

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

### Seminar Two: Coming in from the Cold? Group-based Refugee Determination for Women at Risk of Gender-based Violence

Date **Monday 29 April 2024**

Platform: Zoom to be recorded (link to be circulated on registration)

[Finland](#), [Sweden](#), [Denmark](#) and [Switzerland](#) are systematically awarding refugee protection to Afghan women and girls, and [UNHCR](#) have endorsed this approach. Claims from some nationalities are being fast-tracked in [the UK](#). Is this a new trend that advocates should welcome? How does national, regional and international law address group-based refugee protection? Should refugee status determination procedures be adapted to ensure group-based protection, or are individual assessments capable of incorporating group protection? What adaptations of the asylum procedure might be useful in streamlining group-based refugee protection (e.g.: fast-tracked decisions, questionnaires replacing interviews) and what are the risks? What are the wider implications (for non-gender-related asylum claims) of these recent developments? This panel will discuss recent developments regarding the grant of international protection to women at risk of gender-based violence, including Afghan women, on a group basis. It will identify the promise and pitfalls of group-based determination based on protected characteristics, such as sex and nationality.

#### Agenda

3.30 Welcome to WiRL's public seminar series (5 mins)

WiRL co-convenor: **Moira Dustin**, Lecturer in Law, University of Sussex

3.35 Introductory remarks (5 mins)

Chair: **Dallal Stevens**, Professor of Law, University of Warwick

3.40 Panel (10-15 mins each)

**Anna Murphy Høgenhaug**, Postdoc at Centre for AI Ethics, Law, and Policy, Aalborg University, Copenhagen: to discuss recent developments in Scandinavian countries and impact on recent regressive approaches to refugee protection.

**Christel Querton**, Wallscourt Fellow in Law and WiRL co-convenor, University of the West of England (UWE) Bristol: to discuss recent Court of Justice of the European Union case law on refugee protection for refugee women as a group.

**Veronica Montagnese**, Country Guidance Officer (Afghanistan), European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA): to discuss EUAA Country Guidance in relation to Afghan women and girls and its impact across the EU.

4.15 Q&A

4.45 Close