UN Women Programming in the Minawao Refugee Camp in Cameroon

Koche Maina (right) speaks with women at the women’s social cohesion space in the Minawao refugee camp. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Building the resilience of women and their communities in this conflict-affected region means enabling them to earn a decent living. The women’s empowerment centres supported by UN Women are playing an indispensable role in facilitating women’s access to training, start-up business kits and more.

“It’s the only opportunity that women have, and the only safe space they can access to come together, learn new skills and get psychosocial support. There are no other services like this,” says Jimmy Henry Nyingcho, UN Women project manager.
The COVID-19 Pandemic has millions worldwide staying home. The Gulf Coast Chapter invites us all to use this difficult time to connect - to each other and to other women around the globe.

Women Refugees
For the 26 million refugees worldwide, 70 million forcibly displaced persons, and 258 million migrants, home is transient and unstable. This presents particular challenges in the face of a pandemic. In countries with active conflict, mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is incredibly difficult as living conditions are crowded and health services are lacking. Sixty percent of preventable maternal deaths take place in humanitarian settings, and one in five displaced women experience sexual violence.

Refugee and migrant women are often first responders in a crisis. In Laylan Camp in Iraq, women sewed 400 masks to protect women providers. UN Women is working to inform, protect and support women through the pandemic. Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh have organized a network to educate women and girls about keeping safe and avoiding infection.
GCC Community Connections - Online!
Let's learn together.

GCC Member Conversations
1.) Gender and Refugees: Join us from 2 - 3 p.m. Thursday, May 7, online for a GCC Member Conversation about global refugees. Click on this Zoom link at 2 p.m. on May 7: Join Conversation.

Guest host: Dr. Jody L. McBrien, Professor at USF, with an interest in refugee studies and human rights and migration at USF.
About Jody.

Jody will share a 10 minute presentation, "Beyond Survival: Helping Refugees to Thrive." She will then moderate an open group discussion on the topic.

Learn more about this issue through these links:
- UN refugee agency "rapidly adjusting" the it works
UN refugee agency "rapidly adjusting" its work amid COVID-19 pandemic: UNORG.


2.) LGBTQ Protections Around the Globe: Join us from 2 - 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, online for a GCC Member Conversation on this issue. Click on this Zoom link at 2 p.m. on May 13: Join Conversation.

Host: Selisse Berry, Founder of Out and Equal Workplace Advocates, the world's largest non-governmental organization specifically dedicated to creating safe and equitable workplaces for LGBTQ people. About Selisse.

GCC Book Club
May selection: The Shadow King by Maaza Mengiste. Book Club Meeting 2:30 - 4 p.m., Monday May 11. Meeting will either be at the Betty Johnson Library OR virtually on Zoom. Watch this space for update.

GCC Chapter Members

Enjoy a Second Showing of Select TWE Films! Some of our filmmakers have made their films available to our GCC Chapter members for an encore showing. Members Click Here, password: twe2020.
GCC 2020-2021 SEASON
Events at GCC WEBSITE

Saturday, October 17, 2020
"Women and the Environment"
Issue-oriented Fall Lunch
Sarasota Yacht Club

Saturday, February 6, 2021
Walk With Us
Payne Park

March 5-7, 2021
22nd Annual Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival

Gulf Coast Chapter Book Club
This active book club meets every second Monday at the Sarasota North County Library from 2:30 to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Leita Kaldi Davis, Lkaldi@hotmail.com.

About Your Donations
About Your Donations
UN WOMEN is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programs and services needed to implement these standards.

UN Women stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas:

- increasing women's leadership and participation
- ending violence against women
- engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes
- enhancing women's economic empowerment
- making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting

Your Gulf Coast Chapter

For more information, click here: Gulf Coast Chapter Website

Interested in becoming a member of or participating in the local work of the Gulf Coast Chapter?

For membership, contact Cathy Berna at 941-923-1050 cadberna@msn.com

Please SHARE this newsletter! BUT DO NOT JUST FORWARD THIS EMAIL!
To share: Copy and Paste into a new email. Then send!
For more information about Gulf Coast Chapter activities and opportunities to get involved go to: www.unwomen-usnc.org/gccaboutus

STAY CONNECTED