

Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue and the 2018 Democracy Camp

The Transatlantic Migrant Democracy Dialogue (TMDD) is a partnership that trains and connects immigrant and refugee leaders in the US and Europe to enable them to organise and build alliances with other civil society movements.

The 2018 edition of the Democracy Camp was held in Dublin from the 12th to the 14th of October.

5 tracks

Community organising / leadership Development

Covers the art of community organizing by discussing different "Paths to Power", best practices for successful campaigns, and how to identify issues to take action on.

Alliance Building

How to build strategic alliance with key allies, assemble a coalition to take action and the challenges of balancing a diversity of wants and needs.

Electoral Participation

How to build migrant voting power, including the roles of non-migrants, through civic engagement programs, leveraging stakeholders and other effective methods.

Communications

How to use communication techniques to strategically move campaigns, build alliances, demonstrate wins to stakeholders, and more.

Community Navigators

How to change traditional service techniques to better serve migrants. Discusses a program that empowers women migrants with legal training to strengthen communities.

Guests

Dr Roja Fazaeli

Chair of the Board of Directors of the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Dr Roja Fazaeli is Assistant Professor of Islamic Civilisations at Trinity College, Dublin and Warden of Trinity Hall, a residential learning community of 1,000 students. Roja has published widely on the subjects of Islamic feminisms, female religious authorities, women's rights in Iran and the relationship between human rights and religion. Her most recent book is *Islamic Feminisms: Rights and Interpretations Across Generations in Iran* (Routledge 2016). She is currently on the editorial board of the journal *Religion and Human Rights* and is a member of the executive committee of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. Roja also serves as the representative for Scholars at Risk at Trinity College, Dublin. She previously served on the executive boards of the Irish Refugee Council, UN Women Ireland, the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, as well as the board of directors of Amnesty International Ireland.

Sen. Billy Lawless

Billy Lawless, Sr. was born in 1950 in Circular Road, Galway where he attended the Jesuit St. Ignatius College in 1962. He grew up in a dairy farming family supplying milk to restaurants and hotels in Galway. In 1977, Billy started in the hospitality business as owner of Gallows Pub and Restaurant and Taaffes Pub in Galway. He became President of the Vintners (Restaurants & Pubs) Federation of Ireland in 1982. In 1991 he contested a seat for Galway City Council Ireland. In 1993, he became Chairman of the Galway West Constituency Fine Gael Political Party, which is now in government. From 1992 to 1997, he was the owner of the Twelve Pins Hotel Barna in Co. Galway, Ireland. Billy emigrated to Chicago in 1998 and opened The Irish Oak in Wrigleyville and the Grafton. In 2001 he formed the Chicago Irish Pub/Restaurant Association. Billy, his wife Anne & family now own 6 restaurants Downtown Chicago employing over 500 employees. The Gage & Dearborn Restaurants in the Loop being the flagships. After years of informal leadership within Chicago's Irish immigrant community, Billy was approached to take a more public role and founded the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. This led to his becoming a member of the Board of Directors and vice-president of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) in 2009. Since 2010 Billy has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Illinois Restaurant Association. In 2011 he was a founder member of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition and since 1998 he has been Co-Chairman of the Galway Chicago Sister Cities Committee. He & Anne became US citizens in July 2014. On May 15th 2015 he became a Freeman of the City of Galway.

Training Team

Melis Arı-Gürhanlı

Finland, representing Moniheli ry (Network of Multicultural Associations)

Melis has been active in civil society organisations the past decade combining grassroots with advocacy work in the field of integration in Finland, where she has been living since 2000. She holds master degrees in Social Sciences and in Culture and Arts. Her expertise lies on enhancing the participation of migrants and in developing two way integration process. After having worked as the project coordinator for *iCount* and *Katto* projects for [Moniheli](#) - the network of multicultural organisations in Finland she currently serves as the executive director of [Familia ry](#) - a pioneer organisation in the development of intercultural activities and leading expert of intercultural families.



Zrinka Bralo

UK, Chief Executive, Migrants Organise

Zrinka was a journalist in Bosnia before the conflict began, including five years at the National Radio in Sarajevo. After war broke out, she coordinated international media coverage from Sarajevo, working with some of the world's leading war correspondents. As the conflict escalated, Zrinka sought asylum in the United Kingdom, but she was at first refused and fought deportation for three years. She finally won the right to stay in the country and to this day she is a fierce advocate for asylum-seekers in the United Kingdom. She set up the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns in London (now [Right to Remain](#)) and supported 100 families and individuals against unjust deportation.



