



‘Survivors, Protectors and Providers’

Dialogues with women from refugee backgrounds in Australia, in preparation for the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Refugee Convention

Thank you for your interest in hosting a dialogue with women from a refugee background. This is a preliminary letter to explain more about what is involved in hosting a dialogue. It includes an Expression of interest form with a confidentiality and values agreement, and a letter that can be adapted and used to support fundraising for your dialogue.

The Women’s Dialogues Project has been initiated and organised by a group of refugee women, service providers and advocates. We do not currently have any funding for this project and are contributing our own time and skills in order for these local dialogues to go ahead. We greatly appreciate your support and assistance in this too.

As a steering committee we have been developing materials to ensure the best outcomes from this project. We want the dialogues to be an enjoyable, productive and rewarding experience for facilitators and participants. We need to ensure the wellbeing and confidentiality of participants. We want solid outcomes and recommendations that can be taken forward to the National Women’s Dialogue on June 14 and that will be used in national and international advocacy to improve the lives of women and girls from refugee backgrounds. We appreciate your generosity and commitment in being involved in this important project.

Steps to hosting a dialogue

1. Complete the attached Expression of Interest form and return it to the steering committee. This form includes a confidentiality agreement as well as information about the values that underpin this project. It is important that all hosting organisations share and agree to uphold these values.
2. A more detailed package of information about running a dialogue will be sent to you. It will include information about the key questions the dialogues project is seeking to answer, and suggested ways to run a dialogue. Options include using ‘storyboarding’; running a focus or discussion group; doing a ‘matrix’ activity, or using drama or role-play activities (if your organisation has experience in this).



3. If necessary, seek funding or in-kind assistance to support your dialogue and/or to send representatives from your dialogue to the national Dialogue in Sydney. Information about fundraising is included below.
4. Organise and hold a dialogue with refugee women. Please ensure you have enough people supporting the dialogue to enable recording of information and recommendations from the participants.
5. Report to the steering committee, in consultation with participants. A short written reporting format will be provided, or if necessary you can make a verbal report to one of the volunteer interns assisting this project. Details will be provided.
6. Receive grateful thanks from the steering committee for your commitment and dedication to working with women from refugee backgrounds.
7. As outcomes of the project are completed, report back details to the participants from your dialogue.

Funding to run a local dialogue and to support the National Women's Dialogue

While many organisations will be able to run a dialogue using their existing resources, there are sometimes small amounts of money available locally to community organisations to support their work. You may want to seek funding to support your dialogue or to fund a representative from your group to attend the National Women's Dialogue, which will be held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. Local councils, businesses and community service clubs in your local area may have some funding available, or you may be aware of other resources in your area that you can seek support from.

To assist you in this, the steering committee has compiled a short fundraising letter outlining the aims and benefits of the Women's Dialogue Project. You are welcome to adapt this letter to suit your needs. We also have a longer document available that provides much more comprehensive information about the aims and benefits of this project, which is suitable to be adapted for a larger funding application relating to this project. If you would like a copy of this longer document please send a request to ancorwrefugees@gmail.com or ancorw-board@googlegroups.com and we will forward it to you.

We are also very keen to raise sufficient funding to run the National Women's Dialogue, to produce a book of outcomes and recommendations resulting from this project, and to fund two refugee women representatives from the project to advocate on behalf of all participants at UNHCR meetings in Geneva. If you are aware of any potential funding sources to support these important parts of the Women's Dialogue Project, please email the steering committee at the above email address, or call Geraldine Doney on 93851961 or 0411051013.

Thanks for your participation.



**‘Survivors, Protectors and Providers’
Dialogues with women from refugee backgrounds in Australia**

**Expression of Interest to Host a Dialogue With Refugee
Women And Confidentiality And Values Agreement**

Please complete and return this form to ancorwrefugees@gmail.com or
ancorw-board@googlegroups.com or to
ANCORW, PO Box 6594, UNSW Sydney 1466

Name of organisation	
Contact person name	
Address	
Telephone numbers	
Email	
Website if available	
Type of organisation	
Please outline your interest in hosting a women’s dialogue	
Anticipated month/date for running a dialogue	
How many women do you expect to participate?	
How will you recruit women to participate? eg will you work with an established group or extend an open invitation?	



