**Biographies – NACCOM Annual Conference 2019**

**Agnes Tanoh**, arrived in the UK fleeing from political persecution. She was held in Yarlswood detention centre for 4 months, when released she experienced destitution, and recieved help from Hope Projects.  She was involved with Women For Refugee Women on “set her free” and “End the detention of women” campaigns. She volunteers with Hope Projects and is on the management committee of Baobab Women’s Project. She is a trustee and volunteer for Women With Hope. A commissioner of Poverty Truth Birmingham. A member of Quakers Social Justice Committee. She delivered talks in schools with City of Sanctuary and is an expert by experience with Refugee Action. She is the CMWH housing worker, responsible for housing new residents and encouraging the house to be cooperative and socially active within the community.

**Claire Tindale** – Joined ASAP in February 2018 as Training Coordinator. Claire studied MA (Hons) in International Relations and Law at the University of Edinburgh before coordinating the Duty Scheme and Asylum Support services at British Red Cross in Glasgow for almost three years.

**Dave Smith** is a Network Development Worker for NACCOM, supporting members with capacity-building, partnership working and good practice. Dave lives in the North West and is a trustee of the Boaz Trust, a charity he founded in 2004, which runs a hosting scheme, manages 17 shared houses and coordinates a winter night shelter through local churches. Dave also oversees the Refugee Resource Centre for Churches and is the author of two books, the 'Book of Boaz' and 'Refugee Stories'.

**Grace Matuwana**, forced migrant, expert through experience, living in Coventry Women Migrant House.

**Jessie Seal** is NACCOM’s Campaigns and Policy Coordinator, working to support members evidence destitution, challenge policy and procedures and raise a collective voice for change. Jessie is covering for Lucy Smith whilst she is on maternity leave. Jessie is based in Bristol and before joining NACCOM worked for a charity directly supporting people who were living in destitution. Jessie has also worked in environmental campaigning and been involved with search and rescue operations in the central Mediterranean. She holds a Masters in Policy for International Development.

**Jo Carter** has been the Volunteers Manager (part-time) for the Grace Hosting scheme at LASSN, the Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network, for the last four years. The scheme has developed over the years, and now has a mix of short and long-term hosts: on an average day Grace Hosting can be accommodating 15-20 asylum seekers and refugees. LASSN has a reputation for good policies, procedures and volunteer training.

**John Clifton** was commissioned as a Salvation Army Officer in 2011. Together with his wife Naomi he leads The Salvation Army's church in Ilford, East London. They have encouraged the congregation to take practical action which has included the setting up of a night shelter, a bike recycling social enterprise, and using the tools of community organising with Citizens UK to bring the pastoral concerns of the local community into political life. John is currently working on founding Project Malachi, a 'pop up hostel' in Ilford Town Centre focused on accommodating people with No Recourse to Public Funds, and the London Citizens Mayoral Team, focusing on the Street Homelessness Campaign.  John has recently completed a PhD in systematic theology at King's College, London.

**Jonny Darling** is a Trustee of NACCOM and was elected to the board in September 2018. Jonny received his doctorate from the University of Durham in 2008 for his thesis on Cities of refuge: asylum and the politics of hospitality. Since then, he has lectured at universities in Scotland and Manchester and in 2018 returned to the North East as Assistant Professor in Human Geography at Durham University. His work on urban asylum has been widely recognised and in 2017, he received a University of Manchester ‘Making a Difference’ award for ‘outstanding impact on society through research’.

**Jill Rutter** is director of strategy and relationships at British Future. She was born in Birmingham and grew up in rural Northamptonshire. After studying at Oxford University and University College London she worked as a geography teacher in London and Essex. She then joined the Refugee Council where she helped set up Refugee Week, now a regular summer fixture. She has also worked at the Institute for Public Policy Research, where she helped set up the Migration Museum Project.

**Jonathan Kazembe** is from the Democratic Republic of Congo and is the Expert by Experience Manager at Refugee Action overseeing  the engagement work at the organisation.  His role involves recruiting, training members for the Expert by Experience groups in Bradford and across the Greater Manchester as required. He provides support to the group to plan and deliver effective advocacy and campaigning activity that aims to improve the lives of asylum seekers and refugees in and outside of the organisation. In his other capacity, he coordinates the expert by experience group at Freedom from torture North West where I was once a service user. His role there is to create a safe environment for service users to express themselves so that the service that they receive can improve. He believes that it is important that people seeking asylum have access to high quality advice and support at the earliest opportunity as possible to allow them to navigate the system so that they can better support themselves and their families.

**Julian Prior** has been the Chair of Trustees since 2015, and has been involved with the network since it began. He is the CEO and founder of Action Foundation, an award-winning charity in the North East, working with asylum seekers and refugees in Newcastle and Sunderland. Julian is also a fellow of the Centre for Social Justice.

**Leah Zvorwadza** is a Zimbabwean national and an asylum seeker based in Nottingham. Leah volunteers for the British Red Cross, assisting other people going through the asylum process, and until recently was a Trustee of Nottingham Arimathea Trust. Leah has studied at both the University of Bedfordshire (International Tourism) and De Montfort University (Health and Community Development), and is one of NACCOM’s community reporters.

**Lisa Norcross** is the English Club Coordinator at ARC Blackburn, which provides practical support for asylum seekers and refugees in the Blackburn and Darwen Borough. She also manages the Lancashire Sanctuary Homes Project, which seeks to find accommodation for refused asylum seekers and refugees across Lancashire, initially in the Blackburn, Preston and Lancaster areas. This is done mainly through hosting in partnership with Refugees at Home.

