

Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network



Annual Report 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – David Keegan

In 2023 we transitioned to a co-leadership model in a deliberate attempt to embed refugee lived experience into our leadership structure. This transition has been positive but not without its challenges as we seek to develop new ways of working. This year we also had our Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugee Rights (APCRR) conference and elected new Chairs and Deputy Chairs to working groups. The members also endorsed our new strategic plan and a commitment to review our Governance structures to ensure they were accessible and logical.

I am enthusiastic about the direction and future of APRRN as it becomes more recognised globally as an invaluable voice on forced displacement in the Asia Pacific region. Our membership has grown to over 250 organisational and individual members and there is growing interest from refugee led organisations. Despite this growth we have faced significant funding challenges this year that will continue into 2024 as global financial burdens and cost of living increases continue to impact donors as well as organisations. We also continue to experience challenges in getting the Asia Pacific Region onto the agenda of international forums and are seeing significant reductions in funding for UNHCR in the region as conflicts continue to rise. The need for APRRN is even greater and we need to remain united in our cause to shed a light on the human rights needs of displaced people across the region.

I am pleased that we have continued to make important contributions to advocacy on the rights of people fleeing Afghanistan and those impacted by the conflict in Myanmar. We have also worked together to make significant representations in relation to alternatives to detention and basic legal protections in the region.

On behalf of the APRRN board and Steering Committee, I want to thank all of our members for their support and the secretariat for their passionate commitment and investment in the work of APRRN and its members. I also want to thank the working group chairs and deputy chairs as well as the board members for the time they invest in ensuring that APRRN is governed well.



David Keegan

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Keegan'.

Chair
Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-SECRETARIES GENERAL -

Hafsar Tameesuddin & Klaus Dik Nielsen

2023: A Year of Transition

On 24 April, we began our roles as Co-Secretaries General and embarked on a new and exciting journey with our various constituencies: Our members, the Secretariat, the Steering Committee and APRRN Boards, and APRRN's external partners and allies. It was an intense year, as we finalised the 2023-2027 APRRN strategy, recommended to have, and organised, with the Secretariat, the 9th APCRR in person and hybrid, and connected with many of our diverse long-established, new and prospective members and partners. Prior to the APCRR9, we also held an online governance election, steered by the Governance Election Sub-Committee, and welcomed new and established members, including more with lived experience, in the Steering Committee under the leadership of David Keegan and Lynette Nam as Chair and Deputy Chair of APRRN.

The human rights context and dynamics in most parts of the region continued to be dire, including for refugees and other people on the move. [According to UNHCR](#) at the end of 2023, there were 15.7 million forcibly displaced people among which were 7.7 million registered refugees and 2.5 million stateless people. Human rights violations and abuses continued to take place daily and included lack of due process, forced returns, torture, detention, and denial of the rights to health, housing, education and livelihood. The lack of political will by policy-and policy makers to address, and, in many instances, recognise, the many and complex challenges people on the move face from policy-and decision makers continued, as did unwillingness/inability to coordinate and collaborate across borders and regionally. In addition, the attention from the international community – in particular donors - towards our region waned. As the issues are becoming ever more complex, the need for a whole-of-society approach and to think outside of the box and to explore innovative partnerships became even more critical.

Meaningful participation of people with lived experience in addressing challenges and recommending solutions, from inception to implementation, has been a part of APRRN's DNA for a long time, and with our Co-Leadership model we began to push for more, and more diverse and intentional participation and inclusion of those with lived experience, in particular with grassroots, both at local, national, regional and global level and we hope to continue to increase and push for more and more consistent participation and inclusion. For example, when Hafsar was invited to speak at the High-Level meeting on Rohingya Refugees in Bangkok in October, we ensured that another former Rohingya refugee was given a prominent voice. We continued to create spaces for other leaders and advocates with lived experiences at the local, regional, and international spaces.

