



Women in Refugee Law (WiRL)

A network to centre refugee women in international law, policy and practice

Steering Group Terms of Reference

Women in Refugee Law (WiRL) was set up in 2021 to bring together asylum claiming and refugee women, senior and early career scholars, practitioners, policymakers, judges and activists working in this field around the globe. The purpose of the network is to re-centre the study of refugee women within refugee law, policy and practice. In particular, the initiative challenges the assumption that legal and policy changes in the last 30 years have displaced the need for continued research and advocacy efforts.

WiRL aims to safeguard advances and identify contemporary obstacles to the protection of women in refugee law, policy and practice.

WiRL's values are:

- Diversity – we are a diverse membership in respect to gender, sector, discipline and region
- Collaboration – we work collaboratively to advance the network's objectives
- Knowledge – the network has knowledge production and sharing at its centre

The broad objectives of the network are:

- Refocusing attention on the needs and experiences of refugee women in all their diversity.
- Providing a platform for refugee and asylum-claiming women to contribute to refugee policy and law.
- Ensuring that women's voices and interests are included in academic and policy discourse relating to refugee protection.
- Reviewing the state of protection in domestic jurisdictions, regionally and internationally.
- Identifying and addressing unrecognised setbacks to adequate protection.
- Creating new knowledge to improve the quality of protection for refugee women.
- Highlighting gender diversity in refugee protection and incorporating the views of women and men.
- Creating opportunities for collaborative work to address new and persistent challenges.
- Supporting the development of young and early career scholars and practitioners, especially women
- Building an open and inclusive global network to take forward all of the above objectives.

Women in Refugee Law (WiRL)

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The purpose of the Steering Group is to contribute to the achievement of WiRL's objectives.

Steering Group membership

- The Steering Group will meet online at minimum once a year to review WiRL's annual report and contribute to WiRL's workplan.
- The Steering Group will have a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 members at all times, including WiRL's Convener(s).
- Steering Group membership will reflect WiRL's global, cross-sector and interdisciplinary nature and include members with lived experience of claiming protection.
- Steering Group membership will be for a period of three years and will be renewable.
- The Steering Group will be chaired and administered by WiRL's Convenor(s).
- Steering Group meetings and communications will be electronic.
- The quorum for decision making at Steering Group meetings will be four members.
- Names and biographies of Steering Group members will be shared on WiRL's webpage unless members request otherwise.

Steering Group role and responsibilities

- Attend the annual online Steering Group meeting to agree WiRL's annual report and contribute to WiRL's workplan.
- Provide strategic and constructive support to WiRL Convenor(s) in pursuit of WiRL's objectives.
- Lead on specific activities based on individual expertise and capacity, in consultation with WiRL's Convenor(s). This role may include holding individual portfolios on a rolling one-year basis, eg leading WiRL's social media activity, membership development and fundraising strategy.
- Contribute to WiRL activities in other ways where possible and capacity permitting.
- Respond promptly to requests from the Convener(s).
- Promote the WiRL network, and WiRL events and activities outside of Steering Group meetings.
- Propose new WiRL members and WiRL Steering Group members.
- Specify when information is shared in confidence, and respect the confidentiality of information shared within the Steering Group.
- Review and update these Terms of Reference as necessary.

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