**Mabli Jones** is a Campaigns Project Manager for Wales for Asylum Matters, a project working in partnership to improve the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum through social and political change. She joined the team in 2019 and previously worked at the Senedd and for LGBT equality charity Stonewall Cymru.

**Malka Al-Haddad** is an Iraqi human rights defender, who is currently living in exile in the UK. She is the former Director of the Women’s Centre for Culture and Art in Iraq – Al-Najaf Al-Ashraf, an NGO working on women's rights, children's rights, education projects and cultural activities. Al-Haddad also worked as a Professor at Kufa University, in Iraq, where she was teaching literary criticism. Since 2005 she has been a member of the Union of Iraqi Writers. In exile, Malka has continued writing academic papers and articles on human rights issues, women's rights and refugee rights. In December 2015, she presented a paper at the 4th IARS Annual Conference, on the topic of violence and its impact on women in Iraq. Malka published a book of poetry, "Birds Without Sky" in 2018, and all proceeds from the sale of this book will go to three charities in England, because of their important work for humanitarian support. The book is available for purchase.

**Maria** **Iglesias has 20 years’ experience working in the homelessness sector. For the last three years she has worked as Head of Services at Praxis Community Projects, a Human Rights charity based in London working with migrants at risk.** **Maria** **is responsible for all operational services at Praxis, with a focus on development of Migrant Destitution Services and Praxis Housing project, which won Homeless Link 2019 Innovation Award and was a finalist of the 2018 World Habitat Awards.** **Maria** **previously worked at St Mungo’s for 17 years, where she managed St Mungo’s Complex Needs Team and several supported housing projects (mental health, drugs and alcohol) in north London.** **Maria** **holds a MSc in Clinical Forensic Psychology and Psychiatry and a MSc in Health Psychology.**

**Marion Kafetz**, now retired, was a social worker for the London Borough of Barnet. When Refugees at Home launched its national online hosting scheme she became one of its first Home Visitors. After helping to develop policies and procedures, she became a trustee on the board of Refugees at Home in October 2017, where she has responsibility for Safeguarding Policy. On an average night Refugees at Home is able to find hosts for around 145 guests across the UK.

**Matt Lambert** is a former criminal defence lawyer who left the private sector to pursue a vision to make homelessness history. This started 6 years ago with the founding of Hope into Action: Black Country, a housing charity. 3 years he founded the Wolverhampton Church Shelter and then ReGen, a residential training program. Alongside a new Rotary shelter bus and a lettings agency these organisations have now come together to form the Enterprise Homes Group of which Matt is CEO.

**Mirjam Thullesen** is a trained psychologist and practising psychotherapist. As well as working within the NHS, she has worked for a number of years in the charitable sector with refugees and survivors of trafficking and torture whilst at the Poppy Project, British Refugee Council and Freedom from Torture. She has recently finished a Doctorate in Psychology and Psychotherapy looking specifically at self-care for practitioners working with refugees.

**Nico Ndlovu** is a Zimbabwean national and an asylum seeker living in Glasgow. Nico is involved in a few projects in Scotland, including performing stand-up comedy and compering for shows in Glasgow and Edinburgh and volunteering with several refugee charities including with Refugee Survival Trust and NACCOM as a community reporter, and as a trustee of Glasgow Night Shelter.

**Pascale Gayford** is the manager for the Good Practice and Partnerships Team. She provides line management for a team who support other charities by increasing skills and expertise in particular identified areas; support organisations to experiment with new service delivery approaches and by connecting, linking and convening organisations. She has experience managing asylum services teams both at Refugee Action and the British Red Cross providing support for destitute asylum seekers and asylum seeking families and immigration advice for refused asylum seekers and for other vulnerable migrants. She is also an experienced caseworker, volunteer coordinator and has project management experience with the national rollout of the Asylum Guides project. She is also a trustee of Solace Leeds.

**Paul Catterall** is a full-time Network Development Worker for NACCOM, supporting members with capacity-building, partnership working and good practice. Paul lives in Middlesbrough and before joining NACCOM was the CEO of Open Door North East, a charity birthed out of a local church providing accommodation and other services to asylum seekers and refugees across the Tees Valley. Whilst there, Paul led the development of a mixed portfolio of 35 houses, including a social lettings agency, all providing the cross subsidy of bed spaces for people with NRPF.

**Rachel Ward-Newton** is the Asylum Guides National Programme Project Manager at Refugee Action. Previously, she has worked with community-led organisations supporting people seeking asylum at the early stages of their asylum journey, destitute refugees and those resettled via the Gateway Resettlement programme. Before joining Refugee Action, she completed a Masters’ degree in Conflict Analysis and Reconstruction, completing research in Uganda and an in-depth analysis of the gendered experience of the asylum system in the UK. Rachel has experience coordinating and managing projects including an English Language Integration programme as well as managing and training volunteers. She is a volunteer with Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit and Greater Manchester Rape Crisis.

**Sarah Taal**, CMWH, Coventry Peace House and Asylum Support Appeals Project trustee, Baobab Director. Over 10 years’ experience developing and coordinating various housing, hosting and shelter destitution projects with refused asylum seekers and those with NRPF. Caseworker with women experiencing gender based violence, founder of Baobab Womens Project a community advocacy and awareness raising project.

[**Tommy Cloherty**](mailto:mandb@housingjustice.org.uk) is the Matching and Building Coordinator at Housing Justice, coordinating the London Hosting scheme, which is a network of hosting organisations and individual hosts within the M25 area. He came to Housing Justice in 2015 after around fourteen years at HOPE *worldwide* (a London-based charity housing single, non-statutory homeless people in the private rented sector) where he was Head of Homeless Services.  He also helped to set up and run both the M&M and M&B mentoring and befriending projects for Housing Justice.