



Research for Health in Conflict
in the Middle East and North Africa

R4HC-MENA International Policy Conference

'Health in conflict'

Assessing research and policies for populations affected by conflict & humanitarian crises in
the Middle East and North Africa

West Court, Jesus College, Cambridge

21 and 22 March 2022

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Monday 21 March 2022
Research and policy challenges for the region

West Court, Jesus College

0830 Refreshments, West Court Foyer

0900 **Introductions and Welcome to the Conference**, Frankopan Hall
Dr Julian Huppert, Intellectual Forum, Jesus College, Cambridge
Professor Richard Sullivan, King's College London
Professor Rita Giacaman, Birzeit University
Dr Asem Mansour, King Hussein Cancer Centre
Professor Simon Deakin, Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge

0925 **Introduction of Her Royal Highness Princess Dina Mired**, Frankopan Hall
Mr James Watt, CVO, Chair, R4HC-MENA International Advisory Board

0930 **Opening Keynote**, Her Royal Highness Princess Dina Mired on "The current context: An overview of the key health and policy challenges facing people in the Middle East and North Africa affected by conflicts past and present".

1000 **Policy Challenges: Non-communicable diseases in conflict affected settings**, Frankopan Hall

Chairs: Professor Richard Sullivan and Dr Saleyha Ahsan
Panellists: Dr Hanna Kienzler, King's College London on mental health
Dr Debbie Mukherji, American University of Beirut on cancer
Professor Tezer Kutluk, Hacettepe University on cancer
Professor Richard Harding, KCL on palliative care
Dr Omar Shamieh, King Hussein Cancer Centre on palliative care
Discussants: Dr Alexandra Chen, Consultant to United Nations
Professor Cengiz Kiliç, Hacettepe University
Ms Christina Bethke, World Health Organization, Lebanon
Dr Asem Mansour, KHCC

1130 Refreshments, West Court Foyer

1145 **Policy Challenges: Emerging research and policy issues in conflict affected settings**, Frankopan Hall

Chairs: Professor Richard Sullivan and Dr Saleyha Ahsan
Panellists: Professor Sevkah Bahar-Ozvaris, Hacettepe University on structural barriers
Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah, American University of Beirut on ecology of war
Professor Rita Giacaman, Birzeit University on necropolitics
Discussants: Dr Sophie Roborgh, University of Manchester
Professor Preeti Patel, King's College London
Dr Mac Skelton, IRIS, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
Dr Nassim El Achi, King's College London

1320 Lunch, West Court Dining Room

1430 **Policy Challenges: Politics and the pandemic**, Frankopan Hall

Chairs: Professor Richard Sullivan and Dr Saleyha Ahsan

Panellists: Dr Fouad M Fouad, American University of Beirut on political economy of health in the Middle East and North Africa
Professor Kalipso Chalkidou, Head of Finance, Global Fund on economics of health in conflict
Dr Gemma Bowsher, King's College London, COVID-19 in conflict zones

Discussants: Dr Ferdinand Eibl, King's College London
Mr Arkan El-Seblani, UNDP Arab states
Professor Melani Cammett, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University

1600 Refreshments, West Court Foyer

1630 **Roundup 'Question Time' debate of key issues with audience**, Frankopan Hall

Chair: Mr Andrew Jack, Financial Times

Panellists: Her Royal Highness Princess Dina Mired
Mr James Watt CVO, Chair, R4HC-MENA International Advisory Board
Professor Richard Sullivan, King's College London

1700 **Film screening: *Lebanon: How politics made a nation sick***, Frankopan Hall

Film to provide regional context of the issues, introduced by Sawsan Asfari

1730 **Panel discussion: What next for the Middle East and North Africa?**, Frankopan Hall

Chair: Rima Maktabi, al-Arabiya

Panellists: Sir Stephen O'Brien, Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations
Salman Shaikh, CEO, Shaikh Group
Saba Almubaslat, Asfari Foundation
Fadi Quran, Senior Campaigner, Avaaz
Samya Kullab, Iraq Correspondent, Associated Press, Baghdad
Tony Cadman, Joint Head of Chambers, Guernica 37 Chambers

