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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES (CARFMS)
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES SUR LES RÉFUGIÉS ET LA MIGRATION FORCÉE (ACERMF)

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ABOUT CARFMS/À PROPOS DE L'ACERMF

ABOUT CARFMS

The Association works to foster an independent community of scholars dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of Canadian refugee and forced migration research by establishing active partnerships and collaborations among researchers, teachers, practitioners, policy makers, advocating and supporting publications, conferences, and other fora that contribute to open and inclusive communication and networking around issues relating to refugee and forced migration studies in Canada and elsewhere.

The vision of the Association is to create a community for scholars with an interest in issues relating to refugees and forced migration, to facilitate networking and collaboration between scholars, to disseminate research findings, to foster linkages between scholars and governmental and non- governmental actors, to serve as a forum for debate and intellectual exchange on refugee and forced migration issues, and to be a prime resource of Canadian scholarship and academic contacts in the field of refugee and forced migration studies in Canada. For more information visit our website at www.carfms.org

À PROPOS DE L'ACERMF

L'Association cherche à encourager et réunir une communauté indépendante d'universitaires dédiés à l'avancement et à la diffusion de la recherche portant sur les migrations forcées et l'asile au Canada, en établissant des partenariats actifs et des collaborations entre les chercheurs, les enseignants, les praticiens, les représentants gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux.

L'Association encourage et soutient la réalisation de publications, l'organisation de conférences et d'autres forums qui contribuent à créer une communication ouverte et inclusive, ainsi que le réseautage, sur des questions reliées à l'asile et aux migrations forcées, au Canada et ailleurs.

L'objectif de l'Association est de créer une communauté de chercheurs partageant un intérêt pour les questions reliées aux migrations forcées et à l'asile, de faciliter le réseautage et la collaboration entre les chercheurs, de diffuser les résultats de recherche, d'accroître les liens entre les chercheurs et les acteurs gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux. L'Association vise aussi à créer un forum de débats et d'échanges intellectuels sur les questions de migrations forcées et d'asile, et à être une ressource incontournable au Canada en matière de contacts dans le milieu canadien universitaire et de la recherche dans ces domaines.

Pour plus d'information visitez notre site internet www.carfms.org



WELCOME/BIENVENUE



By: Stephanie P. Stobbe,
CARFMS President (2021-2026)

As this is my last message as President of CARFMS, I thought I would reflect on what the CARFMS Executive Committee has focused on and accomplished over the last years.

Since our CARFMS 2025 AGM meeting at our conference at Toronto Metropolitan University, the CARFMS Executive have been busy working on a number of initiatives. As President, I took the step to facilitate a review the CARFMS Bylaws, which had not been revisited since 2021 when I first came on board as President. Although we had made revisions in 2021, additional edits and updates were required to ensure that the Bylaws reflect what we actually do. Working with the CARFMS Executive and, in particular with James Simeon, Anna Purkey, and Michele Millard, we were able to prepare revised Bylaws for voting from its members. The new Bylaws were approved in April 2026. Adèle Garnier, our new French Executive member, is translating the Bylaws into French.

In partnership with Lori Wilkinson since spring 2026, we have been working on the logistics of planning and organizing CARFMS 2027 Conference that will be hosted at the University of Manitoba. Wilkinson was able to confirm the venue for the conference at St. John's College at the University of Manitoba between May 12-14, 2027. In April 2026, we organized a Conference Planning Committee consisting of Lori Wilkinson, Stephanie Stobbe, Michele Millard, Shayne Wong, Cassie Dong, and Brian Dyck. We will be adding others from the academic, NGO, and other communities. The call for proposals is now available [here](#).

In addition to these activities, James Simeon and I co-edited a special edition of Peace Research: Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies on “Racism, Rights, and the Responsibility to Protect,” based on the CARFMS 2023 conference theme. We worked with Shayne Wong, Communications Officer, on [CARFMS Newsletters in Fall 2025](#) and on the upcoming Summer 2026 issue. Wong has been an active leader in creating these Newsletters. I have also worked with Simeon to review CARFMS Blogs submissions and on the ‘CARFMS’ Statement on the Current State of World Affairs in Support of Refugee Rights,” posted on CARFMS website. Newsletters and Statements are important responsibilities of CARFMS, demonstrating the work of the Association.

This past year, James Simeon and Aziz Rahman organized several CARFMS Webinars, including

the two that I participated in to launch my new co-authored book, *Hearts of Freedom – Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2025); and co-edited special edition of the *Peace Research: Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies* (Canadian Mennonite University, 2025). We also had our first bilingual Webinar book launch on *La migration forcée au Canada* (adaptation of Forced Migration in/to Canada edited by Christina R. Clark-Kazak) with Adèle Garnier, Sarah Dubuc, Lyse Hebert, Idil Atak, David Moffette, and Geneviève Minville. Working with CARFMS Secretary, Emily Le Roux-Rutledge, we have had almost monthly CARFMS Executive meetings during the academic year. In May, we hosted our first virtual CARFMS Annual General Meeting (AGM).



