



Finding Protection and Support in Canada:

Political, Legal and Community Challenges for Refugees and other Asylum-Seekers

Panelists:

Sharry Aiken

Refugees, "spontaneous arrivals" and "Surveillance at the Canadian Border"

Sharry Aiken is a professor and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Law, Queen's University. Her current scholarship engages with the challenges posed by immigration and border security measures as well as the impact of these measures on asylum seekers, refugees and the communities they have established in Canada. In this panel, she will examine government and media responses to the arrival of Tamil refugees aboard the "Ocean Lady" and the "M.V. Sunsea" in British Columbia. While Canada has deployed interdiction strategies aimed to deter "spontaneous arrivals" at the Canadian border for decades, Prof. Aiken will consider the extent to which recent policy shifts represent an intensification of border surveillance and securitization.

Evelyn Jones

Private Refugee Sponsorship – a Community Response

Evelyn Jones is the Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator with ISIS (Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services) in Halifax. She will speak about Canada's unique program which gives community groups an opportunity to sponsor refugees. She has been engaged in refugee issues for over 15 years, having worked in El Salvador, Colombia, and Canada. Evelyn will discuss initiatives such as the sponsorship of 28 Palestinian refugees from Iraq by 7 sponsorship groups in Halifax last year.

Shiva Nourpanah

"A person can have and love two homes, you know" A Study of the Resettled Afghan Refugees Living in Halifax.

Shiva worked with Afghan refugees in Iran as a UNHCR staff-member for 8 years before moving to Halifax and obtaining her MA degree in International Development Studies at Dalhousie University. Her research is on the cultural and social integration of Afghan refugees resettled in Nova Scotia. She will present on various facets of the integration process and settlement experience of government-assisted refugees, arguing for a policy which recognizes the potential contributions and assets of a vibrant, hopeful and forward-looking community.

14 March, 2011, 2:30-4:30

Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS)

6960 Mumford Road

(Mumford Professional Centre – formerly West End Mall)

902-423-3607

Light refreshments will be provided.

Registration is free but required.

Please RSVP to atlantic.metropolis@smu.ca, or (902) 491-6404. Shared transportation options for students attending from SMU and Dalhousie is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact the e-mail above or call for further information.

Sponsored by: The "Policing, Justice and Security" Research Domain of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre of Excellence (AMC) and Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS)

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