

## Autumn Academy 2018

### Opportunities and challenges in cooperation between government and civil society in the management of migration in Europe and North America

Lady Margaret Hall, Norham Gardens, Oxford, 10 – 13 September, 2018

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The Autumn Academy 2018 is a symposium for senior policy makers, NGO leaders, academic experts and foundations involved in the development, implementation and study of immigration and asylum policies in Europe and North America. Held annually in Oxford (UK), the Autumn Academy provides a precious opportunity, in a private roundtable setting, to share knowledge, expertise and ideas; consider the implications of research evidence and analysis; critique policy and practice options; learn from differing approaches in Europe and North America and consider their potential applicability in differing contexts across the Atlantic.

In 2018, the Academy will explore the issues raised by cooperation between government and civil society in the management of migration. Participants will explore the differing ways in which government at national/federal and local level is increasingly working with civil society organisations in the implementation of migration policies: from refugee resettlement and sponsorship programmes, search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean and support for unaccompanied minors, to innovative initiatives at city level. There are also formal and informal structures in which governments engage civil society in policy development.

Yet collaboration can bring significant challenges to government and to civil society: working relationships that, while essential, can be fragile and carry economic and political costs for both parties. Our hope is that, through discussion and reflection, the symposium will identify general principles on which successful future relationships can be built.

Participants, of whom there will be no more than thirty, will contribute to the agenda as speakers, respondents, and session chairs. We shall be accommodated in an Oxford College, Lady Margaret Hall, and dine together each evening in colleges and restaurants reflecting Oxford's own heritage. A guided walking tour of Oxford is arranged early in the week to introduce participants to the history of the city and, among other opportunities to relax, the opportunity provided to punt on the River Cherwell before dinner at its boathouse restaurant.

The symposium is organised by the [Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity](#), the knowledge-exchange arm of the [Centre on Migration, Policy and Society](#) (COMPAS) at the [University of Oxford](#). Funding is provided by [The Social Change Initiative](#), supported by [Atlantic Philanthropies](#), as a programme within its own Migration Learning Exchange initiative. Participation is by invitation only and the only cost to non-speaker participants is of travel to Oxford.

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#### For more information, please contact

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## Monday 10 September

### Venue: Talbot Hall, Lady Margaret Hall

From 17:00 Welcome refreshments (tea/coffee); available in The Bear Pit, Lady Margaret Hall

17:30 Opening session

### Welcome and opening remarks on the symposium

- **Sarah Spencer**, Director, Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford

### Keynote address

- **Pietro Mona**, Swiss Ambassador on Development, Forced Displacement and Migration

#### *Discussion*

19:00 Drinks reception in the Bear Pit

19:30 Dinner in the Jerwood Room, Lady Margaret Hall

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## Tuesday 11 September

7:30 – 9:30 Breakfast; available in the Deneke Dining Hall

### Venue: Talbot Hall

9:30 – 11:00 **Trends and drivers in collaboration between government and civil society in Europe and North America**

*Drawing on the background paper to explore recent developments, differing kinds and levels of cooperation and note the opportunities and challenges for government and NGOs that have been identified in the research and policy literature*

- **Sarah Spencer, Director, Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, Oxford, and Nicola Delvino**, Senior Researcher, Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, and Visiting Scholar, University of California, Hastings, College of Law
- Respondent: **Thomas Huddleston**, Research Director at Migration Policy Group, Brussels
- Respondent: **Els de Graauw**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Baruch College, The City University of New York

#### *Discussion*

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break; available in The Bear Pit

11:30 – 13:00 **Contrasting national approaches**

*Taking Canada and Ireland as two contrasting national approaches towards engaging NGOs in the management of migration and integration, drawing out lessons from those relationships to which participants will add observations in the discussion from their own country's experience*

- **Corinne Prince St. Amand**, Director General, Integration Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Department, Canada
- **Carol Baxter**, Head of Asylum Services, Integration and Equality, Department of Justice, Ireland

*Discussion*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch; available in the Deneke Dining Hall

14:00 – 15:45 **Cooperation in refugee' resettlement and private sponsorships in North-America and Europe**

*Exploring the opportunities and challenges that arise, for governments and for NGOs, in cooperation in refugee resettlement and private sponsorship initiatives in North America and Europe*

- **Robert Carey**: Leadership in Government Fellow, Open Society Foundation and former Director, US Office of Refugee Resettlement
- **Mary Giovagnoli**, Executive Director, Refugee Council, USA