Photo credit: Stephanie P. Stobbe

WELCOME/BIENVENUE

It has been a great pleasure working with our wonderful Executive Committee, members, partners, and institutions across Canada and internationally. Over the years, we have had new Executive members who have added their knowledge and skills to the amazing work at CARFMS.

During my time as President, we hosted a virtual CARFMS conference at United College/University of Waterloo (2022), an in-person conference at York University (2023), and an in-person conference at Toronto Metropolitan University (2025). We made revisions to the Bylaws in 2021 and 2026; worked to revitalize the Newsletters and Webinars; and added the Essay Contest for authors with lived experience of displacement in partnership with the LERRN – The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network. Although I am concluding my term as President, I will continue serving on the CARFMS Executive as Past President and will be co-chairing the CARFMS 2027 Conference at University of Manitoba.

A big congratulations to our newly elected President of CARFMS, Dr. James C. Simeon, and to the new Vice-President, Dr. Anna Purkey. Both have extensive experience and service with CARFMS over the years and will bring new perspectives to the CARFMS Executive. I wish the Dr. Simeon and Dr. Purkey all the best as they continue to work with our Executive Committee team and the rest of CARFMS to research, advocate, and work on addressing conflicts,

human rights, and underlying structural inequities affecting displaced populations.

For those who would like to participate in a community of scholars, researchers, advocates, and policy-makers working on refugee and forced migration issues, please join CARFMS. Various membership category details are found on our website at <https://carfms.org/membership/>. Please join us at our next in-person CARFMS 2027 Conference at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, a city located at the center of Canada, between May 12-14, 2027 (<https://www.tourismwinnipeg.com/>).



Stephanie Stobbe and The Honourable Anita Neville
Photo credit: Stephanie P. Stobbe



Stephanie Stobbe with students Katrina, Taewook, Mahbub, and Cassie
Photo credit: Stephanie P. Stobbe



Stephanie Stobbe and Julie Young with 2023 CARFMS Student Essay Contest Winners
Laurenz Decano and Lilly Neang
Photo Credit: Shayne Wong



Stephanie Stobbe at the 2025 CARFMS Conference
Photo Credit: Shayne Wong

MEMBER PROFILES/PROFILS DES MEMBRES

Our New Executive Positions

President



Dr. James C. Simeon

Dr. James C. Simeon is a Professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA), Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and a former Head of McLaughlin College, Director of the SPPA, and a former Acting Director and Deputy Director at the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS), at York University, Toronto, Canada. His areas of research interest and teaching include international refugee law, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and, public policy and administration, and he has published widely on these areas of research.

Vice-President



Dr. Anna Purkey

Dr. Anna Purkey is an Associate Professor and Director of the Human Rights program at United College at the University of Waterloo. A lawyer by training, she previously worked as an Evaluation Measurement Officer at the IRB (2020), and as legal counsel at the Department of Justice Canada and is a member of the Quebec Bar Association. Over the course of her career she has been involved with numerous organizations including Action Réfugiés Montréal, the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York University, and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers. Her research focuses on both domestic and international refugee law, with a special emphasis on protracted refugee situations and themes of human capabilities, legal empowerment, human dignity, vulnerability, governance, and transitional justice.

CARFMS27 CONFERENCE

Call for Papers: The Unravelling of Refuge: Resettlement, Peacebuilding, and Safety in a World of Uncertainty

12-14 May 2027

**Hosted in collaboration with
St John's College, University of Manitoba**

Submit your proposal online

Direct link: <https://bit.ly/43cbDdg>

Submission deadline: October 1, 2026

Today's global forced migration is defined by deep uncertainty, in ways that were unimaginable in previous decades. Refugees and forced migrants are increasingly rejected at international borders and are detained and deported in larger numbers. Resettlement countries such as Canada and the USA have drastically decreased their commitments to resettlement. Other countries have passed legislation that curtails the resettlement of forced migrants from all regions, while others prioritize those from certain countries. The Consultation on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways (CRCP) in Geneva in summer 2026 will be one of the smallest in recent memory, signalling a near worldwide rejection of refugees and forced migration. The 2027 CARFMS conference is focused on the future of peacebuilding and safety for refugees asking, "What is the future of resettlement as one of UNHCR's durable solutions?"

While we have listed several themes and subthemes below, we welcome any contribution related to the study of refugees and forced migrants at any stage of displacement and in the resettlement cycle.