We look forward to continuing the journey with you to make APRRN an even more impactful collective network, a network, which will continue to effectively advocate for critical structural changes in laws, policies, practices, attitudes, and behaviours to improve the immediate and long-term situations for the rapidly growing number of refugees and other people on the move in our region. We would like to thank all our constituencies for your unwavering support and participation. A special thanks go to our predecessor Chris Eades, who spearheaded and secured funding for our co-leadership model. Also, many thanks to our colleague, Lars Stenger for being the interim Secretary General and to the Board for having faith in us by giving us the opportunity to embark on this co-leadership journey.



Hafsar Tameesuddin

Co-Secretary General



Klaus Dik Nielsen

Co-Secretary General



APRRN Overview

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) was founded in 2008 and is a membership network that works collaboratively to protect and promote the human rights of refugees and other people on the move in need of protection—including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), stateless persons, migrants in vulnerable situations and returnees—in the Asia Pacific region. APRRN is an open and growing network of over 260 individuals and organisations in 28 countries.

APRRN is a trusted advisor and resource; we deliver essential toolkits to facilitate joint, comprehensive advocacy in the region, and to ensure refugees and other people on the move have access to equitable protection, assistance, socioeconomic inclusion, and timely durable solutions. The APRRN Secretariat, with its main office in Bangkok, currently consists of 13 staff and consultants in the region under the leadership of two Co-Secretaries General, one of whom has lived experience.

APRRN facilitates cross-cultural collaboration and regional action, galvanising and directing momentum to ensure the region is effectively, safely, and collaboratively demanding action and thereby advancing the socioeconomic inclusion and equitable human rights of refugees and other people on the move in situations of vulnerability.

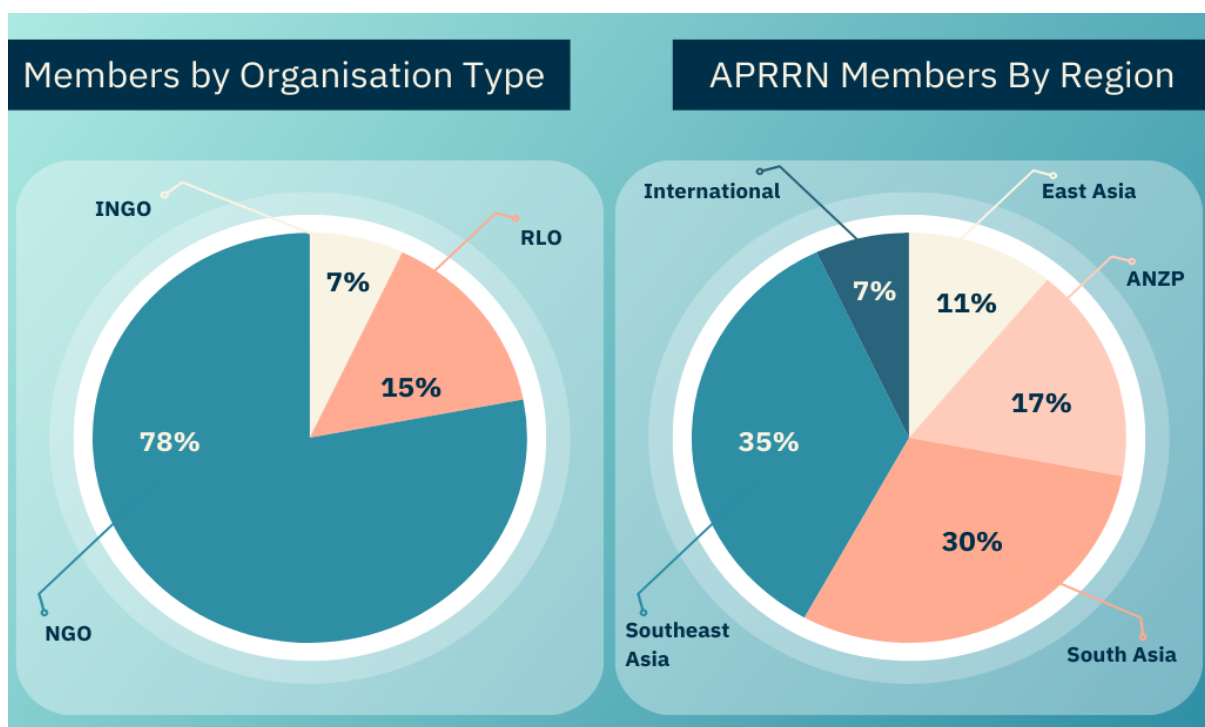
By working together as a regional network, our ability to hold governments to account is significant. APRRN advocates with governments in the Asia Pacific to draft, implement, and monitor laws, policies, and practices that protect the human rights of refugees and other displaced persons in the region to prevent and end severe violations of human rights. This includes addressing and recommending solutions to the ongoing persecution against Rohingya, and the displacement of all Myanmar and Afghan people on the move in our region. We also envisage to widen our advocacy to include other vulnerable and diverse groups, such as LGBTQI refugees.

