

## 2<sup>nd</sup> European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants

### Speakers' Biographies

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**Amb. Alvaro Albacete** is Deputy Secretary General at KAICIID. From February 2014, Ambassador Albacete served KAICIID as special advisor to the Secretary-General for public diplomacy. Since then he has been a leader in developing and implementing KAICIID's use of interreligious dialogue for peacebuilding in particular in the Central African Republic and Nigeria. He was trained in Driving Government Performance by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ambassador Albacete has served in diverse positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, including the Division for the United Nations, Director of Parliamentary Affairs, Deputy Director of the Minister's Cabinet and Ambassador. As Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Albacete develops and coordinates KAICIID policy and action at the wider international level, in close co-operation with the European Union, the United Nations and other international organizations.



**Ms. Shaza Alrihawi** is a human rights activist and a Syrian refugee based in Germany. She is the co-founder of the Network for Refugee Voices (NRV) and a steering committee member of the Global Refugee-led Network (GRN). Shaza is a board member of the New Women Connectors and former member of the European Migrant Advisory Board (EMAB). Shaza was deeply involved in human rights issues and was dealing with refugees and women's crisis working on SGBV cases at UNHCR Syria. She holds a Bachelor's degree and a postgraduate degree in sociology and a Master in psychosocial work as well as a Master in political science from Maxwell School of Syracuse University, USA. Currently, Shaza is working as a Research Assistant in the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi) on the Refugees in the German Educational System project.



**Ms. Anne Bathily** works on issues of asylum and social inclusion at national and European levels. She has held senior positions with UNHCR and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles. Her areas of work cover various aspects such as economic, political and civic participation but also resettlement, family reunification or social innovation. Anne Bathily has first-hand experience of refugee situations in various locations and works closely with local and national authorities, NGOs, as well as with grassroots refugee/migrant-led organisations. Together with Dawit Friew, an Ethiopian refugee, she also developed and taught a series of lectures to bring the refugee experience closer to students studying international refugee law at Kent University.



**Ms. Sophia Burton** is an advocate for a more nuanced and evidence-based understanding of migration in education, media, and public debate. She is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Migration Matters e.V., a non-profit in Berlin, Germany that produces educational videos on migration, refugees, and diversity. Her 10+ years of professional experience also includes Mediendienst Integration (Migration Media Service), Kiron Open Higher Education, and the Migration Policy Institute. Sophia is a dual American-German citizen originally from Washington, DC who received her Master of Education at Harvard University.



**Mr. Jean-Louis De Brouwer** is Director of the European Affairs Program at the Egmont Institute. He joined after retiring from the European Commission where, as a director, he was successively in charge of immigration, asylum, visas and border policies, the implementation of the EU2020 agenda and employment policies, and humanitarian aid operations and policies. He has master's degrees in Law, Sociology and Public Administration/International Relations from the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL). Before joining the European Commission, he held various positions in the Belgian civil service and was Director General of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences. He has taught Public Law, Political Science and EU Politics at the Saint Louis University of Brussels (USL-B) and the Catholic University of Mons (FUCAM). He is currently a lecturer in International Relations Theories and on "An Area of Freedom, Security and Justice" respectively at the UCL and the USL-B.



**His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis of France** is Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and member of KAICIID Board of Directors Over the past 14 years, as president of the Orthodox Episcopal Assembly in France, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France has tirelessly encouraged inter-orthodox as well as interreligious dialogue and cooperation. He is Co-President of the Council of Christian Churches of France, as well as Co-President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP). Metropolitan Emmanuel has been a Member of the Central Committee of CEC since 2003 and a Board Member of The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) since 2012. He has been named "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" in France, among other Church and State distinctions, for his services representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate to other faiths, and to the European Union.



**Dr Scherto Gill** is Senior Fellow at the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace (GHFP) Research Institute, Visiting Fellow at the University of Sussex, Research Fellow at University of Wales, and Fellow of Royal Society of the Arts (FRSA). Through academic research and grassroots projects, Scherto actively explores ways to implement ideas such as deep dialogue, ethics of caring, holistic well-being, and harmony in social transformation and peacebuilding. She writes in the fields of education, ethics, and governance. Her most recent books include: *Happiness, Flourishing and the Good Life: A Transformative Vision of Human Well-Being* (Routledge), *Understanding Peace Holistically* (Peter Lang), *Beyond the Tyranny of Testing* (Oxford University Press), *Ethical Education: Towards an Ecology of Human Development* (Cambridge University Press), and *Being Peace and Making Peace* (Spirit of Humanity Press).



