

Reimagining Refugee Protection: 75 Years and Forward

14–17 April 2026

TED University, Ankara, Türkiye

Tentative Programme

14.04.2026 Tuesday “RRP Pre-Conference for Emerging Scholars”	
12:00- 12:15	Welcome Speeches Prof. Dr. Zuhale Yeşilyurt Gündüz, TED University, Department of Political Science and International Relations Prof. Dr. Kezban Çelik, TED University, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aylin Çakıroğlu Çevik, TED University, Head of Migration Studies Master Program
12:15- 13:15	Migration School
13:15-13:30	Coffee Break
13:30- 15:00	Panel I (Emerging Scholars) “Security, Control, and Protection: Refugee Governance under Authoritarian and Democratic Regimes” by Tarana Ahmadova (TED University) “Crisis as Policy Justification: How ‘Poly-Crises’ Enable the Normalisation of Restrictive Migration Governance” by John Paul Ngabirano (European University of Lefke) “Right-Wing Populist Migration Diplomacy: Domestic Legitimation and EU Bargaining in Türkiye and Hungary” by Gülşen Doğan (Koç University) “Beyond the State’s Failure: Akbelen Women as Architects of a Future Ecofeminist Protection Regime” by Kutadgu Parıltı (Bahçeşehir University) “Shared Responsibility or Structural Abandonment? Refugee Governance in Small Host States: The Case of Malawi” by Haroon Muhammed Jabiri (Social Sciences University of Ankara) “Institutionalizing the Exception: The EU-Turkey Statement as a Blueprint for the Evolution of Externalization” by Bengisu Fal (Özyeğin University) “Caught Between States: Legal Precarity and Political Engagement of Egyptian Migrants in Turkey” by Hossam Elbelgaty (Koç University) <i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aylin Çakıroğlu Çevik (TED University)</i>



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14.04.2026 Tuesday “RRP Pre-Conference for Emerging Scholars”	
15:00- 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15-16:15	<p>Panel 2 (Online)</p> <p>“Return Without Protection: Securitisation, Mass Return, and the Erosion of Durable Solutions in Central America” by Pia Riggirozzi & Natalia Cintra (University of Southampton)</p> <p>“Our community stands united: Community Resilience and the Everyday Survival of Sudanese Refugee Women in Malaysia” by Atika Shafinaz Nazri (National University of Malaysia (UKM) & Anies Fazihan Zakaria & Berrin Sarituc (Pensyarah Universiti)</p> <p>“Barred from Justice: Legal Barriers to GBV Protection for Refugee Women in Indonesia” by Desi Yunitasari & Devi Yusvitasari (University of Melbourne)</p> <p>“North Korean defectors second migration to the USA and UK” by Eunyoung Ko (King’s College London)</p> <p>“The Architecture of Fragmented Inclusion: Securitization, Labour Market Integration, and Refugee Governance in Malaysia” by Madya Rodziana Mohamed Razali, Intan Nadia Ghulam Khan & Dina binti Imam Supaat (Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assist. Prof. Dr. Kerem Kılıçdaroğlu (TED University, TR)</i></p>
16:15- 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30- 18:30	<p>Workshop: “Migration and Development”</p> <p><i>Dr. Jason Gagnon (Senior Advisor; Research Affiliate, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)</i></p>



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15.04.2026 Wednesday	
08:30-09:00	Arrivals & Registration
09:30-12:30	Field Trip to ENHANCER Project Site (organised by Representation of ICMPD in Türkiye)
13:00-14:00	Lunch at Project Site (hosted by Representation of ICMPD in Türkiye)
14:00-14:15	Welcome Speeches Prof. Dr. Ahmet Kasım Han (Rector, TED University) Prof. Dr. Aylin Özman (Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, TED University) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tahir Zaman (Co-Director Sussex Centre for Migration Research (SCMR)) <i>Presenter: Violet Vural</i>
14:15- 15:30	Opening Panel: Refugee Protection and International Organisations PMM (tbc) <i>UNHCR Türkiye</i> <i>IOM Türkiye</i> <i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Şebnem Köşer Akçapar (Social Sciences University of Ankara)</i>
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-16:45	Opening Panel: Refugee Protection and International Organisations (continued) <i>UN Women Türkiye</i> <i>Representation of ICMPD in Türkiye</i> <i>ILO Office for Türkiye</i> <i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Şebnem Köşer Akçapar (Social Sciences University of Ankara)</i>
16:45-17:00	Coffee Break
17:00- 18:30	Keynote Addresses: Insights from Theory, Practice and Methodology (State-of-the-Art) <i>Prof. Dr. Anna Krasteva (New Bulgarian University)</i> "Citizenship, Participation, Activism: Refugees as Actors in Crisis Time" <i>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tahir Zaman (University of Sussex)</i> "Labour Market and Economic Inclusion" <i>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Şahin-Mencütek (BICC)</i> "Return and Reintegration" <i>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Damla Bayraktar Aksel (Mercator-IPC Fellow & Bahçeşehir University)</i> "Governance of Migration: Historical Constructions of Multilateral Normative Frameworks" <i>Assist. Prof. Dr. Jasmin Lilian Diab (Lebanese American University, Director, Institute of Migration Studies)</i> "From Promise to Practice: Protection for Whom in Lebanon After 75 Years?" <i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Saime Özçürümez (Başkent University)</i>
18:30	Dinner at TED University