Capacity building of APRRN members, with a specific focus on Refugee-Led organisations and initiatives, remains a core value and objective of APRRN, as does the implementation of intentional, meaningful and diverse refugee participation. Our efforts for our members to intentionally connect with each other across themes and regions, as well as with the Secretariat, is also an important and integral part of APRRN's mission.



APRRN Membership

During 2023, thirty-seven new members joined APRRN, increasing the membership to 261 members, including 172 organisational and 89 individual members.



Membership with APRRN is open to all civil society organisations, individuals, and people with lived experience - RLO/RLIs committed to advocating for the rights of refugees and other people in need of protection in the Asia Pacific region. If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our website and fill out the membership application form. <https://aprrn.org/membership/>

2023 Highlights

The 9th Asia-Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights (APCRR)

On 11 and 12 September, 117 APRRN members and partners from 19 countries came together in person and online, to have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a Consultation. It was the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic, that members were able to meet in person. The meeting discussed advocacy priorities as laid out in the 2023-2027 APRRN strategy. A motion was also carried to establish a Governance Review Sub-Committee, with a mandate to undertake a full review of APRRN's governance structures with a view for APRRN's governance structure to remain effective and transparent.

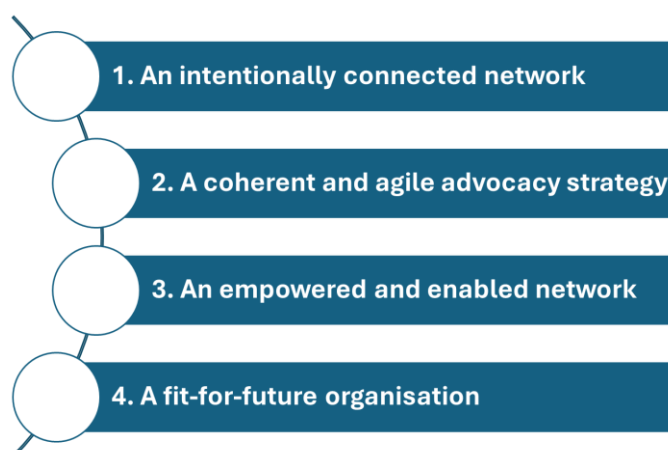
New Steering Committee– 2023-2025

As of 11 September, APRRN had a new Steering Committee. Under the leadership of David Keegan and Lynette Nam, the Committee consists of 15 Regional and Thematic Working Group Chairs and Deputy Chairs. Three positions for deputy chairs remained vacant and were being filled via appointment by the Steering Committee. Out of the 20 members, 40 per cent come with lived experience with the aim to continue increasing the number of lived experience leadership in APRRN.

Working Group	WG Chair	WG Deputy Chair
Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific	Zaki Haidari	Jason Siwat
East Asia	Jeannie Kim	Satomi Hiyama
South Asia	Gopal Krishna Siwakoti	Fatemeh Ashrafi
Southeast Asia	Christopher Eades	
Legal Aid and Advocacy	Sabine Larribeau	Sabina Dhakal
Immigration Detention	Celia Finch	Jafarullah
Refugee Leadership and Participation	Mohammad Nowkhim	Najeeba Wazefadost
Women, Gender and Diversity	Tenzin Dawa	
Youth	Rana Ebrahimi	

