**Women in Refugee Law (WiRL) 2023/24 public seminar series**

**Seminar One: A Cold Climate for Refugee Women?**

**Speaker Biographies**

[**Professor Heaven Crawley**](https://pureportal.coventry.ac.uk/en/persons/heaven-crawley)is Head of Equitable Development and Migration at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) in New York, and holds a Chair in International Migration at Coventry University’s Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR). Heaven has been Director of the Migration for Development and Equality Hub (MIDEQ) since 2018. MIDEQ is a global consortium of 18 research institutions, six international organizations and numerous local and regional partners that aims to transform knowledge and understanding of the relationships between migration, inequality and development in the context of the Global South. Heaven was previously head of asylum and migration research at the UK Home Office, Associate Director at the Institute for Public Policy Research and managed an international research consultancy before returning to academia in 2006. She was a founding member of the Refugee Women’s Legal Group (RWLG) and her book *Refugees and Gender: Law and Process* (Polity Press, 2001) continues to be widely cited.

[**Dr Moira Dustin**](https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p400858-moira-dustin) is Co-Convenor of WiRL. She is a module convenor and tutor on Gender and Group Identities in the Refugee Context, part of the MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. She is Lecturer in the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex, where from 2016 to 2020, she was the UK lead on the European Research Council project, SOGICA - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge.

She is now Co-Investigator on the ESRC project, Negotiating Queer Identities Following Forced Migration. Moira was also an Advisory Committee member of the Women’s Project at Asylum Aid and previously worked at the British Refugee Council.

**Loraine Masiya Mponela** is Co-Convenor of WiRL (February 2023-January 2024). Loraine is a Migrants Rights Campaigner and a Poet based in Coventry, England. She is the ex-chair for Coventry Asylum and Refugee Action Group (CARAG) 2018-2022. CARAG is a peer support group which is for and run by people seeking asylum, refugees, migrants and anyone subjected to the UK Immigration and Asylum system.

Loraine sits on the Board for [Women for Refugee Women](https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/who-we-are/) and on the Management Committee for [Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)](http://www.asaproject.org/about/management-committee) among other activities. Because of her community work with CARAG, Loraine has been recognised as an [‘Everyday Hero’](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-55172264) for Coventry UK City of Culture 2021. She is originally from Malawi and has been recognised as a refugee. Loraine is the author of [I was not born a Sad Poet](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BHL4R1JL/). Loraine has a lovely son.

**Sandra Siefert Stroem** currently works as an Associate Protection Officer in UNHCR's Gender Equality Unit at the Division of International Protection in Geneva, where her responsibilities include providing operational support to UNHCR personnel in their efforts to advance gender equality and bridge (gender) gaps in the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls. Prior to joining UNHCR, Sandra gained experience from government agencies, the European Commission, and NGOs working on migration and women's empowerment.