16.04.2026 Thursday	
09:30-11:00	<p>Keynote Addresses:</p> <p><i>Dr. Jason Gagnon (Senior Advisor; Research Affiliate, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)</i> “From Crisis Response to Development Pathways: Rethinking Long-Term Approaches to Forced Displacement”</p> <p><i>Shabari Nair (Senior Programme Coordinator - Economic Recovery, and Labour Migration and Integration, IOM Türkiye)</i></p> <p><i>Esin Bozovalı (Assistant Legal Officer, UNHCR Türkiye)</i> “UNHCR Observations on Voluntary Return Trends Among Syrian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Türkiye”</p> <p><i>Gözde Bingüler (Gender Specialist, UN Women Türkiye)</i> “Gender- Responsive Approaches in Displacement and Recovery Contexts”</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Bezen Balamir Coşkun (Necmettin Erbakan University, TR)</i></p>
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-13:00	<p>Panel 1: Migration Governance</p> <p>“Dynamics of International Migration: Shifting Paradigms and Emerging Trends” by Şebnem Köşer Akçapar (Social Sciences University of Ankara)</p> <p>“Policies Regulating Migrants and Refugees’ Rights in Morocco” by Hanane Darhour (Ibn Zohr University)</p> <p>“‘Migrant Instrumentalisation’ Revisited: The Law and Politics of Crisis and Exclusion at the EU’s External Borders” by Dr. Aleksandra Ancite-Jepifanova (University of London & Central European University)</p> <p>“Demographic Engineering as a Tool for Ethnic Erasure: A Study of Nepali-speaking Lhotshampa People in Bhutan” by Karun K. Karki (University of British Columbia)</p> <p>“Managed Precarity: The Role of Hard and Soft Institutions in the Structural Marginalization of the Urban Poor and Refugees in Turkey” by Sinan Akyüz (Abdullah Gül University)</p> <p>“Buying Out of Asylum: Market Reforms and UNHCR Oversight” by Şenol Uzun & Yiğit Kader (Presidency of Migration Management)</p> <p>“Analytical Lenses in Migration: Transnationality and Translocality” by Ayşem Büşra Öztürk (Aksaray University & Presidency of Migration Management)</p> <p>“From Enforcement to Protection? Rethinking Anti-Smuggling Campaigns within Refugee Governance Frameworks in West Africa” by Joseph Musa Batet (Nigeria Immigration Service)</p>



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16.04.2026 Thursday	
	<p>“Climate-Induced Displacement and Governance Responses: A Comparative Study of India and Afghanistan” by Md Noorul Qamar & Mohibullah Hakeemi (Social Sciences University of Ankara)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sedef Turper Alışık (Koç University)</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00- 15:00	<p>Panel 2: Migration and Law</p> <p>“A Retrospective Evaluation of Türkiye’s Refugee Regime on the 75th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention” by Bezen Coşkun (Necmettin Erbakan University)</p> <p>“Improving Migration Governance: Is the 1951 Geneva convention remaining its validity in its 75th Anniversary?” by Metin Çorabatır & Elif Baykal (The Research Center on Asylum and Migration (IGAM))</p> <p>“From Article 1D to Contemporary Practice: Rethinking the International Protection Framework for Palestinian Refugees Following the UNRWA Ban” Mohammad FR Yousef (Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University)</p> <p>“Decentering Geneva: Uganda and Türkiye Seventy-Five Years After the 1951 Refugee Convention” by Sophie Nanyonga (Düzce University)</p> <p>“The Need for an Independent Representation System for Unaccompanied Refugee Children in Türkiye” by Onur Özcan Yeniay (Ankara Bar Association)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Şebnem Akipek Öcal (TED University)</i></p>
15:00- 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15- 16:45	<p>Panel 3: Integration and Citizenship</p> <p>“When Integration Shapes Aspirations: Experimental Evidence from Türkiye” by Sedef Turper Alışık (Koç University)</p> <p>“Integration of Syrians under Temporary Protection to Turkish Civil Law” by Şebnem Akipek Öcal (TED University)</p> <p>“Understanding Syrian Integration after a Decade: Results of TGSS 2024” by Faruk Çam (Aydın Adnan Menderes University)</p> <p>“Researching Refugee Education without Legal Frameworks: An Epistemic Gap in the Field” by Özlem Erden Başaran (TED University)</p>



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16.04.2026 Thursday

“Internationalizing Urban Migration Governance: Istanbul’s City Diplomacy in Practice” by Pelin Kılınçarslan (Koç University)

“Migration Governance and Mutual Radicalization Vulnerability: Evidence from Refugee-Host Relations in Türkiye” by Zuhal Yeniçeri Kökdemir (Başkent University)

“Living with Temporary Protection: Everyday Encounters and the Limits of Protection” by Ebru Vural (Gaziantep University)