2023-2027 APRRN STRATEGY

APRRN is continuing to evolve and change in our pursuit of greater impact, inclusivity and capacity as a network with a vision for protecting and promoting the rights of refugees and other people in need of protection in the Asia Pacific region. According to the APRRN Statute, the Steering Committee is tasked with preparing a new strategic plan every 4-5 years in order to ensure that the work of APRRN remains strategic, relevant and focussed on core priorities. Therefore, the APRRN Strategy 2023 - 2027 sets the priorities of APRRN and define where and how the network can best achieve its vision and ensure its sustainability into the future. The strategy contains four key pillars and a key component of this strategy is to help bring focus to the work of the Secretariat and ensure that the value of APRRN as a network of members focused on collective advocacy, is maintained, strengthened and innovated. Each pillar has key targets associated with it that will be measured across the four-year period. Find the [strategy](#) here.



Advocacy Priorities 2023-2025

Following discussions at APCRR9, feedback and comprehensive assessment of the key priorities for advocacy and action, six priority areas were identified. It was noted that while these priorities are vital, they do not preclude other advocacy priorities and efforts. The priorities identified provided valuable insight into the network's collective direction and interest.

Strongest advocacy priorities were:

1. **Immigration detention**
2. **Right to work, livelihood and education**
3. **Meaningful participation and inclusion**
4. **Targeted approach to excluded populations LGBTIQI+**
5. **National systems, legal pathways and RSD**
6. **Myanmar & Rohingya**

Note: While the right to work, livelihood and education was voted as a priority, no one present decided to come together to discuss that particular priority. Instead, a group formed to discuss solutions to Afghanistan displacement.

2023 APRRN Program Updates Summary

APRRN has increasingly become an authoritative contributor and agenda setter at local, national, regional and global level, both public and behind closed doors. In 2023 this included co-organising, participating in and delivering speeches at High Level Meeting on Rohingya with UN agencies, the UNHCR regional NGO consultations in Bangkok, the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, and continuing to co-lead the UN Migration Network Workstream on strategic litigation with OHCHR. We also connected new and established members and were part of building and strengthening capacity, skills and confidence by being part of and coordinating a number of empowerment initiatives. Below are some of our activities and impact throughout the year:

Advocating for alternatives to detention and non-refoulement

APRRN's geographical Working Groups, the Working Groups on Immigration Detention and Legal Aid & Advocacy, as well as Secretariat staff and consultants contributed to the following:

- **India:** APRRN in collaboration with Migration and Asylum Project (MAP) and other members conducted capacity building, advocacy and research on the situation of detention of refugees fleeing violence and persecution in Myanmar. One research report was launched on 20 November in New Delhi and one advocacy document 'Detention of Burmese Nationals in India' was targeted at regional and global partners via the UN Special Procedures on the Human Rights of Migrants and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as India specific input to the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar report in March. Capacity-building sessions for refugee-led Initiatives, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and lawyers in Manipur on refugee rights, Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and protection standards, led to the

Chin Refugee Committee making a submission to the Ministry of External Affairs, in June regarding non-issuance of exit permits to refugees scheduled to leave India in pursuit of resettlement or complementary pathways. These efforts contributed to India granting exit permits again at the end of 2023. APRRN also coordinated a Rohingya Human Rights Initiative (ROHRIngya) webinar on "[Arbitrary Detention and other Humanitarian Challenges faced by Rohingya Refugees](#)" with a diverse range of speakers, including Indian grassroots organisations, intellectuals, development practitioners and legal experts