We welcome proposals for:

- Research presentations
- Panels, roundtables, or workshops (90 minutes) – please identify the theme and individual contributors and contributions in your submission
- Film screenings, art exhibits, or other multimedia presentations
- Research posters



The poster features a background image of a US visa stamp with the word 'VISA' prominently displayed. At the top, logos for CARFMS/ACERMF, St John's College, and the University of Manitoba are shown. The main title 'CARFMS 17TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE' is in a white rounded rectangle. Below it, 'Call For Papers' is written in large white font, followed by the subtitle 'The Unravelling of Refuge: Resettlement, Peacebuilding, and Safety in a World of Uncertainty'. The dates 'May 12-14, 2027' are in a dark blue box, with the location 'St John's College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada' below. A 'Submission Deadline' box contains 'October 1, 2026'. A 'Scope of Topics' box lists five bullet points. A 'CARFMS Membership' box explains that membership is mandatory for presenters and included in registration fees. At the bottom, a 'Submission Link' box provides the URL 'https://bit.ly/43cbDdg' and a 'More Information' box lists the website 'www.carfms.org' and email 'carfms.org@gmail.com'.

CARFMS/ACERMF  **ST JOHN'S COLLEGE**  **University of Manitoba**

CARFMS 17TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Call For Papers
The Unravelling of Refuge:
Resettlement, Peacebuilding, and
Safety in a World of Uncertainty

May 12-14, 2027
St John's College, University of
Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada

Submission Deadline
October 1, 2026

Scope of Topics

- Emerging Issues in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
- Understanding the Unique Experiences of Refugees and Subcultures
- Host Society Receptivity
- Return Migration
- Refugee Movement and Management: AI Discourses and Ethical Uses
- Innovative Research Methods and Approaches

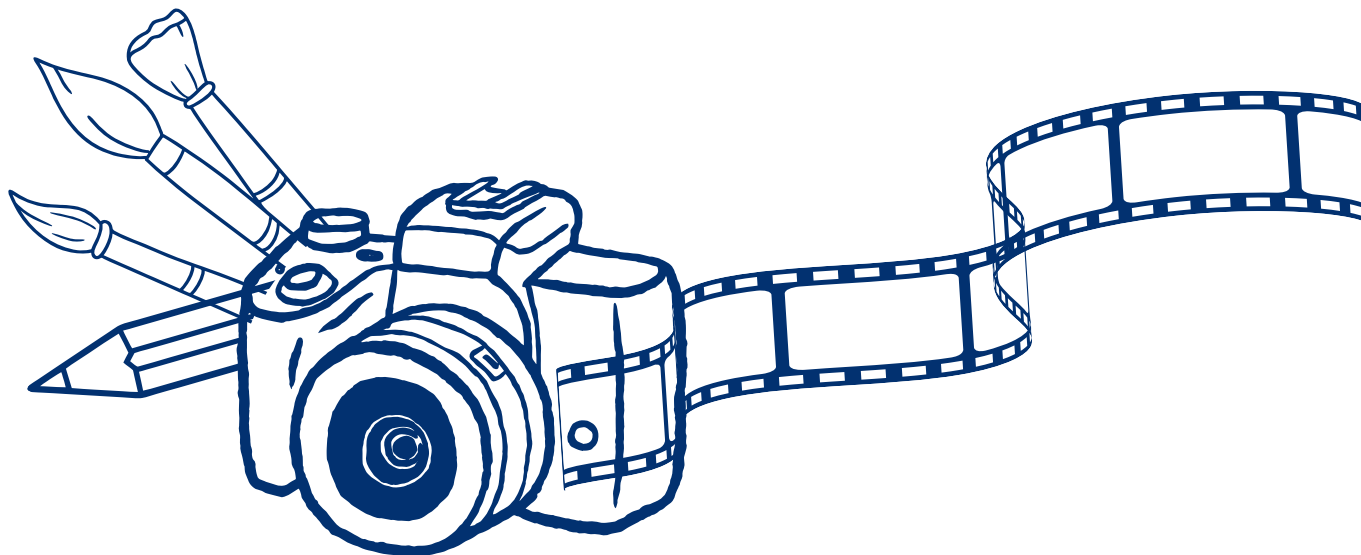
CARFMS Membership

CARFMS membership is mandatory to present and participate in this event. CARFMS27 registration fees will include an association membership for those who are not already members.

Submission Link
<https://bit.ly/43cbDdg>

More Information
www.carfms.org carfms.org@gmail.com

CARFMS ARTISTIC COMMITTEE



We are creating a new Artistic Committee for the upcoming CARFMS 2027 Conference.

This committee will help bring more art, creativity, and cultural engagement into the event.

What the committee does (including but not limited to):

Plan and organize artistic and cultural activities (exhibitions, digital exhibitions, performances, workshops, panels).

Select and curate artworks related to migration and refuge.

Connect and collaborate with artists and cultural professionals.