Since 2001, Zrinka has been the Chief Executive of [Migrants Organise](#). Formerly known as the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum, Migrants Organise is a platform where refugees and migrants organize for power, dignity and justice. Zrinka has led numerous successful campaigns on behalf of refugees and migrants. She served as a Commissioner on the [Independent Asylum Commission](#), the most comprehensive review of the UK protection system and still leads the process of implementation of its 180 recommendations. She took part in campaign to end detention of children for immigration purposes in 2010. In September 2015, in response to the recent refugee crisis she has lead civil society response in the UK and is a founding chair of the [National Refugee Welcome Board](#). In 2011 Zrinka launched the [Women on the Move Awards](#) for outstanding grass roots leaders. She is a founding trustee of [Most Mira](#) (The Bridge of Peace) charity that delivers arts based programs for ethnically segregated young people in rural Northern Bosnia where some of the worst atrocities were committed during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

Teresa Buczkowska

Ireland, Integration Team Coordinator, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Treasurer, European Network of Migrant Women

Teresa Buczkowska is a Polish migrant woman living in Ireland since 2005. Teresa holds a MA in Ethnography and Social Anthropology from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. Currently she works for the Immigrant Council of Ireland which she joined in 2013 initially as an Integration Intern, and eventually progressing in to the position of the Integration Team Coordinator in 2015. Teresa and her team are working on developing local integration strategies, enhancing migrants' political participation as well as building migrants' leadership capacity. Delivering diverse anti-racism projects is a cornerstone of their work. Teresa published on racism, integration best practices and migration and integration politics. Between May 2016 and May 2017 Teresa served as a Board Member of the European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW).



Breschkai Ferhad

Germany, Managing Member of the Executive Board of the Federal Association of Migrant Networks

Breschkai Ferhad is a managing member of the Executive Board of the Federal Association of Migrant Networks (BV NeMO) which represents migrant networks in 14 German cities. The association aims to facilitate dialogue and knowledge-sharing between the networks and advocates for their issues on a federal level, striving to bring a migrant perspective into public discourse on all socio political matters (beyond „integration“), both in the city as well the national context.

While Breschkai and the head office in Berlin lobby for migrant organisations to be recognized as part of civil society, they also run several projects: One of them supports and strengthens migrant organisations who are active in refugee aid in 30 cities, another reaches out to youth with a „migration background“ and encourages them to explore and express what it means for them and their identity to live in a super diverse city. Yet another project focuses on the empowerment of migrant organisations in coping with racism, an issue they oftentimes haven't had a safe space for, to respond to and tackle as a community.

Breschkai, a cultural manager, has long standing experience in the area of migration politics and democracy building. She was one of the founders of Neue Deutsche Organisationen (New German Organisations) and also worked in the German ministry of the interior in a programme targeting right-wing extremism.



Thomas Huddleston

Research Director at Migration Policy Group (MPG)

The MPG is an independent think-and-do-tank that connects people to the best facts, comparative analysis, training, pilots and advice on legal immigration, integration and anti-discrimination. Thomas most notably works on projects such as the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), European Website on Integration, the Migration News Sheet, the Refugee Integration Evaluation Tool and the Research Social Platform on Asylum and Migration (ReSOMA). Thomas also contributes to the development of MPG's joint communications and campaigning, such as the European Citizens Initiative “We are a Welcoming Europe: Let us Help!” and the VoteBrussels campaign to register EU citizens for the 2018 Brussels local elections. Since 2006, he also chairs the quarterly migration subgroup of the NGO Platform on EU Migration and Asylum. Since 2016, he also chairs the EU's Policy network on Migrant Education (SIRIUS).



Yonous Muhammedi

Greece, President of the Greek Forum of Refugees

Yonous Muhammadi is a leading defender of refugee rights in Greece, where he secured asylum after fleeing Taliban abuses in his home country of Afghanistan. Muhammadi has long been targeted for his work, including being jailed by the Taliban in Afghanistan for his human rights research and advocacy, and brutally beaten in Athens by unidentified assailants as he taught Greek to migrant children.

As president of the Greek Forum of Refugees (GFR), Muhammadi ensures that the needs and rights of recently arrived asylum seekers, migrants, and refugees are at the heart of high-level debates in Greece and elsewhere in Europe. He was among the first to identify the alarming extent of xenophobic violence in Greece and to press for accountability for perpetrators of such acts. He is also committed to defending women's rights and serves as an ambassador for White Ribbon, one of the world's largest male-led campaigns to end violence against women.