1830 **Reception and live music with Kiwan's Family and Faraj's Kitchen**, Roost Bar

Tuesday 22 March 2022

The policy options: How to strengthen research capability, sustain policy impact and improve people's lives

West Court, Jesus College

0830 Refreshments, West Court Foyer

0900 **The 'R4HC model' for health research in conflict and humanitarian contexts - building sustainability into our network**, Frankopan Hall

Mr James Watt, International Advisory Board Chair

Mr Brad Robinson, King's College London

0930 **Strengthening health research in conflict zones through real world interventions: disease surveillance and health security**, Frankopan Hall

Panel One: Strengthening health systems in conflict affected settings

Panellists: Dr Abdulkarim Ekzayez, King's College London

Dr Zedoun Al Zoubi, Research for Health Systems in North-West, Syria, R4HSSS

Dr Munzer Khalil, R4HSSS and UOSSM (Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations)

Panel Two: Security Sector-Civil health co-operation in conflict zones

Panellists: Professor David Whetham, King's College London

Dr Chiu-Yi Lin, King's College London

Dr Saleyha Ahsan, University of Cambridge

1100 Refreshments, West Court Foyer

1110 **Solutions for building capability: supporting leadership in global health**, Frankopan Hall

Panel Three: Women Leaders in Conflict and Global Health

Panellists: Ms Kristen Meagher, King's College London

Ms Sali Hafez, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Dr Nassim El Achi, Research for Health Systems in North-West, Syria, R4HSSS

Dr Zedoun Al Zoubi, R4HSSS

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, World Health Organisation

1220 Refreshments, West Court Foyer

1230 **Roundtable discussion: Reimagining Research – Academia, Practice and People,**
Frankopan Hall

Moderator: Ms Lina Abou Habib, Asfari Institute for Citizenship and Civil Society,
American University of Beirut

Panellists: Dr Weeam Hammoudeh, University of Birzeit

Ms Mona Itani, Riyada

Ms Marianne Boqvist, Head of Youth, Peace, Security and Support to
Civil Society Programme, Folke Bernadotte Academy

Ms Liz Sieck, Sanad Association

Dr Rabie Nasser, Syrian Centre for Policy Research

1330 **The Future, Next Steps – what have we learned over four years and where next?,**
Frankopan Hall

Professor Richard Sullivan, King's College London

Professor Rita Giacaman, Birzeit University

Professor Preeti Patel, King's College London

1400 Lunch, West Court Dining Room

1430 **Closed policy briefing sessions and workshops,** in person and dial-in,
check signage in West Court Reception for the location of each session.

Facilitators: CSAP and Asfari Foundation.

Sessions and workshops:

1. Health security and pandemic preparedness
2. Knowledge translation for on-the-ground civil society organisations
3. Building and sustaining an academic-policy response network for
conflict prevention and peace building

1630 Networking and afternoon tea with workshop participants, Bawden Room

1730 Close of Conference

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Speakers and Discussants

[Lina Abou Habib](#)

[Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah](#)

[Dr Saleyha Ahsan](#)

[Saba Almubaslat](#)

[Sawsan Asfari](#)

[Dr Zedoun Al Zoubi](#)

[Dr Tasnim Atatrah](#)

[Professor Sevkat Bahar-Ozvaris](#)

[Christina Bethke](#)

[Marianne Boqvist](#)

[Dr. Gemma Bowsher](#)

[Nicola Buckley](#)

[Tony Cadman](#)

[Professor Melani Cammett](#)

[Professor Kalipso Chalkidou](#)

[Dr Alexandra Chen](#)

[Dr Adam P. Coutts](#)

[Professor Simon Deakin](#)

[Colonel Hamish de Bretton-Gordon](#)