Produce a podcast featuring immigrants' and refugees' stories.

If you'd like to join or show your support, please email Shilan Saadi at shilan.saadi80@gmail.com by the end of December 2026.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES



Three years have passed
since I stood beneath the world's spotlight,
honored with a refugee award,
2023 Nansen Refugee Award
carrying a simple hope:
to improve the lives
of fellow refugees.
I believed then,
as I believe now,
that every displaced child,
every mother,
every father,
every young person
deserves more than survival.
Yet today,
the road grows harder.
Policies made in distant halls
echo through refugee camps
like storms without warning.
Access to food grows uncertain.
Healthcare becomes a privilege.
Clean water becomes a question.
And when basic needs disappear,
hope begins to fade.
Children lose faith in tomorrow.
Parents carry silent fears.

Let Them Thrive
by Abdullahi Mire



Young people stare into horizons
that seem forever closed.
Some sink into despair,
their dreams buried beneath depression.
Some wrestle with thoughts
too painful to speak aloud.
Others risk dangerous journeys,
crossing deserts and seas,
chasing a future somewhere
in the distant Global North.
But I know another story.
War took my home.
It took my friends.
It scattered my family.
It left me carrying questions
too heavy for a child.
Then my mother became my shelter.
In exile,
When uncertainty surrounded us,
she held tightly to hope
And taught me a lesson
that became my compass:
Education is power.
No one can give it to you,
but once you have it,
no one can take it away.



In a refugee camp,
where many saw limits,
she taught me to see possibility.
Years later,
I met a girl named Hodan.
She did not ask for wealth.
She did not ask for privilege.
She asked for a biology textbook.
A single book.
A single chance.
The distance between her dream
of becoming a doctor
And her reality
was only a few dollars.
That day,
I learned something profound:
The barriers facing refugee children
are often not mountains.
They are doors
left deliberately closed.
One book became many.
Many books became libraries.
And libraries became places
where dreams found room to breathe.
But this story
is not about me.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

Let Them Thrive
by Abdullahhi Mire



It is about every child displaced
by conflict,
by climate crisis,
by disaster.
Every child carrying a backpack
filled with dreams,
While the world sees only
their displacement.
So today,
I ask you to look differently.
Do not see refugees
as problems to be managed.
See them as leaders.
Innovators.
Builders.
Changemakers.
Do not ask what they lack.
Ask what stands in their way.

Then remove the obstacle.
Open the classroom door.
Fund the library.
Support refugee-led organizations.
Create opportunities
for education,
for inclusion,
for equality.
And when you have done so,
have the courage
to step aside.
Because a child with knowledge
will find a way.
A young person with opportunity
will create a future.
A supported community
will rise beyond survival.
I dedicate these words

To my mother,
who taught me to believe
in possibility.
And to every refugee child
Forced to run from danger
yet brave enough
to keep dreaming.
May we build a world
where no dream is limited
by displacement.
Where no child
is defined by loss.
Where hope is not a luxury.
And where every refugee
is given the chance
not merely to survive but to thrive.

CARFMS WEBINARS/WEBINAIRES ACERMF

CARFMS Webinars Provide Exceptional Opportunities to Engage With the Most Topical Issues and Concerns in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

CARFMS webinars are an important feature of our association's activities and offer its members, and the public at large, the opportunity to hear from leading experts in the field of refugee and forced migration studies on the issues of the day. CARFMS webinars are held about once each quarter.

Thus far, this year there have been two CARFMS webinars.



Hearts of Freedom: Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees, Virtual Book Launch, that was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm (CST), via Zoom. It featured all the co-authors: Stephanie P. Stobbe, our CARFMS President, Michael J. Molloy, Colleen Lundy, Allan Moscovitch, and Peter Duschinsky.



La migration forcée au Canada, Virtual Book Launch, co-sponsored with Research Centre Cultures – Arts – Societies (CELAT), Université Laval, Québec, that was held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (EDT), via Zoom. It featured two of the co-editors, Adele Garnier, CARFMS Director at Large, Sarah Dubuc. The speakers included: Idil Atak, David Moffette, Lyse Hebert, and Genevieve Minville.

CARFMS WEBINARS/WEBINAIRES ACERMF

..... CARFMS
**UNHCR'S GLOBAL TRENDS IN
FORCED DISPLACEMENT 2025
REPORT
WEBINAR**

TRACEY MAULFAIR
UNHCR Representative in Canada

JAMES C. SIMEON
School of Public Policy and Administration, York University

MAUREEN SILCOFF
Lincoln Alexander School of Law, TMU

CHAIR: AZIZ RAHMAN
Texas A&M International University

Each year the UNHCR releases its Global Trends in Forced Displacement report, its flagship publication, that presents the latest official statistics and key statistical trends on refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people worldwide. This CARFMS webinar will review the essential elements and aspects of this year's report from a number of different perspectives.

