

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Seminar Three: Climate Change, Displacement and Gender | 28 October 2024

#### **ALICE FARMER**

Alice Farmer is a refugee lawyer studying how climate change alters the international legal framework of forced displacement. Farmer intends to spend the year building proof of concept for a “climate change law lab” that would use interdisciplinary study to equip governments and other stakeholders with the necessary research to form human-rights centered policies in response to climate-change-induced displacement. Additionally, Farmer is working on an edited volume under contract with Edward Elgar titled “Climate Change, Migration, Gender, and the Law.”

Farmer is on leave from being the head of the United States legal team for the United Nations’ Refugee Agency (UNHCR). She has spent the last seven years litigating for UNHCR, raising international refugee law issues in appeals courts and the U.S. Supreme Court to defend the right to seek asylum and other core human rights norms. Farmer has worked in field offices of UNHCR, including in Chisinau, Moldova, where she was deployed to help establish the emergency response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Previously, Farmer worked as an international human rights lawyer for the ACLU, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Human Rights Watch, where she led the organization’s campaign to end immigration detention of children. Farmer serves on the board of the Bromley Charitable Trust, an environmental philanthropic foundation.

#### **KATE JASTRAM**

Kate Jastram, Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair of International Refugee Law, leads CGRS's efforts to protect asylum seekers through policy advocacy at the national and international levels, including for people displaced in the context of climate change and disasters. Working closely with the litigation and technical assistance and training programs, the policy and advocacy team provides rapid analysis and practical recommendations for decision-makers to ensure that the United States lives up to its legal and moral commitments to people fleeing persecution and torture.

Kate is a Christopher Edley, Jr. Lecturer at UC Berkeley School of Law, and has also taught at UC Davis School of Law and UC Law San Francisco.

Kate served as senior legal advisor for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and as its deputy representative in Washington, D.C., and has worked for USCIS's Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate in San Francisco. As a lead expert on asylum issues for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, she co-wrote their report for Congress on expedited removal. Kate is also a member of the Women in Refugee Law Network’s Steering Group.

#### **BUSHRA ALI KHAN**

Bushra Ali Khan is an anthropologist and journalist with expertise in border security studies, AI regulations and international law. Her work navigates the intersections of climate change, human rights and geopolitics. She is a Feminist Foreign Policy Fellow, supported by The Asia Foundation, US, and IMPRI Impact and Policy Research Institute, India.