

Transformative Leadership in Times of Polycrisis

April 8-9 2025



مركــز دراســــات الــنـــزاع والــعــمل الإنـسانــي Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies









Transformative **Leadership** in Times of Polycrisis **Program**

	Day One: Tuesday, 8 April 2025					
08:45 – 11:00	Opening & Keynote Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Main Auditorium					
	Welcome and Opening Remarks					
	Dana Dajani - Master of Ceremonies					
08:45 - 09:15	Ghassan Elkahlout, Director, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies					
	Simon Tormey, Executive Dean Arts and Education, Deakin University					
	Mary Ana McGlasson, Director, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership					
09:15 – 09:35	Keynote Speech Her Excellency Mrs Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad, Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs					
09:35 - 09:45	Spoken Word Poem: If I was President					
07.55 - 07.45	Dana Dajani, Performance Poet Keynote Listener					
	Rethinking Humanitarian Leadership through Partnerships: Voices from Philanthropy					
	Moderator: Cheyenne Ellis, Clinton Global Initiative					
09:45-10:35	Panellists:					
09:45- 10:35	Pilar Pacheco, Gates Foundation					
	Maya Ghosn, Bridge Builders Collaborative					
	His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Al-Faihani, Deputy Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development					
10:35 – 11:00	Q&A					
11:00 – 11:30	Morning Tea Break					







11:00 – 11:30	Transformative Leadersh Interactive Installation	Transformative Leadership Through Interactive Storytelling and Collective Action Interactive Installation							
	Sidhee Patel and Emmanuel Amani, Pledge for Change								
	Panel Session	Workshop Session	Workshop Session	Oral Presentations	Panel Session	Workshop Session			
11:30 – 13:00	Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Auditorium 002	Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Meeting Room 003	Academic Building – First Floor – Meeting Room 001	Arab Center New Building – Second Floor – Seminar Room	Cvent (ONLINE)	Cvent (ONLINE)			
11:30 – 13:00	Seeing the Unseen: The Critical Role of Women's Rights Organizations in Humanitarian Response. Approaches, Effectiveness, and Sustainability Chair: Rina Bruinsma- Head ofc Government Australian Red Cross and CHL Board Member Sandra Macias del Villar, Alliance for Feminist Movements and Feminist Humanitarian Network Nazik Awad, Sudanese Women Rights Action Vinita Rahasranaman, Urgent Action Fund for Asia and the Pacific Salma Sakr, Global Resilience Fund	Navigating the Polycrisis: Localized Leadership for Sustainable Solutions Anab Mohamed, Independent International Development Practitioner & Consultant / Founder, Pathways Consulting LLC (In Development)	Can Alternative Leadership Exist? A Dialogue on Transformative Leadership Carla Vitantonio, Independent Researcher	Chair: Jan de Waegemaeker Leading with New Consciousness in Times of Polycrisis and Emerging Futures Charlotte Balfour-Poole, Save the Children and Mustafa Alalloush, Orange Beyond Traditional Boundaries: Diaspora and Mutual Aid Groups as Essential Humanitarian Actors in Complex Crises Bashair Ahmed, Shabaka Navigating the Polycrisis: Transformative Leadership for Humanitarian Action and Social Justice Zainab Moallin, ODI Global Transformative Leadership in Post-Conflict Syria: Leveraging Local Knowledge and Systemic Thinking for Sustainable Development Abdulfatah Mohamed and Rudainah Alhamdanalhajtbn, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Navigating Complexity: Lessons in Transformative Leadership from Türkiye's Migration and Disaster Responses Selman Salim Kesgin, Turkish Red Crescent	Strengthen and Empower Local Leadership to Bolster Transformative Leadership in Polycrisis John Ede, Ohaha Family Foundation Local Specialised Service Providers for non dominant approaches to leadership development and support Emmanual Tronc, H2H Chair: Deakin Events Management Services team	Foresight and Futures Thinking for Transformative Leadership and Navigating the Polycrisis Steven Lichty, REAL Consulting Group Chair: Deakin Events Management Services team			