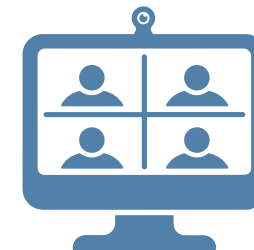
**MONDAY
29 JUNE, 2026** **START AT
1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT**

More information
<https://carfms.org/carfms-webinar/>

ZOOM LINK: <https://yorku.zoom.us/join/register/VRsyOynDQoeXNRmQ9Zc2vw>

And there are three other CARFMS webinars scheduled over the coming months.

- UNHCR's Global Trends in Forced Displacement 2025 flagship report will be the subject of a CARFMS webinar on Monday, June 29, 2026, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (EDT). This webinar will feature someone from the UNHCR's office in Ottawa and several academics and practitioners.
- The other one will be co-sponsored by LERRN, The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network, and will be held in the fall and will feature another book launch of *The Oxford Handbook on Internal Displacement*.
- We are also planning to hold a series of CARFMS Doctoral and Graduate Student webinars, with the inaugural webinar featuring presentations from Shayne Wong, Cassie Dong, and Rachel McNally, that will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 3:30 pm, EDT. This special webinar series will feature Ph.D. and Masters students in refugee and forced migration studies and related fields who will discuss their dissertation and research topics and explain why they chose their dissertation topics and what some of their preliminary findings are to date. We are hoping that this will be of particular interest to all our CARFMS student members. Register for the webinar [here](#).





The executive committee of the Canadian Association of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) offers webinars for all CARFMS members.

If you have a suggestion for a webinar topic please send us your proposal. We would be very interested in hearing about it.

Please note that the webinars are 90-minutes in length consisting of at least 2-3 presentations (10-15 minutes each). There will be a moderated discussion with a question and answer period following the presentations.

Please send your webinar proposals to
Dr. James Simeon and Dr. Aziz Rahman at
jcsimeon@yorku.ca and rahman17@myumanitoba.ca

The email should include:
Your name, institution, faculty, and degree.
A title and short description (200 words) of your proposed presentation.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

The Trump Administration must not be allowed to set the standard for those seeking asylum elsewhere by James C. Simeon

At one point the United States of America was unquestionably the world leader in humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement. Most people are aware of the famous poem inside the Statute of Liberty, in the New York City harbor, by Emma Lazarus, titled, “The New Colossus,” which defines the statue as the “Mother of Exiles.” The last lines of the poem read, “Give me your tired, your poor / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, / The wretched refuse of your teeming shores. / Send these the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. / I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”[1] How far has the United States been diverted by the Trump Administration from its historic leadership role in the free world of welcoming migrants, whether immigrants or refugees? Consider what US President Donald Trump did immediately after his inauguration on January 20, 2025, through at least twelve Executive Orders. Five, in particular, are worth noting.



Protecting the American People Against Invasion, January 20, 2025.

What is extraordinary about this Executive Order is that it considers all those entering the US illegally as national security threats and that they are arriving in such numbers that it somehow constitutes an “invasion.”[2] It revokes the Executive Orders of the Biden Administration, and, Section 4, Civil Enforcement Priorities, and Section 5, Criminal Enforcement Priorities, identifies those who have entered the US either illegally or are in the US unlawfully as the priorities for enforcement and for criminal prosecution.[3]. Section 10, Detention Facilities, directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to “establish contracts to construct, operate, control, or use facilities to detain removable aliens” and “shall take all appropriate actions to ensure the detention of aliens apprehended for violations of immigration law pending the outcome of their removal proceedings or their removal from the country.”[4] Section 19, Funding Review, calls for the review of all funding contracts and a pause on the distribution of all further funding for non-governmental organizations providing services to illegal aliens.[5] Among other things, “it limits the use of humanitarian parole, Temporary Protected Status, employment authorization, and public benefits to existing statutory requirements.”[6]

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

The Trump Administration must not be allowed to set the standard for those seeking asylum elsewhere
by James C. Simeon

Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion, **January 20, 2025**

Section 1, Suspension of Entry, states, “that entry into the United States of such aliens be suspended until I [the US President] issue a finding that the invasion at the southern border has ceased.”[7] This order, it has been noted, effectively ends asylum at the US-Mexico border.

Securing Our Borders, **January 20, 2025**

Section 1, Purpose, states boldly that, “Over the last four years, the United States has endured a large-scale invasion at an unprecedented level.”[11] The reliable available data on unauthorized migration can hardly sustain such an assertion. Such a misleading assertion is used to justify the elimination of a number of policies and programs, including, the “catch and release” program, which allows asylum-seekers to await their hearings in the community,” and “the CBP (Customs and Border Protection) App, used to schedule asylum appointments, and ends humanitarian parole programs, including the Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV).”

Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program, **January 20, 2025**

Section 1, Purpose, simply states, “This order suspends the USRAP until such time as the further entry into the United States of refugees aligns with the interests of the United States.”[8] Section 3, Realignment of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, states unequivocally, “(a) I hereby proclaim, pursuant to sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a), that entry into the United States of refugees under the USRAP would be detrimental to the interests of the United States.” It is important to note that refugee applicants undergo one of the most strenuous security screenings of any person entering the United States. Further, there has never been a security breach under this program. Clearly, what is being pursued here is the elimination of the US asylum system,[9] along with a radical restructuring of the global asylum system.[10]



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

The Trump Administration must not be allowed to set the standard for those seeking asylum elsewhere
by James C. Simeon

Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship, **January 20, 2025[12]**

This is one of the most controversial orders that seeks to alter “the long-standing policy of birthright citizenship in the US Constitution under the 14th Amendment.”[13] Section 2, Policy, of this order states:

a) It is the policy of the United States that no department or agency of the United States government shall issue documents recognizing United States citizenship, or accept documents issued by State, local, or other governments or authorities purporting to recognize United States citizenship, to persons: (1) when that person’s mother was unlawfully present in the United States and the person’s father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth, or (2) when that person’s mother’s presence in the United States was lawful but temporary, and the person’s father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of said person’s birth.[14]

This order, like many of the other eleven Executive Orders that were issued on inauguration day, have been challenged by States and civil society groups in the courts.

Together these orders mark an astonishing turn on the United States’ historic immigration and asylum policies. By no means should these policies be emulated in any other jurisdiction around the world. Together they mark a clear divergence from the United States’ leadership role in the reception of immigrants, refugee protection, humanitarian assistance, and refugee resettlement which has been the strength and basis of the United States sustained societal vitality and its economic growth and wellbeing.[15]



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

The Trump Administration must not be allowed to set the standard for those seeking asylum elsewhere
by James C. Simeon

- [1] National Park Service, Statute of Liberty, National Monument New York, Emma Lazarus, “The New Colossus,” November 2, 1883, <https://www.nps.gov/stli/learn/historyculture/colossus.htm>. (accessed May 2, 2026)
- [2] The White House, Presidential Actions, “Protection the American People Against Invasion,” January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>. (accessed May 2, 2025)
- [3] Ibid.
- [4] Ibid.
- [5] Ibid.
- [6] Centre for Migration Studies, “Summary of Executive Orders and Other Actions on Immigration,” February 13, 2025, <https://cmsny.org/publications/essential-but-ignored-low-earning-immigrant-healthcare-workers-and-their-role-in-the-health-of-new-york-city/>. (accessed May 3, 2026)
- [7] The White House, Washington, “Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion,” January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/guaranteeing-the-states-protection-against-invasion/>. (accessed May 3, 2026)
- [8] The White House, Washington, “Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program,” January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/realigning-the-united-states-refugee-admissions-program/>. (accessed May 4, 2026)
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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

Hearts of Freedom: Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees by Stephanie P. Stobbe

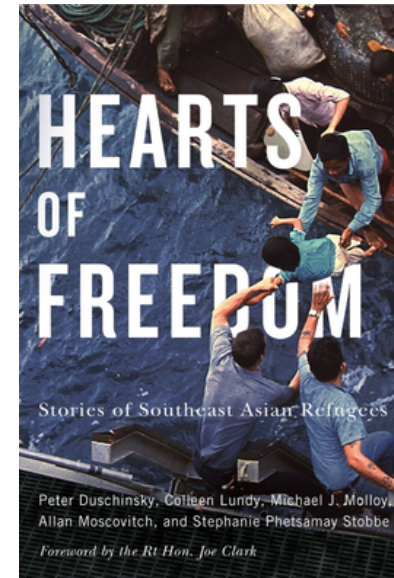
The book, *Hearts of Freedom – Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees*, published by McGill-Queen’s University Press in September 2025, is the culmination of years of research on the Southeast Refugee Movement in Canada. Interviews, conducted between 2019 and 2021 with those who arrived in Canada between 1975-1985, documented their stories of resettlement, settlement, and integration over the span of their lifetime.

Description of Book

Between 1975 and 1997 some three million Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians fled atrocities in their home countries, with over 210,000 resettling in Canada. While this history is partly known to some Canadians, little has been written about it, especially from the perspectives of the refugees themselves.

Hearts of Freedom is a rich oral history based on interviews with 145 former refugees, sharing deeply moving accounts of oppression, concentration camps, genocide, and perilous escapes over land and sea. Survivors reflect on their first impressions of Canada – the unfamiliar snow and cold, the unexpected kindness of neighbours, and occasional encounters with racism. Through their experiences, we come to understand the strengths and weaknesses of Canada’s refugee programs. These stories reveal how refugees’ attachment to Canada grew over the years and how multiculturalism policies facilitated that.