**Dr. Anna Hjälms** is the programme director of "Interreligiös praktik för fred – En värld av grannar" (A world of neighbours – interreligious praxis for peace). Her mandate includes reinforcing, linking together and highlighting the work that religious actors perform with and for migrants in Europe, and strengthening the interfaith infrastructure regarding this issue in Europe. Anna Hjälms was educated at Umeå University, where she has also conducted research and taught in fields such as population issues. In 2011 she defended her PhD thesis in social and economic geography. Between 2013 and 2016 Anna Hjälms worked for the Church of Sweden as an ecumenical officer, posted at the office of the World Council of Churches in Jerusalem. In recent years she has worked on public education issues in the Middle East team at the Central Church Office in Uppsala.



**Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister** has been the Community Rabbi of Vienna since 2008. He has received various rabbinic ordinations in different theoretical as well as practical areas of Jewish Law from some of the most prominent rabbinic authorities of the 20th century as well as a Master of Science degree from the London School of Economic and Political Sciences (LSE). He is a Board Member of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER); the President of the Union of Mohalim in Europe (UME); the Chief Rabbi of Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria and Carinthia; the Secretary General of the Rabbinical Court of Austria and also the highest rabbinic representative of the Jewish Community of Austria in all interreligious and socio-political matters.



**Mr. Juan Fernando López Aguilar** is Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). After serving as a member of the Spanish Parliament, he was appointed Spanish Minister of Justice between 2004 and 2007. He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Bologna (Italy), a master's degree in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and for a long time he has been a Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Being an expert in comparative law, federalism, fundamental rights and judicial systems as well as having been a visiting professor at different European and American universities, he has published 15 books, over a hundred articles, essays and scientific collaborations.



**H.E. Stephan Mayer** is a member of the county executive board of the Medium and Small Business Union of the Christian Social Union (CSU) in Germany since 1993. Since 2002, Stephan Mayer is Member of the German Bundestag for the CSU. From 2010 to 2018 he was President of the THW, a federal agency for technical relief that is active across the world and as a partner in civil protection in Germany. In 2013, Stephan Mayer was appointed as Spokesman for Home Affairs of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag and is acknowledged as an expert on migration and security issues. Since March 2018, he works as the Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. Stephan Mayer is prior responsible for migration, integration, EU-coordination, (border) security and civil defence. As Parliamentary State Secretary he helps the Minister to carry out his duties.



**Dr. Torsten Moritz** holds a PhD in political sciences of the Free University of Berlin and has broad research experience in Eastern and Central European transformation after 1989. Having been involved in the leadership of various pan-European Youth networks in the late 90ies, he has since 2002 been working for the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), since 2018 as its General Secretary. In this capacity he carries out CCME's advocacy work with the European Parliament and Commission as well as the Council of Europe. He is active in conceptualising and implementing a variety of projects and policy, among other issues on migration and (co-) development, trafficking in human beings, refugee resettlement and integration of third country nationals. He co-chairs the Brussels-based European NGO platform on Asylum and Migration.



**H.E. Faisal bin Muaammar** is currently founder and Secretary General of two organizations focused on enhancing understanding and knowledge: the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) in Vienna, and the King Abdulaziz Public Library (KAPL) in Riyadh. H.E. Mr. Bin Muaammar is also Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. His senior positions in the Saudi Arabian administration have included Vice Minister of Education, Advisor to the Royal Court of then-Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Deputy of the National Guard for Cultural and Educational Affairs.



**Dr. Rainer Münz** is the former Special Advisor on Migration and Demography at the European Policy Strategy Center, a think tank of EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. Until 1992 he was director of the Institute for Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and until 2003, professor for population science at Berlin's Humboldt University. He was Fellow at the Institute for Financial Mathematics at Vienna University of Technology until 2005. From 2005-2015, Dr. Münz was head of the research department at Erste Bank as well as a visiting professor at a number of universities (Bamberg, UC Berkeley, Frankfurt, HU Jerusalem, Klagenfurt, St. Gallen, Vienna and Zurich). Currently visiting professor at the Central European University, Budapest, Dr. Münz is a member of several scientific advisory boards and supervisory bodies, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM, Geneva), International Metropolis Project (Ottawa-Amsterdam), KNOMAD Fund of the World Bank (Washington DC).



**Dr. Alberto Neidhardt** is Policy Analyst in the European Diversity and Migration Programme of the European Policy Centre. At the EPC, he works on asylum, migration, and integration matters, with a particular interest in the politics of migration, disinformation, and specific expertise on EU law and jurisprudence. In addition to his role at the EPC, he lectures at the University of Antwerp in comparative law and legal pluralism. Prior to joining the EPC, Alberto was a PhD candidate in law at the European University Institute (2013-2018) where he conducted a comparative and historical study on the regulation of cross-border mobility of international families. Previously, he was Teaching Assistant at the School of Oriental and African Studies (2010-2012) and Research Assistant at Queen Mary (2012), University of London. Alberto holds an LLM in European and Comparative Law from EUI (2013) and a Master's degree in International and Comparative Law from SOAS (2011).