	Examining the social, cultural, and religious influences on Sudanese crisis leadership Mayada Elmaki, Deakin University Enhancing a Feminist leadership for closing the gender gap in Humanitarian Action Anne Judith Ndombasi Kinsumba Ndamuso, NRC-PSEACap & OCHA Sudan					
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break					
14:00 – 15:20	Plenary Session Cultural Foundation – First Floor –Main Auditorium					
14:00 – 14:20	Keynote Presentation Tammam Aldouat, CEO, The New Humanitarian					
	Transformational Leadership in a Multipolar World Moderator: Mary Ana McGlasson, Director Centre for Humanitarian Leadership, Deakin University Panellists:					
14:20 – 15:10	Sisira Madurapperuma, ADPC, Aiham Al Sukhni, Qatar Red Crescent,					
	Themrise Khan, Independent Gopinath Payaril, The Blue Yonder					
15:10 – 15:20	Q&A Moderator: Kim Scriven, CEO H2H Network					
15:20 – 15:50	Afternoon Tea Break					







	Panel Session	Panel Session	Workshop Session	Panel Session	Workshop	Panel Session
15:50 – 17:15	Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Auditorium 002	Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Meeting Room 003	Academic Building – First Floor – Meeting Room 001	Arab Center New Building - Second Floor - Seminar Room	Cvent (ONLINE)	Cvent (ONLINE)
15:50 – 16:35	Shifting the Accountability Equation and Redressing Power Imbalances in the Aid Sector: Insights from the Pledge for Change Southern-led Assessment Chair: Themrise Khan Marie Rose Murphy, Fondation Communautaire Haitienne-Espwa/The Haiti Community Foundation Charles VanDyck, West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) Patrick Gathara, Co -chair AS Review Panel Fabeha Monir, Global Press Natalie Lartey	Humanitarian Coordination: Complementing VS Competing actions on the field Chair: Mana Mohammed Al-Ansari, Qatar Charity Moderator: Fajer Abdulrazzak Al-Abdulghani, Qatar Charity Speakers: Aisha Abdulrazzaq AlKuwari, Qatar Charity Najla Karib, Qatar Charity Mohamed Salah Ibrahim QRCS Maria Hatem, UNHCR	Strengthening Crisis Leadership Through Hypnotic Neuro-Imaginary Techniques Marta Hegyaljai Python, Association Hypnose Humanitaire	Making Aid Work for Displaced Women: Integrating Islamic Philanthropy and the International Humanitarian System to Improve Outcomes for Women Sandra Pertek, University of Birmingham Prof. Amelia Fauzia, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta and Social Trust Fund UIN Jakarta Khaled Khalifa, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Selman Salim, Turkish Red Crescent	Somatic Embodiment & Nervous System Regulation in Times of Crisis Chair: A/Prof Nazanin Zadeh Cummings Amalee Nsour, Independent Somatic Coach	Rooted Leadership: Navigating Moral Injury and Institutional Betrayal in the Polycrisis Chair: Deakin Events Management Services team Dimple Dhabalia, Roots in the Clouds





	Panel Session	Panel Session	Washahaa Saasiaa	Panel Session	Panel Session	Panel Session		
			Workshop Session					
	Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Auditorium 002	Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Meeting Room 003	Academic Building – First Floor – Meeting Room 001	Arab Center New Building – Second Floor – Seminar Room	Cvent (ONLINE)	Cvent (ONLINE)		
	From Asking to Action:	Continued:	Continued:	Continued:	No panel	Continued:		
16:35 – 17:15	A Global Consultation Ensuring the Voices of Women Affected by Conflict are Heard	Humanitarian Coordination: Complementing VS Competing actions on the field	Strengthening Crisis Leadership Through Hypnotic Neuro-Imaginary Techniques	Making Aid Work for Displaced Women: Integrating Islamic Philanthropy and the		Rooted Leadership: Navigating Moral Injury and Institutional Betrayal in the Polycrisis		
	Moderator: Themrise Khan			International Humanitarian		. 0.50.10.0		
	Marie Clarke, Women for Women International			System to Improve Outcomes for Women				
	Aram Shakerm, Women for Women International							
	Fatima Ahmed, Zenab for Women							
17:20 – 17:45	Closing Remarks							
17:20 - 17:45	Cultural Foundation – First Floor –Main Auditorium							
	Panos Moumtzis, Global Executive Leadership Initiative (GELI)							
17:20 – 17:35	His Excellency Mr Shane Flanagan, Australian Ambassador to Qatar							
17:35 – 17:45	Spoken Word Poem: Risk							
17.33 - 17:43	Dana Dajani, Performance Poe	et Keynote Listener						