Ordinary Canadians played a decisive role in the first mass refugee movement through newly created private sponsorship programs – a role for which the United Nations awarded the Nansen Medal to the Canadian people in 1986. Coming at a time when we are assessing the benefits of immigration and refugee policies and programs, *Hearts of Freedom* documents the lives and contributions of people who have suffered the worst excesses of war to rebuild their lives in Canada.



Canada Book Tour

Since our book was published in September 2025, we have been doing a book tour across Canada from Halifax to Vancouver. We have partnered with various organizations and institutions, including Canadian Mennonite University, Carleton University, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, PCHC-Museum of Migration, Edmonton City Hall, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario and Manitoba, Canadian Association for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), Vietnamese and Lao Associations, Lao Community Association of BC, public libraries, and others.

We launched our book tour in Ottawa at Ben Franklin Place with our special speaker, The Right Honourable Joe Clark, who wrote the Foreword in the book. He shared stories of his time as Prime Minister and how his cabinet Ministers, Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration) and Flora MacDonald (Secretary

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS/PRÉSENTATION DES MEMBRES

Hearts of Freedom: Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees by Stephanie P. Stobbe

of State) were instrumental in convincing his government to resettle 50,000 Southeast Asian refugees in 1979-1980. Mr. Clark discussed the importance of collaboration and that Canada is a “community of communities.” We organized a book launch at Beechwood with another guest speaker, The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, former Minister of Employment and Immigration (1980-1983) under Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who spoke on the importance of immigration in Canada and changing the narratives on refugees. In Calgary, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lt. Governor of Alberta, joined us and shared her family’s experience as refugees from Uganda after all Asian minority population was expelled, and encouraged us to continue sharing the stories of resilience and contributions of the Southeast Asian communities across Canada. At the Vancouver book launch, Senator Woo, opened the event with an acknowledgment of the importance of the HOF project to show the positive side of immigration.

The Vancouver book launch and film screening featured panelists from the Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian communities we interviewed as well as three cultural dances choreographed and performed by the Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Society. The book tour would not be possible without the incredible support of the Southeast Asian communities across Canada. My deepest gratitude goes out to the Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian Canadians who championed this project and made it a reality.

International Exhibition and Book Tour

The exhibition, Hearts of Freedom – Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees, made its international debut in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2026, hosted by the Embassy of Canada to Thailand, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Chulalongkorn University. A film screening and book launch also took place at the exhibition showing. Dr. Prakorn Siriprakob, Dean of Faculty of Political Science, welcomed the diplomatic community, government officials, UNHCR, NGOs, faculty, and students to the Nelsen Mandela Centre, the hosting

home of the HOF exhibition. Canada’s Ambassador to Thailand, Her Excellency Ping Kitnikone, spoke on Canada’s longstanding diplomatic relations with Thailand and the importance of assisting refugees. Ambassador Kitnikone is also a former refugee from Laos. Tammi Sharpe, representative for UNHCR Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, discussed the significant collaboration between UNHCR, Thailand, and Canada in responding to refugees in Southeast Asia. I presented on the HOF project, the exhibition panels, documentary film, and the book, highlighting positive stories of integration and contributions of Southeast Asian Canadians to Canada and around the world. All of this would not be possible without Canada, UNHCR, and Thailand working together to resettle refugees.

The book can be purchased online at <https://www.mqup.ca/Books/H/Hearts-of-Freedom> or through various bookstores across Canada. The HOF website provides valuable resources <https://heartsoffreedom.org/>.



Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, Her Excellency Ping Kitnikone, and Stephanie Stobbe
Photo credit: Stephanie P. Stobbe



Stephanie Stobbe and Mike Molloy
Photo credit: Stephanie P. Stobbe

CALL FOR CARFMS WORKING PAPER SERIES

APPEL À LA SÉRIE DE DOCUMENTS DE TRAVAIL DU CARFMS

The CARFMS Working Paper Series is an online publication that provides open access to papers and presentations produced by our members.

We would like to invite our CARFMS members to submit to the Working Paper series pieces of work that relate to refugees and forced migration. Previous pieces published in our Working Paper Series can be found here:

<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/>

For more information about submissions and formatting please check here:
<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/author-guidelines/>.

Papers can be submitted using the following online form: <https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/online-submissions/>

Any additional questions or concerns can be sent to Shayne Wong at bloomfis@myumanitoba.ca



La série de documents de travail de CARFMS est une publication en ligne qui offre un accès libre aux documents et présentations produits par nos membres.

