



REFUGEE ADVISORY PANEL

WHY IS A REFUGEE ADVISORY PANEL BEING ESTABLISHED?

The Refugee Advisory Panel (Panel) will be by and for refugees & former refugees in Aotearoa and will work to:

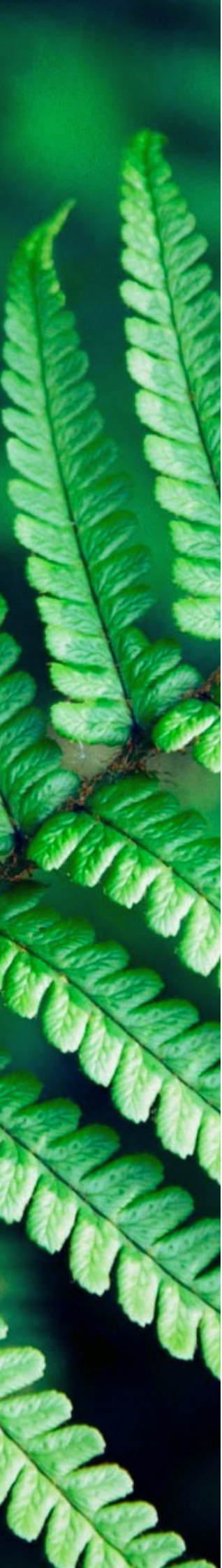
- **Effectively and meaningfully participate** in the development of refugee settlement strategies & policies.
- Ensure refugee and former refugee interests, perspectives & knowledge **inform and influence** strategic direction & policies on international, regional & national refugee issues.
- Include representatives in NZ government delegations to **global meetings on refugee issues**
- Shape a collaborative space for former refugee communities, groups, and organisations to **represent themselves and advocate collectively**.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER REFUGEE BODIES?

- The Panel will be a sustainable engagement model that is inclusive and ensures community perspectives are reflected in the decision-making stage of policy development.
- The Panel will complement and will work with other national refugee bodies to ensure transparency and communication of refugee interests are voiced at the national level.
- The Panel will ensure transparency and communication of refugee interests are also being voiced at the international and regional levels.
- Partnership with CAPRS as an academic institution will ensure the Panel is well resourced in terms of national and international research and policy.

HOW WILL THE PANEL WORK WITH OTHER REFUGEE BODIES?

- The Panel will partner with R-SEAT and other national refugee bodies to implement meaningful refugee participation throughout each policy development stage in Aotearoa.
- The Panel is not intended to take the place of existing structures or modes of engagement.
- The Panel is not establishing a new organisational body but rather an additional platform for collective representation.
- The Panel will provide an alternative way to facilitate the participation of different groups in policymaking and engaging government.



WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED SO FAR?

- **Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT)** is an international initiative working to enhance the effectiveness of global refugee responses by co-designing mechanisms to amplify refugee leadership ecosystems and increase the participation of refugees at state levels in a meaningful, sustainable, and transformative way.
- An **interim advisory group of former refugees** was formed by R-SEAT to help advise preparatory work and the Panel's design. The interim advisory group was an informal group of 7-10 people and consisted of former refugees from community organisations, refugee-led grassroots initiatives, NGO and advocacy sectors. The work of the interim advisory group has been instrumental in ensuring a strong refugee voice is at the center of the Panel's design, and the group will step aside now that the formal nomination process is underway.
- The **Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS)** will collaborate with Panel members to provide the resourcing and policy knowledge transfer. Additionally, CAPRS will provide training and mentorship and facilitate professional development for the Panel.
- **Immigration New Zealand (INZ)** has supported establishing the Panel by providing funding. INZ will also provide the Panel with capacity-building and mentorship opportunities for members to engage in policy dialogue and build sustainable pathways of influence.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PANEL?

Email your questions to nzrap@refugeesseat.org

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY

<https://bit.ly/3PkRbPg>