In his role as President of the GFR, Muhammadi conducts outreach and advocacy to inform refugees of their rights and obligations in Greece, ensure access to medical services, and remedy inadequate reception conditions, hurdles to integration, and appalling detention conditions. GFR successfully lobbied the Greek Ministry of Education in 2010 to allow undocumented children to attend school, and last year, pushed the Greek government to create a shelter for hundreds of Afghan families.



In 2016, Yonous was named Recipient of the Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism by Human Rights Watch.

USA trainers

Ray Barrett

Chief of staff at for National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)

Ray oversees the internal operations and fundraising at NPNA while also managing external relationships in a variety of programs including the National Immigrant Integration Conference, the largest immigrant and refugee rights and integration conference in the U.S.

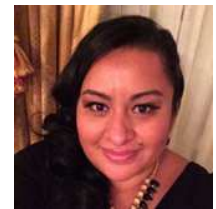
Ray is the son of a Pilipina immigrant and identifies from a low-income background. From a young age, he began to question the inequities that impacted immigrant families; specifically in education, health-care, and workforce development. Previously, Ray worked in a variety of roles: as an educator; refugee resettlement research assistant; in communications and outreach with the U.S. Department of State in Manila, Philippines; and at a education policy non-profit.



Melina Gonzalez

Immigration Outreach Organizer & Client Advocate, LSA Family Health Service

Melina Gonzalez joined LSA Family Health Service in 2003 as a Development Associate and Client Advocate. In 2006, Melina became the LSA Immigration Outreach Organizer; she also works with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs in NYC. Melina is passionate about her work and believes in furthering the economic, civic, and social integration of immigrant New Yorkers by facilitating access to justice and advocating for continued immigration reforms at all levels of government. Her goal is to help to eliminate inequities that impact New York's immigrant communities, which will then empower New York City immigrants to create a successful life for themselves and their families.



Joshua Hoyt

Co founder and Executive Director for National Partnership for New Americans

NPNA membership includes 26 of the largest immigrant coalitions in the U.S. NPNA believes that America's success is rooted in our ongoing commitment to welcoming and integrating newcomers into the fabric of our nation, and to upholding equality and opportunity as fundamental American values.

Under Joshua's leadership NPNA has advocated for a national approach to immigrant integration, resulting in the first ever White House Convening on Immigrant and Refugee Integration and nine National Immigrant Integration Conferences. NPNA members have assisted over 92,000 immigrants become U.S. citizens or achieve legal status through D.A.C.A. Joshua has been a community and immigrant organizer for almost 40 years, including 12 years leading the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. During this time Illinois became one of the most immigrant friendly states in the US. He is the co-chair of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition.



Sarah Mesick

Director of Programs National Partnership for New Americans

Sarah leads NPNA's Program and Training work to empower grassroots immigrant leaders and build organizational capacity within NPNA's immigrant coalitions and national partners for immigrant-led service delivery. Sarah coordinates the Women Empowered to Lead (WE Lead) and Cities for Citizenship (C4C) initiatives; along with coordinating NPNA's team of state-based Program Coordinators and Trainers across the country, developing and leading trainings to build the scaled implementation of Naturalization, DACA, Know Your Rights, Eligibility Screenings, and Deportation Defense services for hard to reach immigrant communities.

Sarah brings over ten years of community organizing, programmatic and administrative experience to NPNA, previously working in Chicago at the Southwest Organizing Project, leading successful voter registration campaigns, building teams of immigrant leaders to fight for comprehensive immigration reform, leading the local New Americans Initiative (NAI) campaign and working in coalition to expand the largest parent



engagement initiative in Illinois, the Parent Mentor Program. She graduated from Loyola's Master of Social Work (MSW) program, concentrating in policy, migration studies and leadership development. Sarah's prior education include studying at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City, University of Minnesota and in Merida, Venezuela. She is fluent in Spanish and was born and raised Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Eva Millona

Executive Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Eva A. Millona is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), the state's largest organization representing the foreign born, and co-chair of the National Partnership for New Americans, the lead national organization focusing on immigrant integration. She joined MIRA in 1999 and served as Director of Policy and Advocacy and as Deputy Director before becoming Executive Director in 2008, and she is now one of New England's most highly quoted immigration experts. Prior to MIRA, Ms. Millona directed the refugee resettlement program in Central Massachusetts. In her native Albania, she practiced civil and criminal law, serving on Tirana's District Court from 1989 – 1992, when she was the nation's youngest district judge ever appointed.