*Discussion*

- **Fariborz Birjandian**, CEO, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, Canada
- **Nicola Thomas**, Deputy Director, Integration & Vulnerability, Resettlement, Asylum Support & Integration Directorate, Home Office, UK

*Discussion*

15:45 – 16:00 Refreshment break; available in The Bear Pit

16:00 – 16:45 **Group problem solving exercise – solutions to challenges identified so far; feedback to roundtable**

*Four groups will focus on identifying solutions to the challenges identified in the earlier presentations and discussions, and from their own experience. Key points fed back to the roundtable will be taken forward to the closing session on Thursday*

17:30 – 19:00 Guided walking tour of old Oxford: meet at the Martyr's Memorial, Magdalen Street (see map; meet at Porter's Lodge at 17:15 to be taken to the Martyr's Memorial)

19:00 Reception and dinner at the Rooftop Restaurant, Ashmolean Museum; access via St. Giles entrance (tour will end here); the Rooftop Restaurant is accessed via a lift

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## Wednesday 12 September

7:30 – 9:30 Breakfast; available in the Deneke Dining Hall

### Venue: Talbot Hall

9:30 – 11:00 **Cooperation in the context of emergency: search and rescue in the Mediterranean**

*Considering the particular challenges that have arisen in the evolving relationship between NGOs and government in this emergency context, the reasons for cooperation and whether the relationship could have been, or could be, managed differently*

- **Aurelie Ponthieu**, Spokesperson and Humanitarian Specialist on Displacement, Médecins sans Frontières
- **Gabriele De Giorgi**, Former Political Adviser to the Prime Minister of Italy

*Discussion*

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment break; available in The Bear Pit

11:30 – 13:00 **Cooperation in assistance to children**

*Observations on the issues that arise in government – NGO cooperation in relation to migrant and refugee children will be discussed in this session, contrasting US experience with that in Europe*

- **Mark Greenberg**, Migration Policy Institute, Washington DC; former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Karen Mets**, Senior Advocacy Adviser Children on the Move, Save the Children, Brussels

*Discussion*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch; available in the Deneke Dining Hall

14:00 – 16:30 **Cooperation at the municipal level**

*Throughout the symposium, we are considering relationships with government at all levels but here focusing specifically on the local level. Looking first at working relationships between NGOs and municipalities in the USA, then at experience in Italy and in innovative initiatives in London and Athens – in each case drawing out learning on the challenges that arise in these relationships and how they could be addressed*

- **Christina Pope**, Network Director, Welcoming America
- **Els De Grauw**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Baruch College, The City University of New York

- **Daniela Di Capua**, Director, Central Service for the Protection System for asylum seekers and refugees (SPRAR), Italy

*Discussion*

- **Bharat Mehta**, Chief Executive, Trust for London
- **Antigone Kotanidis**, Special Advisor to the Mayor, Athens, Greece

*Discussion*

- 16:30 Refreshment break / free time; refreshments available in The Bear Pit
- 17:15 – 18:30 Punting on the River Cherwell, an Oxford pastime: leaving from Lady Margaret Hall’s private dock
- 18:30 Arrival drinks at the Cherwell Boathouse
- 19:00 Dinner in the Lower Boathouse, Cherwell Boathouse

## Thursday 13 September

- 7:30 – 9:15 Breakfast; available in the Deneke Dining Hall

### Venue: Talbot Hall

- 9:15 – 10:45 **Cooperation in the policy-making process**

*Turning from cooperation in the implementation of policy to engagement of NGOs in the policy making process itself – from informal consultation through to a formal role in the process. Identifying differing modes of engagement, the benefits for governments and NGOs, the many challenges, and how they might be overcome*

- **Pedro Calado**, High Commissioner for Migration, Portugal
- **Colin Rajah**, Civil Society Liaison on the Global Compact for Migration, International Organisation on Migration

*Discussion*

- 10:45 – 11:15 Refreshment break; available in The Bear Pit
- 11:15 – 12:45 **Identifying guiding principles for future cooperation in policy making and implementation** - lead by Sarah Spencer

*Drawing together key themes from the symposium and focusing on potential ways forward – a short presentation followed by discussion to develop proposals, and a closing tour de table*

- 12:45 – 13:30 Buffet Lunch; available in the Mary O’Brien Room

13:45

**Departure from Oxford:** Transport provided to Heathrow Airport, including one stop at Oxford Rail Station.