Metropolis Americas Summit on Migrant Rights marking the 75th Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

CALL FOR PAPERS / PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS

Deadline to submit: September 17th, 2023

On December 10th, 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Canada has a special role in the UDHR as it was Canadian John Peters Humphrey that hand wrote the first draft of the UDHR and then coordinated the drafting process as the Director of the Human Rights Division at the United Nations in New York.

As regards migration, the number of refugees and displaced persons seeking safe haven world-wide has reached historic levels. Article 14 of the UHDR stipulates that "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." To mark the Anniversary of the UDHR, on December 11th and 12th, 2023, Metropolis Americas will hold its annual summit in New York City on the theme of Migrants Rights (tentatively the Summit will be held at Ellis Island Museum). With a focus on identifying solutions towards safe, orderly and regular migration researchers, policy makers, service providers and civil society from across the Americas are invited to submit proposals on global migration challenges with particular attention directed at the current state of migrants rights. The Summit will provide an important opportunity to examine the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which expressed the will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale. With a focus on identifying solutions towards safe, orderly and regular migration researchers, policy makers, service providers and civil society from across the Americas are invited to submit proposals on global migration challenges with particular attention directed at the current state of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants rights.

Topics

- Defining refugees - The 1951 Refugee Convention
- The Global Compact for Migration
- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016)
- Migration Governance
- Categories of Refugees
- Refugee Determination
- Rescuing, receiving and welcoming refugees and migrants
- Women and girls
- Full, equal and meaningful participation
- Refugee and migrant children
- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Combating xenophobia against refugees
- The Canada–United States Safe Third Country Agreement
- Humanitarian and development assistance
- The role of civil society partners and the UN system, whenever there is a large movement of refugees or a protracted refugee situation
- Housing
- Resettlement
- International refugee law
- The role of borders
- Representations of refugees (media, popular opinion, etc)

WORKSHOP FORMATS

Workshops/panel presentation sessions (75 minutes)

Workshops will usually consist of a minimum of three to a maximum of five presentations of approximately 15 minutes each followed by at least 20 minutes of discussion. Workshop rooms will be equipped with a laptop, screen, and projector. Workshop organizers will preside over the session or designate another individual to do so.

Roundtables (75 minutes)

The roundtable format is suitable for more informal discussions of emerging issues or controversies. Roundtables are intended to facilitate discussion to a greater extent then time may permit in Workshop/panel presentation type sessions. It is a very effective format for the exchange of information and experiences among all participants attending the session.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

In order to open as many opportunities as possible for the most participants, we ask that:

- Participants may organize more than one workshop but on different topics;

- An organizer can choose to participate in additional workshops as a chair, participant or discussant;

- Each person listed as an organizer, participant, chair or discussant in a workshop must register to the conference either as a day or full conference participant and pay the applicable registration fees. Please inform your presenters of this requirement when inviting them to participate in your workshop.

- **If you are interested in presenting a paper, we strongly encourage you to solicit colleagues from your area of expertise and from different sectors to submit a workshop proposal.** If you do not have the ability to put together a workshop proposal with other colleagues but you are still interested in presenting a paper, a research project or another presentation, please consider selecting a "poster presentation option" format when prompted.

- **An Adjudication Committee will meet to review the workshop proposals after the submission deadline.** The Adjudication Committee will consider proposals that include a clear title, abstract and summary as well as a list of at least three confirmed presenters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

The Adjudication Committee will place priority on:

- Workshops that have confirmed and combined presenters from the three sectors: academic, non-governmental and government policy
- Workshops that involve graduate students.
- Workshops that bring perspectives of those with lived experience and that include diverse representation.
- Workshops that include participants across various regions of Canada or the world.

Please note that all presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fee as posted on the conference website.

Session organizers will be required to provide the information listed below during the submission process via our website:

- Name and contact information
- Format of your session (workshop or roundtable)
- Theme (from the 5 above) in which the session falls under
- Title of your session
- Names of co-organizers (if applicable)
- Names of presenters including their affiliation, email address and titles of their presentation
- 50-word abstract which will be included in the program (please make sure it is descriptive but is also formulated to interest as many conference participants as possible)

Please note that the information you provide us will be included in the conference program. Please verify the spelling of your presenters' names and the titles of their presentations.

If you are organizing a session with both English AND Spanish presentations, we ask that you provide us with the translation of the title and 50-word abstract for the program.