- **Malaysia:** APRRN member International Detention Coalition (IDC) produced a research report on the "[Impact of Prolonged Immigration Detention on Rohingya Families and Communities in Malaysia](#)", under the Danish Refugee Council's Protecting Rohingya Refugees in Asia (PRRIA) project. The report highlights the immediate and long-term consequences of Malaysia's stringent and indefinite immigration detention policies and practices on Rohingya families and communities. Recommendations include implementing Alternatives to Detention (ATD) and adopting a refugee-survivor-centric approach in policies and responses, reinvigorating the Malaysian authorities' discussions about Alternatives to Detention for children pilots. This research report has supported APRRN's 2022 strategy paper on addressing immigration detention of Rohingya in Malaysia. By the end of 2023 APRRN and members produced a UPR [submission for the 45th Session of the HRC](#) (scheduled for January/February 2024) highlighting concerns on deprivation of liberty.
- **Hong Kong SAR:** In July APRRN and the Global Detention Project (GDP) made a [Joint Submission to the Universal Periodic Review: CONCERNING MIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA](#)
- **Thailand:** APRRN and the Equal Asia Foundation (EAF) produced and launched the film "[Not Always Rainbows](#)" on the situation of LGBTIQ+ refugees in Thailand, calling for an end to detention policies and highlighting the plight of particularly vulnerable groups of people on the move. Thailand hosts 1000s of refugees and asylum seekers, with increasing numbers due to ongoing conflicts in Myanmar and Afghanistan and this includes the LGBTIQ+ community, which are often invisible, both in camps and as urban refugees. The film was also presented by Klaus and shown at the PRIDE event in Bangkok in November, organised by the APCOM Foundation, Thailand outside City Hall Bangkok.
- APRRN joined in coordinated advocacy efforts with the Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP) and Migrant Working Group (MWG) to call on the Thai Government to immediately end indefinite immigration detention of Uyghur refugees and investigate deaths in custody. Following this, APRRN welcomed the [National Human Rights Commission of Thailand's report](#) on the deaths of two of the Uyghur men in detention in 2023 which found continued detention of 48 refugees to be against national and international law.
- APRRN members provided input into the [regional plan of action](#) implementing the [ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration](#), including safeguards against child detention. APRRN co-organised a webinar with CSOs on advocacy to leverage the declaration and plan on national and regional levels.
- **Pakistan:** In October APRRN coordinated responses with members in Pakistan addressing and responding to a spike in arrests, detention, and deportation of Afghan nationals



Advocating for the rights of refugees from Afghanistan

APRRN continued to work on displacement from Afghanistan, in partnership with members and non-members on strengthening the network's response to support Afghans in transit facing severe challenges, not least the mass deportations from both Pakistan and Iran and the ensuing humanitarian crises. We expanded our efforts to share pathways to resettlement, assistance, protection, and durable solutions for displaced Afghans living in our region, by undertaking the following activities:

- APRRN's *Information on Afghanistan* [Facebook page](#) and [Website](#) (launched in 2022) continued to see new and returning visitors, 6,800 in total in 2023, overwhelmingly from Afghanistan and neighboring countries. These platforms were regularly updated with the verified information on legal pathways, education and employment opportunities, migration news and psychosocial support, specifically available to Afghans in transit.
- A [series of information sheets](#) on legal aid and pathways were published and updated on legal assistance in, and relocation to Canada, France, India, Ireland, Italy, UK and the US. The information sheets aim to help inform Afghans in their decision-making regarding safe and dignified onward movement.
- APRRN coordinated with Pakistan and Afghanistan-based members supporting regional and national level advocacy efforts against deportations and detention, holding exchange meetings, facilitating collaborations and issued an [urgent statement](#) urging Pakistan to allow Afghans and other refugees to seek safety within its border. This was a collective response to the [3rd October announcement](#) that all undocumented asylum seekers including an estimated 1.7 million Afghan nationals living in Pakistan must leave before 1 November voluntarily or face deportation led to arrests, detentions and evictions spreading fear amongst Afghans and other refugees in Pakistan.
- APRRN's consultant, Rana Refahi, presented on the effective collaborations with law firms on the Legal Aid and Pathways Project on '*Innovative Approaches and Emerging Areas of Refugee Rights Pro Bono*' at the 12th Asia Pro Bono Conference in December.