	Day Two: Wednesday, 9 April 2025					
08:45 – 11:00	Opening & Keynote					
06.45 - 11.00	Cultural Foundation – First Floor –Main Auditorium					
	Welcome					
08:45 - 09:00	Spoken Word Poem: Origin Story					
08.43 - 07.00	Dana Dajani, Performance Poet Keynote Listener					
	Mat Tinkler, Save the Children					
	Keynote Presentation					
09:00 – 09:20	Hibak Kalfan, Executive Director, NEAR					
	Local Leader Spotlight - Leading From the Front: The Humanitarian Vanguard					
	Co-moderators: Adelina Kamal, Emma Beals,					
	Panellists:					
09:20 - 10:40	Salai Za Uk, Executive Director, Chin Human Rights Organisation (CHRO) (Myanmar)					
09.20 - 10.40	Ross Skarowski, Founder and CEO of Mission Kharkiv (Ukraine)					
	Awad Mohammed, Emergency Response Room representative (Sudan)					
	Safaa Elagib Agam Ayoub, Community Development Association (Sudan)					
	Ahmed Ekzayez, Syria Civil Defence/White Helmets (Syria)					
10:40 – 11:00	Q6A					
13.40 11.00	Mary Ana McGlasson, Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership					
11:00 – 11:30	Morning Tea Break					









11:30 – 13:00	Panel Session Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Auditorium 002	Panel Session Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Meeting Room 003	Workshop Session Academic Building – First Floor – Meeting Room 001	Oral Presentations Arab Center New Building – Second Floor – Seminar Room	Oral Presentations Cvent (ONLINE)	Workshop Session Cvent (ONLINE)
11:30 – 12:15	Chair: Mohammed Alsousi, CHS Solidarity in a Vacuum: Civil Society Leadership to Uphold Gaza's Health Sector Mayada El-Zoghbi, KIT Institute Amira Nimewari, Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Jennifer Dabis, Juzoor for Health and Social Development, Bushra Khalidi, Oxfam	Humanitarianism and feminist leadership in the polycrisis: thoughts on and from Sudan Chair: Petra Helal, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership Sara Abbas, Nabta Safaa El-Agib Adam Ayoub, Community Development Association (CDA)	Leadership Challenges for Humanitarian Workers in Syria: Navigating Localization between needs, the International Actors, and New Authorities Mohamad Rami Rajjoub, AL Sham Humanitarian Foundation Emma Beals, Associate Fellow at the Middle East Institute Ahmed Ekzayez, The White Helmets Vrinda Dar, the NEAR Network	Chair: Rina Bruinsma Leadership for the Polycrisis: Insights from the IFRC Network Gintare Guzeviciute, IFRC From Pledge to Practice: Building Equitable Partnerships in Humanitarian Contexts Rose Caldwell, Plan International UK, Rita Lopidia, Eve Organisation for Women Development Memory Training for Recovery - Adolescent (METRA): A Lower-cost Mental Health Intervention for Adolescents in Complex Crisis Situations. Azi Berzengi, RENU Health Clinic in Dubai	Chair: Thea Hillhorst Supporting Community- Led Crisis Response after Southern Türkiye's 2023 Earthquakes: A Case of Transformative Leadership in Disaster Response Ridvan Öner, Hayatadestek, Muhammad Adan, Hayatadestek Leadership transformateur pour renforcer la résilience communautaire face aux crises multisectorielles: leçons du Sahel burkinabè Abdoul Nasser Ouedraogo, Initiative SANT'Elles Reigniting Humanitarian Leadership: Embracing Aboriginal Leadership and Mentoring Principles Archie Law AM, Archie Law Consulting	Chair: Paula Brennan The role of Diaspora Actors in Localisation Efforts Yamam Salam, Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination Adrien Bory, Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination







