ABDULLAH OMAR YASSEN
CURRICULUM VITAE

1. Personal Details

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2. Education

- Newcastle University: PhD (International Law), Oral Examination 11 December 2015. Thesis Title: "The Right of Refugees to Durable Solutions: An Examination of the Situation of Iraqi Refugees" (published by Noor Publishing, 2017). PhD fully funded by the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (four years).

- University of Leicester: LLM (Public International Law), 2009, with Merit. Dissertation Title: "Genocidal Intent: The Case of the Anfal Campaign"

- University of Nottingham: Postgraduate Diploma in International Law, 2008

- University of Derby: LLB Law (Hons) Second Class, Upper Division 2:1, 2007

3. Employment

- Associate Professor in International Law (tenured), Erbil Polytechnic University (Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq) (May 2016 – Present)

  Responsibilities:

  - Head of Cultural Relations Unit: Building partnerships between Erbil Polytechnic University (EPU) and other international higher education institutions; Welcoming guest delegations, overseeing their logistic needs and arranging their itinerary with the related or host departments at the University; Facilitating and organizing the University delegations' involvement at international conferences and missions abroad

    Within this role, responsibility for the Internationalisation Strategy of EPU in teaching and research, including research staff exchanges and student exchanges, as well as the development of the Bologna system within the EU-funded programme TIGRIS (Erasmus+ programme "Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education"). The TIGRIS project consortium is composed of 5 European partners (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany (Coordinator); Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; Masarykova Univerzita, Czech Republic; Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands; and Global Impact Institute Prague, Czech Republic) and 10 Kurdish partners, including the Ministry of Higher

Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) (http://www.tigris-erasmusplus.eu/).

In his capacity, Global Solutions Sustainability Programme Facilitator for US-based organisation IREX (funded by US Department of State), responsible to design virtual student exchange programmes Iraq-US on global issues (https://www.irex.org/project/global-solutions).

- Teaching: Lecturing in Public International Law
- Supervising EPU's academic staff on research leave to undertake their PhD studies abroad

- Lecturer in International Law, University Salahaddin-Erbil, Law Department, College of Law and Political Science (July 2010 – May 2016) – Research Leave September 2011 – October 2015 (at Newcastle University to undertake a PhD)

  Responsibilities: Lecturing in Public International Law and supervising final year student's dissertations in Public International Law

4. Publications

Books

- *The Right of Refugees to Durable Solutions* (Noor Publishing, Saarbrücken, 2017) ISBN: 978-3-330-85839-8

Journal Articles

- 'A Proposal for a Law on Asylum in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq' (Manuscript accepted for publication by peer-reviewed journal *International Migration*, subject to revision) – Indexed in Scopus, Quartile 1

- 'Minorties in Iraqi Constitution: A Critical Analysis of the Legal Discourse' (2021) *International Journal on Emerging Technologies* 1-10 (in press)

- 'The Failure of the European Union to Respond to Refugee Crisis' (2021) *International Journal on Emerging Technologies* 1-17 (in press)

- 'The Prospects for Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: A Case Study of Erbil Governorate Camps' (2019) 38(4) *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 448–469 - Indexed in Scopus, Quartile 2

- 'The Applicable International Mechanisms to Punish the Crimes of ISIL against Minorities' (2019) 9(1) *Polytechnic Journal* 1-28

- 'International Cooperation: From the ICTY and ICTR to the ICC' (2017) 7(1) *Polytechnic Journal* 1-41

Other Publications

- "Report on Citizenship Law: Iraq", *Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies Research Reports*; GLOBALCIT, Country Report, 2021/12. Published at the European University Institute Research Repository: https://hdl.handle.net/1814/71403

- "Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq" (MERI Policy Report, August 2019) 1-35.http://www.meri-k.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Durable-Solutions-for-Syrian-Refugees-in-the-Kurdistan-Region-of-Iraq.pdf

- Abdullah O. Yassen and S. A. Tawfiq, "The Applicable International Instruments in Preventing Genocide Against Minorities: The Case of ISIS" (13 April 2017), Proceedings from the Third International Conference of Cihan University-Erbil on "Law, International Relations, and Media", 7'LIRAM-C (doi: 10.24086/liram17.01)

Academic Blogs:

- "Covid-19 in Kurdistan: A Small Fish in a Big Pond", EURAC Research Centre Series, 30 July 2020

- "Entry denied: the danger of exclusion", EURAC Research Centre Series, 1 July 2020

- "Refugee Relocation: Nationalist Isolation or European Solidarity?", EURAC Research Centre Series, 21 April 2020

