

THE ASIA PACIFIC SHORT COURSE ON REFUGEE RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

**26-29 November 2018
Bangkok, Thailand**

BACKGROUND

The Short Course on Refugee Rights and Advocacy is an initiative organised by the Legal Aid and Advocacy Working Group (LAAWG) of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP) at Mahidol University. The course aims to strengthen participants' understanding of forced migration in the Asia Pacific through a human rights perspective. The course also seeks to strengthen participants' capacity and knowledge in advocating for the rights of refugees in this region.

The course will be delivered through a combination of lectures, case studies and small group work, and participants are expected to do in-depth reading and minor research before the course. Participants will be given the opportunity to put to use the knowledge and skills acquired through practical group work during the course. The course will be presented by some of the leading experts working on forced migration issues in the region. They include academics, activists, pro-bono lawyers, UNHCR representatives and NGO workers.

The course will be spread over four days and will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The course will cover the following thematic areas:

- Overview and updates on forced migration in the Asia Pacific
- Regional collaboration and protection mechanisms
- Understanding the global refugee "crisis" and latest developments
- New developments in international refugee law and relevant human rights law
- Introduction to advocacy & challenges in advocating for the rights of refugees at the national level
- Exploring effective strategies for national level advocacy e.g. working and advocating with national and local authorities, engaging National Human Rights Commissions, strategic litigation etc.
- Community engagement strategies for effective advocacy

The course is made possible with the generous funding support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

DATES AND VENUE

Date: 26-29 November 2018

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand (Venue to be determined)

PARTICIPANTS

About 20 to 25 participants are expected to join the course. The selection criteria for participants are:

- Mid to high-level staff in a national, sub-regional or regional NGO / CSO in the Asia Pacific;
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of forced migration / refugee rights;
- Commitment to working in the same organisation at least until the end of 2019;
- Ideally some experience and background in policy and advocacy work (not required);
- Ability to communicate in English (both spoken and written) as the course will be conducted in English and no translation facilities will be provided.

ACCREDITATION

Participants will receive a Certificate of Participation from APRRN and the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The deadline for the course application is **20 September 2018 at 4:00pm Bangkok time**. Early applications (especially participants applying for financial support) are encouraged. To register for the course please follow this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/FqajwQHvlj4KuysL2>

In addition to the online application, all applicants MUST provide a recommendation letter from the head of their organisation and send it to rachel@aprrn.info. The letter shall outline the reasons as to why the applicant is being endorsed to participate in the course. Short-listed applicants will be informed by 10 October 2018 via email.

FEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The registration fee for the short course is \$100 USD (non-refundable) and must be paid in cash by every participant. This will be administered on the first day of the course. Registration fees may be waived under special circumstances.

APRRN will be able to offer a limited number of participants with financial support for the course. However, this support will only cover flight costs and/or accommodation. Any other related costs such as local transport, visa, airport taxes, per diem etc. will need to be covered by the participants themselves. Breakfast (if you are staying at the venue), lunch and two coffee breaks will be offered for all participants.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Enquiries about the course, local accommodation and logistics should be directed to the APRRN Secretariat at rachel@aprrn.info or matt@aprrn.info