<p>What steps can you take to facilitate inclusion and participation of a diverse range of participants?</p>	
<p>Is your group likely to include women from a single language/ethnic group, or from several ethnic groups? Which groups are likely to participate?</p>	
<p>What steps can you take to support a participant who becomes upset through their participation in a dialogue?</p>	
<p>This project currently has no funding – are you able to self-fund the hosting of a dialogue?</p>	
<p>Are you likely to be able to send a representative to the national dialogue in Sydney on June 14?</p>	
<p>What assistance will you require from the steering committee?</p>	
<p>Any other comments/ information?</p>	



‘Survivors, Protectors and Providers’ Dialogues with women from refugee backgrounds in Australia

CONFIDENTIALITY and VALUES

This agreement is to be completed by all facilitators and supporters participating in dialogues with women as part of the Women’s Dialogue Project entitled ‘Survivors, Protectors and Providers’, and returned to the project’s steering committee.

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I understand that I will have access to information about dialogue participants while facilitating or supporting a dialogue with refugee women, and may learn personal information about a dialogue participant and/or her family that is private. I understand that it is my duty and responsibility to preserve and protect this privacy and confidentiality.

I agree to keep **all** information that I learn about dialogue participants confidential.

I understand that I am not permitted to discuss or disclose any information related to any person involved in the dialogue to anyone other than the steering committee and staff of the Centre for Refugee Research.

I agree that no names or identifying information about participants will be disclosed in any documentation or reporting of the dialogues.

I agree that no information from this dialogue will be used for any purpose other than reporting to the project’s steering committee, unless the steering committee and participants provide their permission

I understand that my obligations and duties to respect the confidential nature of this project and its participants will extend after I am no longer involved in the project or the project has been completed.

Both state and federal laws protect the confidentiality of participants. By placing my signature below, I am acknowledging that I understand and agree to maintain the privacy of all information relating to dialogue participants.

‘SURVIVORS, PROTECTORS AND PROVIDERS’ PROJECT VALUES

This project is committed to the equality and participation of women and girls in every aspect of their lives, and to respecting and valuing their capacities, choices, contributions and diversity.

Women and girls from refugee backgrounds have the capacity to identify and articulate challenges and problems facing refugee women throughout the refugee journey. The strength of women and girls in meeting these challenges, and their ideas for possible solutions, are central to the development of effective, sustainable solutions.

Participants have the right to be fully informed about how and why information from the dialogues will be collected and reported. Steps will be taken to ensure all participants, including those not proficient in English, understand the aims of the project and how information from the dialogues may be used.

Participation in the dialogues is entirely voluntary. Participants must have the opportunity to withdraw from the dialogue at any time, including the opportunity to withdraw any feedback or information communicated through the dialogue.



Dialogues will be participant-centred and participant-led. Participants have the right to determine the direction and outcomes of their dialogue, including participant-led selection of representatives to attend the National Women’s Dialogue.

The project is committed to inclusiveness and respect for diversity. Dialogue facilitators will take steps to ensure women can participate in the dialogues regardless of language proficiency, visa status, geographical barriers, or age.

Women have the right to participate in dialogues in the way they choose. The contribution of all participants will be respected, including those whose views are contrary to those of the facilitators, or who choose to be present as silent participants. Participants have a right to a safe space where their views and experiences are respected, heard and, with their informed consent, documented.

Participants have a right to review information collected from their dialogue before it is shared with the steering committee. Dialogue facilitators will, with participants, put in place steps for this to occur.

Dialogues have the potential to raise issues that may cause participants to become upset during or after the dialogue. Participants have the right to be supported, and facilitators have an obligation to provide that support as necessary. Facilitators will implement strategies for identifying and supporting participants, and/or providing referrals for professional support as needed. Where the facilitator has particular concerns and/or is unable to organise appropriate support for a distressed participant, the facilitator will seek guidance from the steering committee, respecting the confidentiality of the participant while holding their well-being as an issue of paramount concern.

Through their participation, women are making a valuable contribution to improving conditions for refugee women and have a right to information about outcomes from the dialogues project. Dialogue facilitators will make plans with participants to provide timely feedback of project activities and outcomes.

‘Survivors, Protectors and Providers’ is a project guided by recognition of the rights, dignity, skills and agency of women from a refugee background. By signing below, I am acknowledging that I agree to uphold these values in the conduct of dialogues and in my interactions with dialogue participants.

NAME: _____ Sign _____ Date _____

NAME: _____ Sign _____ Date _____

NAME: _____ Sign _____ Date _____

NAME: _____ Sign _____ Date _____

Location of Dialogue: _____