5. Participation in International Research Projects

- University of Oslo, Faculty of Law, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law: Research Assistant, Research Project "Refugees and the Arab Middle East: Protection in States Not Party to the Refugee Convention", strand on "Digital refugee lawyering: connectivity and legal aid practices for ensuring refugee protection in the Kurdish Region in Iraq (KR-I)", funded by the Norwegian Research Council (2021-Present) (https://www.jus.uio.no/ikrs/english/research/projects/ref-arab/index.html)

  Responsibilities: Research design, data collection, translation and transcription, and data analysis, as well as writing the Project report on "Digital refugee lawyering: connectivity and legal aid practices for ensuring refugee protection in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq"

- European University Institute Florence (Italy), Global Governance Programme, Global Citizenship Observatory (GLOBALCIT) (https://globalcit.eu/), (2020-Present)

  Responsibilities: Country Expert (Iraq); Monitor and analyse developments on citizenship legislation in force in Iraq since 1960; Write country reports on citizenship law in Iraq

6. Knowledge-Transfer Contracts

- Asylum Agency of the European Union (EASO): External Expert

  Responsibilities: Advise EASO in the development of the official training curriculum on resettlement by revising and adjusting the content of identification of refugees, their selection by resettlement country and pre-departure; Review and action feedback from European Commission, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the European Council on Refuges and Exiles (ECRE) and other European Agencies

- SEEFAR, The Migrant Project – Kurdistan: Independent Monitoring Officer (June 2019-Present) – SEEFAR is a non-profit organization working with vulnerable people, funded by several international entities, including the European Commission, the World Bank, the Commonwealth, governments, and NGOs
  https://seefar.org/
  https://www.themigrantproject.org/iraqi-kurdistan/

  Responsibilities:
  - Monitoring Migrant Project outcomes, notably by following-up with participants for the purposes of assessing the immediate project's impact on potential migrants and migrants in transit on the risks of irregular migration and possible pathways to legal alternatives.
  - Providing feedback observations on the process, and identifying concerns about its implementation, especially regarding factors that might affect the reliability of data

7. Research Stays Abroad

- Visiting Scholar, Institute for Regional Development, EURAC Research Institute, Migration Team (Bolzano, Italy): fully funded research stay for nine months, starting in September 2021 (currently deferred due to Covid-19 work-from-home policy)

8. Conference Papers

- Abdullah Yassen (Erbil Polytechnic University, Iraq) and Mirjam Twigt (University of Oslo, Norway), "Digital Refugee Lawyering: Connectivity and Legal Aid Practices for Ensuring Refugee Protection in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq", Refugee Law Initiative 5th Annual Conference "Ageing Gracefully? The 1951 Refugee Convention at 70", London, 9-11 June 2021

- "A Proposal for a Law on Asylum in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq" (by invitation), Institute for Regional Development, EURAC Research Institute (Bolzano, Italy), 20 November 2019

- "The Applicability of Local Integration for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Italian Mountain Territories" (by invitation), Institute for Regional Development, EURAC Research Institute (Bolzano, Italy), 19 November 2019

- “The Right of Syrian Refugees to Local Integration in Iraqi Kurdistan”, 17th International Association for The Study of Forced Migration Conference on “IASFM 17: Whither Refugees? Restrictionism, Crises and Precarity Writ Large”, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 24-27- July 2018

- “The Applicable International Instruments in Preventing Genocide against Minorities: The Case of ISIS”, First International Conference on Nations Under Genocide, Budapest, Hungary, 19-21 April 2017

- “The Prospects of Durable Solutions for Iraqi Refugees in Italy”, Conference “Migration and Displacement in Iraq”, University of Kurdistan- Hewler, 19th April 2017

- “Refugees as Subjects of International Law”, University of Liverpool International Postgraduate Legal Conference, Conference on “Future Lawyers Tackling Tomorrow’s Legal Challenges”, University of Liverpool, 4 July 2013

- “The Right of Refugees to Durable Solutions: Examination of Iraqi Refugees as a Case Study”, Queen Mary University of London Postgraduate Law Conference, “Reinvigorating Legal Thought in Times of Change”, Queen Mary, University of London, 6 June 2013

9. Other Merits

- Conference Coordinator, The 2nd International Conference on Social Transformation and Regional Development (ICoSTRD 2020), 4-5 February 2020, Erbil City, Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

- Conference Organiser, The first International Conference on the Challenges for Legal Thought in a Contemporary Society, 3-4 April 2014, Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University, UK

- Interpreting and Translation, June 2002 – December 2015 (London, Derby, Newcastle Upon Tyne)
    - Provision (on a voluntary basis) of face to face interpreting for Iraqi and Iranian Kurds in various public sector organizations such as job centers, hospitals, police stations, and city councils, as well as at private organisations, such as law firms and employment agencies
    - Translation of documents, brochures and leaflets from English to Kurdish language