**Dr. Andrew Orton** is Director of Education and Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology as well as Deputy Director in the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action at Durham University, United Kingdom. He has a professional background in community and youth work as practitioner, manager, trustee and consultant and has worked with a wide range of organizations in voluntary, public and faith-based sectors in these roles and through his research. Along this line, he has worked with the Council of Europe on research projects, exploring improved approaches with policymakers to building migrants' belonging within local communities as well as ways of engaging with 'Faith in Intercultural Cities' in 2014. Whether working with practitioners, policy-makers, or others, his research builds in impact from the outset by actively involving people within the research process.



**Imam Yahya Pallavicini** is president of COREIS, the Islamic Religious Community of Italy, one of the principal organizations of institutional representation of Islam in Italy with a vocation for theological training, ecumenism and intercultural education in the West. Yahya has been a member of the Italian Minister of the Interior's Council on Islam in Italy since 2005. Moreover, he is a member of the ECRL European Council of Religious Leaders and ISESCO Ambassador for Dialogue among Civilizations. In 2006 Yahya supported the Message of Amman and participated among the 138 Muslim international scholars in A Common Word Initiative. Since 2015, in cooperation with the United Nations, KAICIID and other partners, he has been participating in the writing of a Plan of Action for Religious Leaders to Prevent Incitement to Violence that could lead to Atrocity Crimes. Since 2018 he has been coordinating the Muslim Jewish Leaders Council (MJLC).



**Dr. Shannon Pfohman** is the Policy and Advocacy Director at Caritas Europa, where she oversees the advocacy work of the European network. Previously, she worked as Deputy Director of Policy at the European Network against Racism in Brussels and as Competence Centre Manager for Equal Opportunity in the Migration and Qualification Department of the Confederation of German Trade Unions' in Düsseldorf. She also worked as a researcher on migration, ethnicity, and identity topics at the Berlin Institute for Social Research, as a volunteer coordinator with the Jesuit European Volunteers in Munich, as a hospice aid worker with Caritas Nuremberg, and as a case worker for formerly homeless adults in inner-city Chicago. Her Master's Degree was in Intercultural Communication and Conflict Management (Alice-Salomon University of Applied Sciences) and her PhD provided a comparison of integration modalities based on a sample of Bosnian refugees in Berlin and Chicago (Free University in Berlin).



**Canon Dr. Sarah Snyder** is a theologian and mediator, specialising in interreligious peacebuilding and dialogue. Sarah brings wide-ranging international experience in situations of violent conflict. She has worked for many years to promote faith-based reconciliation, most recently as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor for Reconciliation – a role centred around supporting the Anglican Church to be an agent of conflict-transformation in conflict or post-conflict contexts. Previously, Sarah worked with the United Nations as Director of Partnerships at Religions for Peace International. A trained mediator, she has experience of working with communities and senior religious leaders. Sarah is Founding Director of the Rose Castle Foundation - an international centre of peace and reconciliation offering a safe space in which to address misunderstanding of the "other", particularly those of different religious traditions. Their residential programmes equip emerging leaders to act across deep divides within their spheres of influence.



**H.E. Amb. Drahoslav Štefánek** is Special Representative on Migration and Refugees of Council of Europe Secretary General. Previously, he acted as Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, he was the Director General for the UN, International Organisations, EU Affairs and Human Rights. His diplomatic career includes posts responsible for Human Rights and Political Affairs at the Slovak Permanent Mission to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva, and at the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the UN in New York. Prior to that, he has served as the Agent of Slovakia as well as a Member of the national Delegation before the International Court of Justice. Mr Štefánek holds a JUDr in Law from Matej Bel University and law degrees from Bratislava and Utrecht universities.



**Reverend Dr. Thomas Wipf** is the President of the European Interreligious Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL) – Religions for Peace Europe since 2012. He has pursued theological studies in at the universities of Basel, Münster and Zurich. Later he was given the doctorates of Theology honoris causa from the Universities Münster, Westphalia, and the University Debrecen, Hungary, for his services for European Protestantism. After his time as a protestant-reformed parish Pastor from 1975 to 1998, he was the President of the Reformed Church in Switzerland of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe and Member of the Presidium of the Conference of

European Churches. Additionally, he is the founder of the Swiss Council of Religions and served as its first President from 2006 to 2010.



**H.E. Amb. Jörg Wojahn** is the Representative of the European Commission in Germany. After graduating from high school in Munich, Wojahn studied law at the University of Passau and the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela from 1991 to 1997. In 1999 he did his doctorate at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel and passed his second state examination in 2000 at the Higher Regional Court of Karlsruhe. After that, Wojahn was editor and correspondent of the Austrian daily Der Standard for four years before becoming spokesman for the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in Brussels in 2004. From 2009 to 2014 he was Counselor at the Delegation of the European Union for Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE and Bahrain in Riyadh, from 2015 to 2019 Head

of the Representation of the European Commission in Austria. Since September 2019, he is the Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Germany.