

# Mapping UNSW Impact Global Development

<b>Primary SDG</b>	<b>10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b>
<b>Broad theme</b>	Refugee law and policy
<b>Research</b>	Research and analyse refugee laws and treatment by country, with the aim of providing more humane alternatives
<b>Impact region</b>	Global, Asia Pacific, Australia
<b>Faculty</b>	Law
<b>School/Institute</b>	The Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
<b>Academics</b>	Professor Jane McAdam, Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill, Madeline Gleeson, Dr Claire Higgins, Dr Sangeetha Pillai
<b>Project partners</b>	Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) at University of Oxford
<b>Related SDGs</b>	3: Good Health and Well-being
	16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

## Elevator pitch

As the world's first and only research centre dedicated to international refugee law, the Kaldor Centre produces rigorous and innovative research on forced migration, providing the foundation for more humane responses to displaced people globally.

## The Challenge: Refugee flows are at record levels, governments are shutting doors

Millions of people worldwide are forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict, systemic discrimination, persecution, and other human rights violations. Currently 65 million people worldwide are displaced – the highest number since the Second World War. Nearly 85% of these refugees are being hosted by a developing country.

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol are meant to secure refugees protection, along with international and regional human rights treaties. Yet world leaders are grappling with the refugee challenge, with many preferring to pander to domestic calls to halt the flow of refugees rather than provide protection and assistance. There has never been a more important time for innovative and rigorous thinking around solutions to forced displacement.

## UNSW's solution: Research to underpin more humane solutions

The Kaldor Centre's research, analysis and engagement brings a crucial, independent dimension to the refugee debate. At the global level, the Kaldor Centre is at the forefront of research to ensure that international legal frameworks are fit for 21st century displacement challenges. This includes pioneering work on displacement in the context of climate change and disasters. The Centre's Director Jane McAdam provides strategic advice to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, an intergovernmental group that develops more effective and humane responses to displacement. The Centre is

also examining alternative pathways for refugees so they can avoid dangerous journeys such as flying by plane instead of crossing rough seas.

At the regional (Asia Pacific) level, the Centre's Madeline Gleeson is an expert in the effects of offshore processing on Nauru and Manus Island. Who is responsible for the rights of refugees sent offshore? How can the protection of refugees be promoted in a region where few countries are signatories to the Refugee Convention? The Centre also convenes a network of emerging scholars working on forced migration. This virtual network nurtures over 30 early career researchers in the Asia Pacific, providing mentoring and collaboration opportunities. The Centre is currently seeking funding to bring scholars from the network to the Centre to enrich the learning experience and expand the Centre's profile in the region.

In Australia, the Centre's Sangeetha Pillai analyses the legal implications of Australia's refugee policy by providing an analysis of weaknesses in Australian legislation and policy. This work is a key input for civil society and legal practitioners working on domestic refugee issues. Claire Higgins' research draws valuable lessons from Australia's refugee policy history to shed light on the role of political leadership.

### **The Impact: Improve the treatment and lives of refugees globally**

The ultimate aim of the Kaldor Centre is for a more humane response to forced migration. Through research and analysis, they fill a knowledge gap around the need to protect refugees, and they propose effective responses to displacement. Their work feeds into public discussions and debate, and their advice to governments and the UN increases the quality of refugee responses. As a result of the Kaldor's efforts, governments, the UN, NGOs and sectors of society around the world act in a more informed, humane way to refugees.

### **Researcher**

Jane McAdam is Scientia Professor of Law and Director of the Kaldor Centre at UNSW. Jane has been an expert advisor to the UN Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, and the World Bank's Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration. She was selected as a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program for 2017-18, and is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Refugee Law, the leading journal in the field.

Ben Falkenmire 26.03.18