Advocating for the Rights of Rohingya Refugees

- Members of the Rohingya Working Group undertook a lobby mission to Jakarta to learn more about Indonesia's plans for its term as Chair of ASEAN and how concerns related to Rohingya displacement can be raised in discussions on ASEAN's Five Point Consensus on Myanmar. In addition, the delegation briefed policy-and decision makers, ASEAN bodies, and civil society stakeholders on APRRN's main concerns to ensure the Rohingya crisis remains on the agenda as a priority, and to explore opportunities for collaboration. APRRN's Rohingya Working Group also held several meetings with Indonesian and ASEAN delegations in the first months of the Indonesian ASEAN Chairmanship.
- Hafsar attended and spoke for the panel, "Mobilising Solidarity with Rohingya Women" at the Genocide Commemoration event.
- 'Insecurity, Risk and Resilience: The Contributions and Challenges of Refugee-led Initiatives in Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh' draws on fieldwork interviews conducted with refugee leaders and representatives in 2022. The report provides the first detailed analysis of the experiences of RLIs working in the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Its lead authors are Jessica Olney and Saiful Haque, with the Kaldor Centre's Brian Barbour and Tristan Harley and Najeeba Wazefadost from the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees (APNOR)
- In September, an online report launch, titled "[This Persecution is the Worst There is](#)" hosted by The Fort and organized by Youth Congress Rohingya (YCR), presented a fresh and community-driven perspective. Hafsar participated as a panelist at the launch, emphasizing the urgency of not normalizing the ongoing oppression and persecution of the Rohingyas. They stressed the need to hold the responsible state accountable for human rights violations against the Rohingya population.
- In an interview with [The National](#), Chris Lewa, Deputy Chair of the Rohingya Working Group and coordinator of The Arakan Project, highlighted the 150,000 displaced Rohingyas from 2012 who are still in "internment camps" in Central Rhakine 10 years on.
- In light of some of events along the Thailand-Myanmar border, the APRRN Southeast Asia Working Group conducted an information-sharing session with APRRN member, Centre for Social Integrity (CSI). CSI is currently working with and supporting individuals in Mae Sot.
- In August, Hafsar met four Rohingya women human rights defenders from Australia, Canada, and the United States in Indonesia. The five Rohingya leaders met with Rohingya refugees currently housed in Indonesia's Aceh province ([see video](#)), and held meetings during Genocide Remembrance Day, 25 August 2023, with representatives of Muhammadiyah Indonesia, local NGOs, and CBOs to explore access to education for Rohingya refugee children as well as opportunities for the social-economic inclusion of refugees in Indonesia.

Advocating for the Rights of other Burmese Refugees

- APRRN advocated throughout the year with several UNHCR offices to issue a [Guidance Note On the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Myanmar](#).
- APRRN' internal report on "Forced Displacement in Myanmar" (2022) was followed up with interventions on the India side of the Myanmar border. APRRN supported the New Myanmar Foundation to continue their work for Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) members at risk in Myanmar and Thailand.
- APRRN's South East Asia Working Group released a joint [consultation report](#) with findings based on consultations with local actors and community-based organisations, including Karen and Karenni communities, on new and ongoing challenges faced by refugees residing in the camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Facilitating financial support directly to refugee- led organisations

In the latter half of the year, APRRN completed Global Giving's credentialing and due-diligence process, launching four initial projects. Through these initiatives, APRRN distributed funds to four RLO's in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The funding supported emergency relief efforts following Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar, while also enabling access to education and disaster response capacity building in Bangladesh's refugee camps.

Designing and promoting strategic responses to challenges for refugee women and girls

With the APRRN Women, Gender and Diversity Working Group, APRRN held member convenings and completed four major projects.

- The multi-year, multi-country action-based research project, [Refugee Women and Girls: Key to the Global Compact Project](#), led by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) resulted in the formation of a consortium of eight refugee women groups in Malaysia and two in Indonesia, launched during the *Empowering Refugee Women Expo* in November 2023.
- APRRN contributed to the design and running of the UNSW-led workshops on 'Participatory Approaches to Supporting Gender Equality and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The workshops reflected on multi-stakeholder, context-specific experiences and approaches to gender equality and prevention of SGBV adopted in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand, contributing to the development of a repository of tools for women led initiatives and partners, to be launched in 2024.
- APRRN partnered with the UNHCR Regional Bureau in Asia and the Pacific on a project providing direct support to 10 refugee women-led initiatives to strengthen institutional capacity, women's leadership, and community engagement in GBV prevention and response in Indonesia and Malaysia, Women leaders enhanced their project management, monitoring, evaluation, and proposal and report writing skills.
- Through partnerships and initiatives such as the Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures Project (FIFF) and the Improving Digital Empathy for LGBTIQ+ Forcibly Displaced Persons in Thailand project, APRRN was instrumental in championing gender equality, promoting intersectional feminism, and fostering empathy and awareness for marginalised groups within the refugee community. In addition to tangible impact on the ground, our work contributed to the broader international movement towards gender equality and social change.