Ms. Millona is also the co-chair of the Governor's Advisory Council for Refugees and Immigrants and serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement and serves on the Attorney General's Council for New Americans. In 2010, she co-chaired the nation's largest immigrant integration conference, which MIRA hosted in Boston. She is the recipient of over a dozen major awards, including the prestigious 2009 USCIS Outstanding American by Choice Award, the 2010 Wainwright Bank Social Justice Award, and the 2011 and 2012 Powermeter Award, presented to the most influential people for Latinos in Massachusetts.

Mireya Reith

Executive Director of Arkansas United

Mireya Reith is the Founding Executive Director of Arkansas United, a nonprofit based in Springdale that is dedicated to empowering immigrants and their communities through immigrant rights advocacy and closing service gaps. Founded in 2012, Arkansas United boasts a network of over 200 immigrant organizers in 17 communities across Arkansas, operates 5 regional immigrant resource centers with partners, and represents Arkansas in leading, national coalitions advancing comprehensive immigration reform, Latino and Asian civic engagement and immigrant integration.



Reith spent the first 14 years of her career in the field of international political development, working across five continents with American nonprofit organizations, Peace Corps-El Salvador and the United Nations to engage marginalized communities in democratic processes. Having first-hand experienced racism as the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, Reith continues to strive to connect Arkansas and immigrants to the broader movement for social justice, grounded in the beliefs that equity is the key to achieving our collective potential, and immigrants themselves can and should be change agents and decision-makers. In 2011, Reith would go on to serve her state as the first Latina appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Education, and would later become, in 2016, the youngest person in state history to chair the State Board.

Pili Tobar

Managing Director of America's Voice

Pili is a first generation Guatemalan American, born in Florida and raised in Guatemala City. In 2004, Tobar returned to the United States to attend the University of Miami where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Science and a Master's degree in Public Administration. Tobar has worked for the Democratic National Committee as National Director of Hispanic Media and Western Regional Press Secretary, as Communications Director for Congressman Ruben Gallego (AZ-07), and Communications Director for Latino Victory Project. Most recently, Tobar served as the Hispanic Media Director for Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY).



Gustavo Torres

Executive director of CASA,

Gustavo Torres has been recognized nationally and internationally for his leadership and vision in the immigrant rights movement in the United States. Originally a union leader from Colombia, Gustavo came to the U.S. due to the social and political condition in his country of origin. He joined CASA's staff as a community organizer, and has served as CASA's Executive Director since 1994 and President of CASA in Action (c4) political/civic engagement sister organization since 2009 . Gustavo was the founding president of the Maryland Latino Coalition for Justice, was the past President of the National Day Labor Organizing Network, and on numerous task forces and leadership groups addressing issues of diversity, immigrant rights, and multiculturalism across the Washington metropolitan area and PA. Gustavo received the Ford Foundation's prestigious "Leadership for a Changing World" award, and the Prince George's County Community Foundation's "Bridge Builder" Award. He is a member of the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2008, and was a Weinberg fellow in 2011.



Laura Tuell

Head of Pro Bono Services, Jones Day Law Firms

Laura Tuell is the Firmwide head of Pro Bono and continues her efforts as an active pro bono practitioner representing numerous immigrants seeking asylum, particularly women seeking protection against gender persecution. Laura also has experience in housing discrimination, voting rights, landlord-tenant law, and death penalty issues. She was instrumental in working with the D.C. Bar to create the Free Legal Advice and Referral Clinic and has participated in that clinic for more than 10 years. Laura is chair of the board of the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition and secretary of the board of Bread for the City. Among many awards for her efforts, she was named D.C. Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year.



Hannah Winnick

Director, Democracy Program, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America

Hannah Winnick founded the Democracy Program at the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America in September 2015. The program aims to bring US and European policymakers and civil society leaders together to explore shared challenges to democratic societies in the US and Europe, and has a strong focus on migration, asylum, and integration policy.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Hannah worked as Transnational Liaison at Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP), an organization dedicated to strengthening the Latino nonprofit sector in the US and Latin America. She has also worked with LEAD, the Mercator Capacity Building Center for Leadership and Advocacy in Berlin, to examine new models of leadership in German diplomacy. She has a broad range of international experience, having lived, worked, and studied in Germany, France, Turkey, the Dominican Republic, Israel and Portugal. Hannah holds a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, where she focused on international negotiation and conflict resolution and was awarded the Jane Mansbridge Award for research on women's access to peace negotiations. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Amherst College. She lives with her wife in Washington, DC.