“Brokering Cohesion at the Frontline: Street-Level Bureaucrats and Conflict Management in Turkish Municipal Refugee Services” by Gülece Şenel (Akhmet Yassawi University) & Başak Tüzün Gördük (Nişantaşı University)

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Birgül Demirtaş (Ufuk University)

16:45- 17:00 Coffee Break

Panel 4: Labour Market & Economic Participation

17:00- 18:00 “From Informality to Inclusion: Rethinking Refugee Protection through Labour Market Integration and the Empowered Role of Local Governance in Türkiye” by Arif Darmawan (Social Sciences University of Ankara & Universitas Lampung)

“Occupational Downgrading and Entrepreneurial Upgrading: Refugee Skill Repositioning in Host Labour Markets” by Hakan Ömer Tunca (Atılım University)

“Reinforcing Urban Refugee Protection Under the Exploitative Environments: A Public Policy-driven Mechanism” by Atahan Demirkol (Afyon Kocatepe University)

“Beyond Formalization: Establishing an Ethical Employment Framework to Protect Refugee and Local Labor in Türkiye” by Cihangir Karabıyık (Ankara Bar Association)

“From Statute to Selection: The Role of Employer Discretion in Reproducing Legal Deservingness Constructs” by Gülece Şenel (Akhmet Yassawi University)

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Karen Şenay Gökbayrak (Ankara University)



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17.04.2026 Friday

09:30-10:30	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p><i>Gladys Cisneros, Head of Labour Migration Branch, ILO Headquarters</i></p> <p>“Strengthening Migration Governance to Deliver Decent Work”</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Kezban Çelik (TED University)</i></p>
10:30- 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45- 11:45	<p>Panel 5: Gender, Displacement, and Protection</p> <p>“Integrating Gender Equality into International Refugee Law: The Contribution of the Court of Justice of the European Union” by Türkan Ertuna Lagrand (Utrecht University)</p> <p>“Selective Protection Before 1951: Gender, Racialisation, and the Pre-History of the Refugee Regime” by Asia Bimbeeva (Central European University)</p> <p>“The Undocumented: Praying, Moving, Disappearing through Everyday Policing and Self-Regulation” by Yeliz Kendir Gök (Çankırı Karatekin University)</p> <p>“Climate Vulnerability, Internal Mobility, and Just Transition in Kazakhstan” by Dilşat Taşkın Kuveloğlu</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Selin Akyüz Tursun (TED University)</i></p>
11:45-13:00	<p>Panel 6: Return and Reintegration</p> <p>“Why Refugee Return Programmes Fail: A New Interpretive Framework” by Maria D. Bermudez (University of California-Irvine) & Farah Trablsie (University of Istanbul)</p> <p>“Deportation Practices and Anti-Deportation Struggles in Germany” by Burcu Toğral Koca (Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION)</p> <p>“Bringing the Economy Back into Migration Governance: Erdoğan’s Return Strategy for Syrian Refugees” by Nermin Aydemir (Antalya Bilim University)</p> <p>“The Impact of Syrian Entrepreneurs’ Return Decisions on Homeland Investments: The Case of Gaziantep” by Canan Şeyma Demir (Gaziantep University Institute for Migration)</p> <p>“Explaining Mass Deportation of Afghan Migrants from Pakistan (2023-2025) through a New Analytical Framework” by Mohibullah Hakeemi (Social Sciences University of Ankara)</p> <p>““More Like Surviving Than Coming Home”: Affective Coercion and the Myth of Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon” by Claude Samaha (Basmeh & Zeitooneh Organization)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Gülece Şenel (Akhmet Yassawi University)</i></p>



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13:00- 14:00	Lunch
14:00- 15:15	<p>Panel 7: Migration, Discourse and Media</p> <p>“Analysing the Narratives of Turkey’s Governing Elites towards Syrians under Temporary Protection: The Role of Domestic Politics and Emerging Paradoxes” by Birgül Demirtaş (Ufuk University)</p> <p>“Transformations of Neoliberal Migration Governance from “Anti-Politics Machine” to Anti-Policy and Anti-Project Machines: The Case of Syrian Refugees in Turkey in 2012-2026” by Hande Sözer (TED University)</p> <p>“Return as Governance: Digital Narratives of “Voluntary” Repatriation in Türkiye” by Esra Gedik (Yozgat Bozok University)</p> <p>“Shaping the Narrative: Presidential Discourse on Syrian Refugees in Türkiye–EU Relations (2016)” by Merve Eş (TED University)</p> <p>“Reimagining Integration: Visualising the “Integrated” Refugee” by Müzeyyen Pandır (Işık University)</p> <p>“The Social Construction of ‘Expat’ Identity: The Case of Contemporary Western Residents in Türkiye” by Jared M. Wright (TED University)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Onay Çöker (TED University)</i></p>
15:15- 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-17:00	<p>Pathways and Crossroads: Declaration Preparation</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Işık Kuşçu Bonnenfant (Middle East Technical University)</i></p>
17:00-17:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Prof. Zuhale Yeşilyurt Gündüz (TED University)</p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tahir Zaman (University of Sussex)</p> <p>Dr. Gülece Şenel (Akhmet Yassawi University)</p>