granting Courage Initiative, which assists survivors of human trafficking, and was the first recipient of its annual scholarship. She has been featured in *New York's New Abolitionists*, and she was a coach for the Partnership for Freedom's first innovation challenge, *Reimagine: Opportunity and competition to improve the infrastructure of support for survivors of modern slavery*.



This symposium honors the life and work of human rights advocate Alison Des Forges. For more information, please email Roger Des Forges at [rvd@buffalo.edu](mailto:rvd@buffalo.edu), Ellen Dussourd at [dussourd@buffalo.edu](mailto:dussourd@buffalo.edu) or Shaun Irlam at [irlam@buffalo.edu](mailto:irlam@buffalo.edu).