APRRN's advocacy prior to and during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF)

APRRN, in our role as the only representative of the Asia Pacific region on the NGO Reference Group to the GRF, engaged in consultations and debriefs with members, and selected a diverse group of NGO and refugee representatives to attend the GRF in panels and side events.

GRF Pledges submitted by APRRN:

APRRN submitted four pledges at the GRF 2023.

1. [GRF Legal Community Pledge](#): To increase legal assistance for and with refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, and internally and other displaced people and to advance systemic change to facilitate access to rights, justice and solutions.
2. [Multistakeholder pledge on Developing alternatives to immigration detention and ending immigration detention](#) - APRRN commits to supporting members in strengthening capacity, evidence base, and coordination of advocacy efforts. This includes mapping opportunities for collaborative advocacy, sharing data and resources, and supporting engagement with various international commitments
3. [Rohingya Pledge](#) -APRRN is committed to empowering refugees by providing knowledge about their rights and legal procedures, fostering an informed and proactive community seeking justice. APRRN vows to support community-led initiatives that foster collaboration, cooperation, and mutual support within refugee camps. This commitment extends to endorsing refugee-led initiatives focused on skills and education, promoting resilience and self-reliance.
4. [APRRN's Meaningful Refugee Participation Pledge](#) - APRRN pledges to actively support the meaningful participation of refugees and host communities in decisions that directly impact their lives. Recognising the importance of diversity within these communities, the pledge emphasises considerations for age, gender, and disability, aiming to empower those affected by displacement and improve the relevance, quality, transparency, and accountability of assistance.

During the GRF, Hafsar spoke at various panels, including at the event on the launch of the Rohingya Multi-Stakeholders pledge. At the panel, Hafsar highlighted the need to shift narratives of Rohingyas from *"Passive recipients of aid to agents of change"* and to explore innovative ways to allow Rohingyas to constructively contribute to host communities and societies. Hafsar also had side meetings with permanent missions discussed opportunities on issues of Rohingyas and other refugees in the Asia Pacific Region, including looking into socio-economic cohesion, local integration, and complimentary pathways.

The event saw an increase from the first GRF in delegates with lived experience from 70 to over 300. However, concerns remain about the intentionality of this inclusion, as questions arose regarding whether refugees are influencing decisions or being tokenised by governments and UNCHR. The New Humanitarian, in collaboration with Refugees International and Asylum Access, organised a side-event titled "From refugee inclusion to shifting power: Building a global refugee sector that puts refugees first." Hafsar, shared their powerful insights about the challenges and opportunities of empowering refugees in decision-making processes. Hafsar stressed the need to constantly reflect on the meaningful participation of refugees and inclusion as a movement without leaving anyone behind, as well as the roles of refugee leaders themselves in doing so.



Refugee Leadership, Participation, and Refugee-Led Advocacy

The co-leadership model between those with and without those with lived experience has put meaningful refugee participation at the forefront of our work, prioritised throughout our strategic plan and mainstreamed across our advocacy and programmes. While we saw increased representation within the Secretariat, and have prioritised encouraging more people with lived experience to be part of the Steering Committee, in 2023 we started internally reflecting on looking deeper at power dynamics within APRRN to ensure we are building equitable partnerships, accessible and inclusive working groups for all voices across our membership and active refugee leadership across the network. In 2023 we partnered with APNOR who led a series of advocacy and training initiatives focused on Meaningful Refugee Participation. In total APNOR delivered 5 online sessions for APRRN members from INGOs, NGOs and RLOs. These sessions enabled our members to strengthen their knowledge about how MRP and how to implement MRP, and allowed for important discussions.