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12:15 – 13:00	Chair: Mohammed Alsousi, CHS Funding Cuts, Doom or Boom. Gift of the Givers, a South African Case Study. Imtiaz Sooliman, Founder of Gift of the Givers	Chair: Petra Helal, CHL Human Rights or Humanitarian Wrongs! Analysing the Reframing Approaches to Key Populations through Local Leadership Achieve a More to Accountable, Legitimate Humanitarian System Moderator: Alex Gray Joan Amek, Rella Organisation Jane Buchanan, HelpAge USA Sandra Macias del Villar, Alliance for Feminist Movements Francois Zankih, Guardians of Equality Movement	Continued: Leadership Challenges for Humanitarian Workers in Syria: Navigating Localization between needs, the International Actors, and New Authorities	Transformative Leadership in Action: Empowering Women for Inclusive Governance in the MENA Region Tala Khrais, Forum of Federations Humanitarian Aid in the Shadow of Hierarchy: The Impact of Global Power Dynamics on the Emergence of Polycrisis Irfan Tatli, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation Humanitarian Leadership in Action: Qatar Red Crescent's Partnerships within the RCRC and UN Systems. Omar Serhane, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Abdulla Fouda, Qatar Red Crescent	From Aidland to Homeland: What the Lived Experience of Ukrainian Crisis Responders Indicates about Humanitarian Response Max Kelly, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership Gaza: Catalyst for Awakened Leadership and the Ethico- Epistemology of Stories from the Global South Muzna Shihabi-Barthe, Arab Center for Research and Political Studies Transformational leadership in research partnerships for navigating polycrises in conflict-affected Cameroon and Nigeria Lundi-Anne Omam Ngo Bibaa, Reach Out Cameroon	Courageous Leadership in the Polycrisis: Protecting Frontline Humanitarians through Staff Care, Mental Health, Justice, and Survivor-centered Advocacy Olivier Vandecasteele, Protect Humanitarians Sudhanshu S. Singh, Humanitarian Aid International (India) Eva Tamber, MHPSS Practitioner and Leadership consultant Mila Leonova, Alliance UA CSO, Ukraine Hanin Ahmed, Old Omdurman Emergency Response Room, Sudan





13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	Plenary Session Cultural Foundation – First Floor –Main Auditorium
14:00 – 14:20	Keynote Presentation Meg Sattler, CEO Ground Truth Solutions
	Transformative Leadership for the Polycrisis - Can INGOs change their spots? A Pledge for Change Plenary Event
	Moderator: Sofia Sprechmann
14:20 – 15:10	Panellists:
14:20 - 15:10	Amitabh Behar, Oxfam International
	Patrick Watt, Christian Aid
	Danny Glenwright, Save the Children Canada
	Halima Begum, Oxfam Great Britain
	Q6A
15:10 – 15:20	Moderator: Sofia Sprechmann
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15:50 – 16:35	Chair: Jan de Waegemaeker, Finn Church Aid When Guns Fall Silent and Earth Stops Shaking: Local Ownership and Leadership in Rebuilding Lives, Communities, and Hope Moderator: Unni Krishnan, Plan International Speakers: Amal Wagih Al-Hajj, Qotof Al Khair Rita Lopidia, Eve Organisation for Women Development Sajid Ali Siddiqui, Banke UNESCO Jennifer Dabis, Juzoor for Mental Health and Social Development	Chair: Kate Moger, Pledge for Change Leadership in Times of Polycrisis: Reclaiming Humanitarian Reform in the Asia- Pacific Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)Panel Presentation Shahida Arif, NEAR Loreine de Cruz, Center for Disaster Preparedness Sameera Noori, Citizens Organization For Advocacy and Resilience Agatia "Wenny" Tyamati, Pujiono Centre	Feministarian: A Workshop on how to Bridge the Divide between Humanitarian and Feminist Crisis Response Sandra Macias del Villar, Alliance for Feminist Movements and Feminist Humanitarian Network Nazik Awad, Sudanese Women Rights Action Ruby Johnson, Global Resilience Fund Vinita Sahasranaman, Urgent Action Fund for Asia and the Pacific Melinda Wells, Equality Fund Salma Sakr, Global Resilience Fund	Chair: Mai Abumoghli, Doha Institute Refugee Leadership and the Forced Migration Polycrisis Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT) Rez Gardi, Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT) Faith Akovi Cooper, United States Refugee Advisory Board Majdi Latinkah, German Refugee Advisory Board	Chair: Nazanin Zadeh Cummings Safeguarding as a Means for Well Being Menaca Calyaneratne, Former Save the Children Leading with Empathy Emily Timmreck, Catholic Relief Services Emerging Civic Futures in the Climate and Conflict Nexus Jennifer Lauren, Media Discourse Centre	Chair: Deakin Events Management Services team Circles of Solidarity: Tools for Transformative Leadership in the Polycrisis Melissa Pitotti, Facilitating the Future Ltd









