

Nour Jarrouj

Profile

Nour Jarrouj is a Syrian refugee advocate, feminist, humanitarian worker, and refugee inclusion advisor. As a young woman during the Syrian war, Nour believed that it is equally important to provide urgent services for displaced people affected by war, and work on long-term peace building and providing a space for self-expression and empowering excluded communities. That's why in addition to her work in 2015, Nour founded a youth group called "Art of Humanity" to support Syrian women, youth and marginalised communities using art and creating a space for increasing emotional wellbeing and development. Her group included young people from different views, religions, genders, sexualities and backgrounds. Nour also worked on the United Nations' emergency response with WFP in Syria from 2016-2018 as an MEL lead.

After coming to the UK, Nour completed her masters then worked with several UK refugee charities to create inclusive programs and processes to support and empower refugees, including "The Bike Project" to empower refugee women via cycling and then becoming the first refugee Director at "Refugee Youth" in London; a UK based charity that supports young refugees and asylum seekers through art and community building. Nour is currently a Senior Engagement and Advocacy Manager with the "Moving Minds Alliance"; a Global Advocacy alliance that supports refugee children and their families in countries of crisis.

She also sits on the UNHCR refugee advisory board, and additionally supports international funders, governments, and INGOs that work with refugees and migration, on inclusion of refugee perspectives into decision making. In 2024, Nour also launched "Baytna for refugees" a refugee-led business in the UK, bringing refugee and non refugee communities together through food and community building to break negative stereotypes about refugees and provide them with paid opportunities. Nour Holds a BSc in Economics from Damascus University (2015) and MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from SOAS, University of London (2019), HD in Organisational change & innovation from University of Canterbury NZ (2024), and certificate in Global advocacy for protection from IIHL, Italy (2024) with over 11 years in humanitarian and refugee sectors work.

Why is the CHS Alliance important to the sector?

CHS alliance, is an important platform for all actors working in humanitarian settings. It ensures that there is a unified accountability mechanism that they can rely on to improve their work, prove they are holding their organisations accountable for their work supporting people affected by crises, in addition to creating assisting tools, opportunities for sharing, and learning across members in different regions.

What motivates you to join the Alliance's Board?

I believe that the people with lived experience of humanitarian crisis, need to be included in any relevant decision making that affects their lives. As a Syrian I have survived a deadly war in Syria for 8 years before I became a refugee. I have been working in the humanitarian and



development sector for over a decade and I have seen that despite the continuous efforts of humanitarian actors to support people in crisis, the people affected by crisis are rarely involved in decisions that addresses their needs and build on their existing capacities. I believe I will be able to bring both my lived and technical experience to support the CHS alliance and its members and improve their work.