In addition, the APRRN Secretariat updated its recruitment criteria and recruited refugees to fill vacant positions in IT and membership support, as well as prioritising consultants who come with lived experience.

PARTICIPATION IS A RIGHT! – In November, during the 7th Asia Pacific Population Conference (7APPC) at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) and APRRN co-hosted a side event - "*Migrants and refugees as actors of development: Bringing and amplifying migrants and refugees' voice in the population and development discourse.*" Klaus moderated discussions underscoring the importance of recognising the substantive contributions of migrants and refugees, tackling human rights violations, and promoting inclusive, meaningful, diverse, and sustainable participation. Hafsar expressed concerns about the many barriers refugees face, including access to education and work. The event emphasised the fact that participation is a right and the need for continued collaboration among governments, civil society, and refugee and migrant communities to ensure effective and meaningful participation.

APRRN and Joint Statements and Press Releases

- “Bali Process Mechanisms must be Activated to stop [Rohingya Deaths at Sea](#)” (26 January 2023)
 - “APRRN urges Japan to [withdraw the Amendment bill to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act](#) showing their leadership in international refugee protection” (4 April 2023)
 - “The Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP) and Migrant Working Group (MWG) Thailand: Immediately [End Indefinite Detention of Uyghur Refugees](#), Investigate Second Death in Custody in two months” (23 April 2023)
 - “APRRN calls on ASEAN Leaders to [Prioritise Establishment Of Regional Protection Framework](#) as Myanmar and Rohingya Crisis Worsens” (9 May 2023)
 - “Addressing the [Issues of Rohingya Detention and Human Rights Violations in India at G20](#)” (25 September 2023)
 - APRRN issued two public statements on detention in India, “[calling on the Government of India to immediately stop arbitrary arrests and indefinite detention of Rohingya men, women and children across India](#)” (August 2023) and “[Addressing the Issues of Rohingya Detention and Human Rights Violations in India at G20](#)” (25 Sept 2023)
 - APRRN Urges [Pakistan Not to Deport Afghans](#) Seeking Safety within its Borders (13 October 2023)
 - [Statements delivered](#) at the High-Level Meeting on Rohingya Refugees by Hafsar Tameesuddin, Noor Azia and Lilian Fan (30 November, 2023)
 - “The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) Statement on the [Global Refugee Forum 2023](#)” (14 December 2023)
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- [The New Humanitarian | Shifting power: A conversation about building a global refugee sector that puts refugees first \(21 December 2023\)](#)



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income 2023	THB
Grants	17,423,833
Donations	1,227,161
Membership fees	489,333
Interest received	46,088
Total Income	19,186,416

Expenditures 2023	THB
Programme Expenses	7,623,981
Administrative Expenses	15,284,356
Total Expenditures	22,908,337

Grants	THB
EU-ECHO	1,780,000
Heinrich Böll Stiftung Southeast Asia (HBS)	275,652
Voice Global	227,804
OAK	2,968,830
Open Society Foundations	-20,166
Oxfam	548,460
Private family foundation	4,108,314
Refugee Council of Australia	54,813
Settlement Services International	1,145,579
Julia Taft Foundation	262,934
Global Giving	628,624
SILP	2,838,741
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	203,136
UNHCR	2,279,828
University of New South Wales	121,284

Please also see: [APRRN's AUDITED REPORT for 2023](#)

APRRN would like to thank our donors for their support in 2023, including:



European Union



Words from an APRRN partner:

"Earlier this week SSI had the pleasure to meet the amazing Hafsar & Klaus Co-Secretary Generals of Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). What a dynamic duo - such powerful, beautiful, passionate & driven individuals! We can learn so much from their operating style & approach - a genuine model of co leadership!! The 2-day consultation on Asia Pacific Refugee Rights was a platform to spearhead refugee meaningful participation. Stimulating & nourishing conversations producing innovative & practical suggestions that will be prioritised & incorporated within the strategic plan. We are so proud to partner with APRRN to progress refugee inclusion & meaningful participation"

Sonia Vignjevic, State Director & General Manager, Settlement Services International



www.aprrn.org

PROMOTING
INCLUSION
FOR
**SUSTAINABLE
SOLUTIONS**