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16:35 – 17:15	The Power of Collective Leadership: Voices and Lessons from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Palestine and Uganda Chair: Aishwarya Shetty, Education Above All Foundation, and Katy Noble, Teach for All Facilitators: Rahmatullah Arman, Teach for Afghanistan Munia Islam Mozumder, Teach for Bangladesh Ghassan Amayra, Teach for Palestine Kassaga Arinaitwe, Teach for Uganda	Rising from the Ashes: A Refugee's Path to Transformational Leadership Faith Cooper, International Rescue Committee	Continued: Feministarian: A Workshop on how to Bridge the Divide between Humanitarian and Feminist Crisis Respons	Chair: Mai Abumoghli, Doha Institute Reimagining Humanitarian Response: Diaspora And Mutual Aid Groups as Essential Actorsiln The Global Crisis Ecosystem Bashàïr Ahmed, Shabaka Themrise Khan, Independent	Accountability to Affected Populations means Everyone a Changemaker Joanna Kucharczyk - Jurgielewicz Ashoka, Innovators for the Public Myroslava Keryk, Ukrainian House Foundation Hannah Toppler, la Incubadora de Trabajo para Refugiados y Retornados, A.C. (Intrare)	Continued: Circles of Solidarity: Tools for Transformative Leadership in the Polycrisis			
17:20 – 18:00	Closing Remarks Cultural Foundation – Firs	Closing Remarks Cultural Foundation – First Floor – Main Auditorium							
	Ghassan Elkahlout, Direct	or, Center for Conflict and	Humanitarian Studies						
		ector, Centre for Humanita	rian Leadershi						
	Dana Dajani, Performance	Poet Keynote Listener							







Keynote Speakers



H.E. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad

Minister of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar

Her Excellency Mrs. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad was appointed Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Γ·ΓΕ. Before that, Her Excellency was appointed Minister of Social Development and Family in Γ·ΓΙ. Her Excellency has also served as Executive Director of the Center for Protection and Rehabilitation from Violence Against Women and Children (AMAN), Regional Director of Communication and Awareness Campaigns at the Education Above All Foundation, Director of the Media and Communication Department at the Social Rehabilitation Center (Al-Aween), and Executive Director of Childhood Cultural Center. She also chairs the Advisory Board of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies.



CEO, The New Humanitarian

Dr Aloudat, a Syrian-Swiss physician, is the CEO of The New Humanitarian, a leading humanitarian newsroom. With over two decades in international humanitarian organizations, he advocates for decolonizing global health and advancing humanitarianism. He began as a volunteer for the Syrian Red Crescent, later working with IFRC in Iraq post-Γ·· P'. Over Γ· years, he has responded to crises from Darfur to the Haiti earthquake. Most recently, he served as President of MSF Netherlands and on MSF's International Board.



Hibak Kalfan

Executive Director, NEAR

Hibak Kalfan is the Executive Director at NEAR, where she collaborates with local and national actors throughout the Global South to promote equity among humanitarian and development stakeholders, with a focus on supporting local communities. She holds an M.A. in Development Policy and Practice from the University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute. Hibak has over Γ years of experience in international development, having worked in the US, Africa, and the Middle East. Her expertise spans various sectors, including localisation, humanitarian aid, democracy and governance, media development, advocacy, public relations, strategic development, and coalition building.



Meg Sattler

CEO. Ground Truth Solutions

Meg has previously worked as a senior advisor on humanitarian accountability and community engagement to UN OCHA, UNICEF, the UN World Food Programme and the CDAC and Start Networks. She is a board member for the Humanitarian Innovation Fund and the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance, and is part of the CDAC Network and RedR Australia expert pools. Prior to working at global policy level Meg held senior humanitarian management roles in Haiti, Pakistan and throughout the Middle East.