Nous invitons les membres de CARFMS à soumettre à la série de documents de travail des travaux portant sur les réfugiés et la migration forcée. Les travaux précédents publiés dans notre série de documents de travail peuvent être consultés ici :
<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/>

Pour plus d'informations sur les soumissions et le formatage, veuillez consulter le site :
<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/author-guidelines/>

Les articles peuvent être soumis à l'aide du formulaire en ligne suivant :
<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/online-submissions/>

Toute autre question ou préoccupation peut être envoyée au Shayne Wong à l'adresse suivante :
bloomfis@myumanitoba.ca

CARFMS BLOG CALL FOR ARTICLES

APPEL À ARTICLES POUR LE BLOGUE DE L'ACERMF

Dear CARFMS Members,

You are invited to submit a blog to be featured on the CARFMS website. Blogs can be about whatever topic you choose in connection to refugees and forced migration issues and concerns. Submissions from scholars, students, and practitioners are welcome! Submissions should be brief, between 600 and 1,000 words and submitted via the CARFMS website using the following form: <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/contributions-submissions-procedures/>

Past CARFMS blog entries can be found through the following URL: <https://carfms.org/category/blog/>

More information on the Blog Principles and Rules can be found at the following link: <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/principles-and-rules/>

If you have any questions or comments please contact Anna Purkey (annapurkey@uwaterloo.ca) and Lori Wilkinson (lori.wilkinson@umanitoba.ca).



Chers Membres de l'ACERMF,

Vous êtes invité à soumettre un blogue qui sera publié sur le site Web de CARFMS. Les blogues peuvent porter sur n'importe quel sujet de votre choix en rapport avec les réfugiés et les questions de migration forcée. Les soumissions d'universitaires, d'étudiants et de praticiens sont les bienvenues !

Les soumissions doivent être brèves, entre 600 et 1 000 mots, et soumises via le site Web de CARFMS en utilisant le formulaire suivant : <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/contributions-submissions-procedures/>.

Les anciens articles du blog de CARFMS peuvent être consultés à l'adresse suivante : <https://carfms.org/category/blog/>.

Vous trouverez de plus amples informations sur les principes et les règles du blog à l'adresse suivante : <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/principles-and-rules/>.

Si vous avez des questions ou des commentaires, veuillez contacter Anna Purkey (annapurkey@uwaterloo.ca) et Lori Wilkinson (lori.wilkinson@umanitoba.ca).

BECOME A MEMBER/DEVENIR MEMBRE

Why join CARFMS?

Participate in a community of scholars, researchers, advocates, policy-makers and NGOs working on issues of forced migration and refugees.

Find out about job opportunities, lectures, conferences, publications and other important information through our listserve, forums, and publications.

Discover others who are active in your area of research or policy advocacy through our online database of members.

Share your research with other academics, advocates and the NGO community on our online forums or at our annual conference.

CARFMS is an independent, interdisciplinary association run by its membership and dedicated to the advancement of refugee and forced migration studies.

Participate in our biennial conference.

Pourquoi rejoindre l'ACERMF ?

Pour faire partie d'une communauté d'universitaires, de chercheurs, d'avocats, de représentants gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux travaillant sur des questions de migrations forcées et d'asile.

Pour être tenu au courant d'offres d'emploi, de présentations, de conférences, de publications, et d'autres informations importantes, à travers notre liste d'envoi, nos forums en ligne et les publications de ses membres.

Pour faire la connaissance d'autres personnes actives dans vos champs de recherche ou de pratique, en utilisant la base de données en ligne réservée aux membres de l'Association.

Pour partager vos recherches et pour discuter de ces dernières avec d'autres universitaires, avocats, décideurs politiques et membres d'ONG, en utilisant nos forums en ligne, ou en personne lors de notre conférence annuelle.

Parce que l'Association, qui est indépendante, multidisciplinaire et fonctionne uniquement grâce à ses membres, est dédiée à l'avancement des études sur l'asile et les migrations forcées;

Participez à notre conférence biennal.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	ONE YEAR	TWO YEARS
Regular – Independent Researchers and Individuals from/representing Government and Policy-Making Institutions	\$150	\$300
Regular – Student, Postdoc, Low Income Researcher	\$40	\$80
Regular – Individuals from NGOs/Reps/advocates of "Refugee" groups	\$50	\$100
Affiliate – Institutional Membership (Regular)	\$300	\$550
Affiliate – Institutional Membership (Non-profit)	\$150	\$300

CATÉGORIES DE MEMBRES	UN AN	DEUX ANS
Régulier – Chercheurs indépendants et membres du gouvernement, ou représentant le gouvernement et d'autres institutions responsables d'élaborer des politiques	\$150	\$300
Régulier – Étudiants, Post-docs, chercheurs à faibles revenus	\$40	\$80
Régulier – Membres d'ONG/Représentants ou défenseurs de groupes de « réfugiés »	\$50	\$100
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Affiliés – membres institutionnels (à but non lucratif)	\$150	\$300

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