[Dr Ferdinand Eibl](#)

[Dr Abdulkarim Ekzayez](#)

[Dr Nassim El Achi](#)

[Arkan El-Seblani](#)

[Dr Fouad M. Fouad](#)

[Professor Rita Giacaman](#)

[Sali Hafez](#)

[Dr Weeam Hammedouh](#)

[Professor Richard Harding](#)

[Dr Julian Huppert](#)

[Mona Itani](#)

[Andrew Jacks](#)

[Steve Johnson](#)

[Dr Munzer Khalil](#)

[Dr Hanna Kienzler](#)

[Dr Cengiz Kilic](#)

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[Professor Tezer Kutluk](#)

[Dr Chiu-Yi Lin](#)

[Rima Maktabi](#)

[Dr Asem Mansour](#)

Asfari Institute for Citizenship and Civil Society, American University of Beirut

American University of Beirut

University of Cambridge

Asfari Foundation

Asfari Foundation

R4HSSS

WHO Bahrain

Hacettepe University

World Health Organization, Lebanon

Head of Youth, Peace, Security and

Support to Civil Society Programme,

Folke Bernadotte Academy

King's College London

Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge

Guernica 37 Chambers

Weatherhead Center, Harvard University

Global Fund

Consultant to United Nations

University of Cambridge

Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge

Magdalene College, Cambridge.

King's College London

King's College London

King's College London

Anti-Corruption, UNDP Arab state

American University of Beirut

Birzeit University

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

University of Birzeit

King's College London

Intellectual Forum, Jesus College, Cambridge

Riyada

Financial Times

Ministry of Defense, UK

R4HSSS and Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations

King's College London

Hacettepe University

Iraq correspondent for the Associated Press based in Baghdad

Hacettepe University

King's College London

al-Arabiya

King Hussein Cancer Centre

[Kristen Meagher](#)
[Her Royal Highness](#)
[Dr Debbie Mukherji](#)
[Dr Rabie Nasser](#)
[Sir Stephen O'Brien](#)

[Professor Preeti Patel](#)
[Fadi Quran](#)
[Mr Brad Robinson](#)
[Dr. Sophie Roborgh](#)
[Salman Shaikh](#)
[Professor Omar Shamieh](#)
[Liz Sieck](#)
[Dr Mac Skelton](#)
[Professor Richard Sullivan](#)
[Dr Maria Van Kerkhove](#)
[Mr James Watt](#)

[Professor David Whetham](#)

King's College London
Princess Dina Mired
American University of Beirut
Syrian Centre for Policy Research
Former Under-Secretary-General for
Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency
Relief Coordinator of the United Nations
King's College London
Avaaz
King's College London
University of Manchester
Shaikh Group
King Hussein Cancer Centre
Sanad Association
IRIS
King's College London
World Health Organization
R4HC-MENA International Advisory
Board
King's College London

Rapporteur:

[Dr Sarah Steele](#)

Intellectual Forum, Jesus College,
Cambridge

Translation services:

[buk Solutions](#)

Syrian orchestral band:

Kiwan's Family is a highly acclaimed and much beloved Middle Eastern folk band from Syria. Formed by Osama Kiwan, Eleen, Hatem, and Hanen have performed as a family all over the UK since 2017, delighting crowds at events that include The Cambridge Festival and The Academy of Arts Arab Heritage Choir in London, and have collaborated with the likes of The Liverpool Philharmonic and Damon Albarn. Their talent is of the highest order, and their joyous spirit and warmth is absolutely infectious.

Canapes:

[Faraj's Kitchen](#) specializes in creating Middle Eastern dishes with fresh, quality ingredients. Faraj Alnasser moved to the UK after his hometown of Aleppo was caught up in the devastation of the Syrian war. Faraj won a scholarship at a top London culinary school and managed to impress everyone around him with his unique take on classic Middle Eastern dishes. Ever since, Faraj decided to open his own food business and has served more than 2,500 customers in Cambridge to date.