

THE ASIA PACIFIC REFUGEE RIGHTS NETWORK (APRRN) SHORT COURSE ON REFUGEE RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY 2020

BACKGROUND

The Short Course on Refugee Rights and Advocacy is an annual capacity building activity organised by the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), in collaboration with academic partners and experts, purposed to increase knowledge, develop critical human-rights understanding relevant to forced migration, and strengthen the capacity of advocates for refugee rights in the Asia Pacific region. The course this year will be conducted in partnership with the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University, and the Centre for Applied Human Rights of the University of York.

This fully online course will be delivered through a combination of lectures, case studies and small group work. The basic structure will be a three-hour session (tentatively planned for Tuesdays) where regional experts and practitioners will engage with issues around refugee rights, advocacy planning, followed by a three-hour session (tentatively planned for Fridays) involving group work, case study investigations, and in-depth sessions with practitioners.

Participants are expected to do self-reading and minor research throughout 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.

The course will cover the following thematic areas:

- Overview and updates on forced migration in the Asia Pacific amidst COVID-19
- Intersectionality of forced migration issues between women, gender, and diversity
- Planning, developing, and implementing advocacy programs for refugee rights
- Right to health and trauma-informed practice
- Inclusion of refugees and community engagement strategies for effective advocacy
- Global developments in policies, international refugee law, and relevant human rights law
- Developing regional collaborations in the refugee sector
- Engaging with protection mechanisms and national, regional, and global levels
- Developing effective strategies and responding to challenges in national and regional level advocacy (e.g. Working and advocating with local authorities, engaging National Human Rights Commissions, strategic litigation, public narratives, media)

At the completion of the course participants are expected to:

- Have knowledge of the current legal and policy framework for refugees at the regional and international level
- Identify and engage with issues of current concern such as gender, health, discrimination, and COVID-19
- Plan basic advocacy campaigns, including setting goals, identifying audiences, and undertaking strategic planning

APRRN has secured external funding for small grants to support advocacy plans developed by participants upon the completion of the Short Course. Conditions apply. Further details will be shared soon.

DATES AND STRUCTURE

Date: 24 November to 18 December 2020

Structure: Fully online, two days per week, three hours per day

The course will also incorporate a one-day ‘Practitioners Roundtable on the Right to Work’ event which will engage a range of stakeholders to assess opportunities for advancing work rights, discuss legal frameworks and litigation strategies, and strategise advocacy on national and regional levels.

PARTICIPANTS

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

- Mid- to high-level staff in a national, sub-regional or regional non-governmental organisations or civil society organisations in the Asia Pacific
- People who have been refugees or are currently seeking asylum in the Asia Pacific
- Minimum of two years experience in the field of forced migration / refugee rights
- 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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The deadline for the course application is **31 October 2020 (Saturday) at 5:00pm Bangkok time.**

To register for the course, kindly complete the form using this link: forms.gle/TMjN8FfwXE7bS5QbA

In addition to the online application, all applicants must provide a recommendation letter from the head of their organisation or an external organisation, sent to rachel@aprrn.org. The letter shall outline the reasons as to why the applicant is being endorsed to participate in the course. Shortlisted applicants will be informed by 6 November 2020 via email.

A registration fee of \$100 USD will be applicable to all participants accepted into the course.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Enquiries about the course should be directed to the APRRN Secretariat at rachel@aprrn.org.