

UK for UNHCR Advisory Board

For refugees,
with refugees,
this is a Board role
like no other.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
United Kingdom for UNHCR





Rising to the challenge of our times.

There are now more than 110 million forcibly displaced people worldwide – the highest figure on record and one that has doubled in the last ten years alone.

Conflict, climate change, persecution and human rights violations have been the largest drivers of this mass migration of people. But as the climate crisis truly takes hold, millions more will be forcibly uprooted from their homes, hosted in countries already at capacity, reliant on systems that are ill-equipped to cope.

Never has there been a greater need for new thinking, innovation and the ability to work at pace.

It is pivotal that we harness the very best of the private sector with the very best of the public sector to meet the challenges before us. In partnership, we could create a platform capable of delivering efficient, effective solutions which allow refugees to not only survive, but thrive.

UK for UNHCR's Advisory Board is the first step in that journey and we would love for you to join us.

A Board like no other...

This Advisory Board will be the first of its kind at UNHCR.

It will be stewarded by members with origins in the refugee cause – business leaders and philanthropists with experience of displacement or migration will give the Board unrivalled insight and expertise.

Board members will harness their collective skills, influence and impact to mobilise philanthropy and expertise.





...working within a ground-breaking organisation

There are few organisations where you can have greater potential impact on the lives of refugees and those forced to flee than with UK for UNHCR.

We were established in 2019 as the UK charity partner of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency - the only organisation with a global mandate to protect refugees, internally displaced people and those who find themselves stateless. This mandate sets UNHCR apart: it means that more than 140 countries who are party to the UN Refugee Convention must offer safe haven or safe passage when we call on them.

UNHCR's unique experience

UNHCR's work has twice won the Nobel Peace Prize.

UNHCR's teams stay long after the crisis has passed, working to reunite families, help people return home when it's safe to do so or to start a new life in a new country.

Every one of these outcomes takes the diligent work of experts, lawyers, social workers and supporters to make happen.

It can be a long process, fraught with emotion and apprehension.

Guiding often traumatised people through this process is every bit as vital as the emergency aid for which UNHCR is often better known.



Our work up close



We respond to emergencies

UNHCR teams are ready to deploy within 72 hours of a crisis. With seven strategic hubs around the world, UNHCR maintains enough relief supplies to protect as many as 1 million people in a single influx.



We protect human rights

UNHCR works to improve laws, regulations, policies and practices to ensure displaced and stateless people are treated fairly and are able to access rights and services with dignity, including the right to seek safety, the right to healthcare and the right to a nationality.



We build better futures

Employment, education and a safe place to call home allow refugees to begin to rebuild their lives. UNHCR helps refugees find employment so they can support themselves and their families with dignity and contribute their skills to host communities.



We advocate for change

Advocacy helps to transform policies and services that affect displaced and stateless people on a national, regional and global level. It is a vital part of UNHCR's work.



In both countries of asylum and countries of origin, UNHCR works within national political, economic and social structures to bring policies, practices and laws into compliance with international standards.

In times of forced displacement, we use advocacy to influence governments, non-governmental partners and the public at large to adopt practices that ensure the protection of those in need.

Be at the **forefront** of our work

As an Advisory Board member, you will be at the forefront of all our work whether that is responding to an emergency or supporting children's education and adults' abilities to rebuild their lives. Your input, expertise and influence will be called on to ensure we can offer solutions and hope at every stage of the refugee and displacement journey.

We want this to be a true partnership that brings you in early on our more innovative programmes, from the eco-design of temporary shelters to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy in refugee settlements.



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You'll learn too that many of UNHCR's projects are generated by the very people using them – our Refugee Innovation Fund supports and mentors organisations led or founded by people who have been forcibly displaced. Actively partnering with the people we serve means our programmes and policies are shaped by their experience and insight, making us far more effective at meeting the needs and challenges people face every day.

DAFI: Shaping the Futures of Young Refugees

You will also learn about UNHCR's longest running and largest standalone University Scholarship programme for refugees and returnees, where the largest cohort of our 8,300 scholars are currently Syrian refugees. The DAFI programme is living proof that academic dreams can survive even the most challenging circumstances.

“The DAFI scholarship was a spark for change in my life. It has provided me with endless opportunities and given me the motivation to succeed.”

Salam Al-Hariri, aged 26, is a Syrian refugee, mother and trainee pharmacist in Amman. After graduating as a DAFI scholar from the University of Jordan in 2018, she is training at a local pharmacy and has become an important bridge between the Syrian community and the healthcare system.



A dynamic Board that will fuel new thinking, new solutions

The Advisory Board will sit at the heart of UK for UNHCR and will consist of up to a dozen members committing for a minimum of two years.

Working alongside our leadership team and trustees, you will have access and insight to parts of the organisation that go far beyond the norm.

Board Members will co-create innovative financing solutions, leverage public private partnerships and build lasting, transformational relationships that ensure some of the world's most vulnerable people can emerge from crises



You will have the opportunity to:

- Shape what a better life for refugees could look like, working with some of the most impressive, skilled people of their generation
- Speak to and meet experts in the field
- See UNHCR's work first hand
- Engage with UNHCR leadership at its headquarters in Geneva

A dedicated Senior Philanthropy Advisor, as well as Garvin Brown, the Board's Founding Member and its Vice Chair, will support you every step of the way.

This Board heralds a new generation of philanthropy at UK for UNHCR, one that harnesses funding, pools talents and identifies opportunities to solve the biggest humanitarian challenges facing the world today.



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“UK for UNHCR’s Advisory Board is an unparalleled platform for philanthropists to have a far-reaching impact on the global refugee crisis. Thanks to the UN Refugee Agency’s ability to deploy resources on every continent, the Advisory Board allows all of us to achieve far more together than we ever could on our own.”

GARVIN BROWN, TRUSTEE AT UK FOR UNHCR & RETIRED CHAIRMAN OF BROWN-FORMAN CORP.

To find out how to become a founding member of the Advisory Board, please contact advisoryboard@unrefugees.org.uk



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