

# Refugee Programmes Advisory Group



NEW ZEALAND  
**RED CROSS**  
RĪPEKA WHERO AOTEAROA

The Refugee Programmes Advisory Group provides the Refugee Programmes Board Committee and senior staff of New Zealand Red Cross advice and information received from former refugees and refugee background communities regarding the nature of services provided by NZRC. The Advisory Group makes recommendations and reports on the activities provided by NZRC supporting asylum seekers, former refugees and their families in their transition into New Zealand society in accordance with the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy. The Advisory Group members use their skills and experiences to provide insight into issues affecting refugee background communities nationwide. New Zealand Red Cross is privileged to have the following individuals as members of the Refugee Programmes Advisory Group.



## NANDA KUMAR PRADHAN

PALMERSTON NORTH

**I was born in Bhutan in 1973.** My journey to New Zealand is the result of political turbulence of which we became innocent victims. I have faced the very extremes of life, hunger, poverty, diseases... and so on. But the hope of a better tomorrow always kept me alive and motivated. I have served as a volunteer in refugee camps. In New Zealand, I have continued serving as a volunteer – in community patrol, Red Cross (a new family), and at present for my own community. I hope I will have wonderful experience working in Refugee Advisory Group.



## ZEINA AL NAASAN

DUNEDIN

**I am from Syria and I came to New Zealand last year with my husband and daughter.** We are settling well in Dunedin and we enjoy living in this lovely city. I was a periodontist in Syria and I am studying at the University of Otago School of Dentistry to be qualified to practise my profession in New Zealand. I enjoy reading and walks in nature. I have volunteered with Red Cross' Dunedin homework club to support Syrian refugee students with their study. I am interested in helping young former refugees get a better education, empowering former refugee women to explore their potential and improving employment chances for all former refugees.



## NOSIA FOGOGO

AUCKLAND

**I am a law student born in Burundi, now living in Auckland.** It has always been a dream of mine to work for the United Nations because I would like to give back. I am passionate about education and I believe that everyone deserves the chance and opportunity to learn.



## AYAN SAID

AUCKLAND

**Ayan and her family left Mogadishu, Somali in 1990 and, following a period spent in a refugee camp in Kenya, relocated to Auckland New Zealand in 1994.** Ayan holds a Bachelor of Health Science (Double major in psychology and health promotion) and a Master's degree in public health from Auckland University of Technology. Ayan has been working in health promotion for over ten years, working to make a positive difference in the lives of former refugee and migrant populations. She is currently working as the Regional Refugee Community Health Worker with Starship Community on the Auckland District Health Board. Her areas of interests include mental health and coping methods of former Refugees, nutrition and healthy living, community development, women's health and resettlement issues for former refugee populations.



## HISHAM MUSA

CHRISTCHURCH

**Hisham is a visionary team builder and organiser who believes that the best achievements come from sincere human interactions.** He has a background in social and digital media, administration and public speaking. He uses his social, analytical and research skills to contribute to empowerment and advocacy causes. The value he generates lies in his collaborative approach, through interacting with people and providing leadership and insight. Moreover, having lived in several countries, Hisham is a keen observer of cultures and considers himself to be a 'citizen of the world'.



## AHMED IBRAHIM

HAMILTON

**My name is Ahmed Ibrahim, and I enjoy meeting new people and reading.** I have worked for a local organisation as a volunteer over the last few years, and also as a teacher aide at one of Hamilton's high schools. I like new challenges and learning from others. At the moment, I am working as a machine operator and studying full time. I am looking forward to working with Red Cross over the next couple of years and the experience this journey will offer, such as meeting Red Cross workers and the rest of the Advisory Group.



## BISHNU POKUREL

CHRISTCHURCH

**I came as a refugee from Nepal in 2006.** My background back in Nepal was as a school principal. I have completed a Bachelors of Arts from India. After I came here I did an interpreting course and teaching ESOL for adults. I have also completed a Diploma in Mental health support work. I have worked as a CCW in refugee services for 6 years as well as a liaison officer at Hagley Community College. Currently I am working as a CALD and refugee facilitator at CDHB Specialist Mental Health Services. Recently I was honoured by a Christchurch city council Civic award 2017. I am involved in organisations such as: member of SRV (Strengthening Refugee Voices), member of Christchurch multicultural council, active member of INFORM (Interagency Network for Refugee's and Migrants) group, active member of Refugee and migrant wellbeing subgroup and member of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Health Advisory Group (CHAG) at Pegasus Health.