



Year 2022-2023

SEEK ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**SEEK FEMINIST
RESEARCH TO RESPONSE NETWORK**

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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Friends of SEEK Research to Response Network,

As I sit down to reflect on the remarkable journey we've shared over the past year, I find myself overcome with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for each and every one of you who has contributed to SEEK's mission in 2022-2023.

Together, we've embarked on a spirited mission to ignite change and champion social justice for all, with a special focus on our marginalized communities of refugee and migrant women. And let me tell you, it's been quite the ride!

From the inception of the Our Climate Justice project to our dynamic Co-Fe Tables initiative and, further, our advocacy campaigns, we've poured our hearts and souls into reshaping narratives and amplifying marginalized voices. Whether through policy briefings, video series, or expert talks, each initiative was a testament to our unwavering commitment to making a difference.

I am particularly proud of our significant contribution of Advancing Advocacy to the discourses on climate action through participation in the UNFCCC PCCB 5th Capacity Building Hub at COP28. Our session not only highlighted the critical intersection of gender, climate, and economics but also underscored our commitment to empowering refugee women through inclusion in green economy.

It wasn't just about the big projects but also the little moments of connection and collaboration that genuinely made SEEK special. Whether it was brainstorming sessions over coffee or late-night emails filled with excitement about our latest breakthrough, it's these moments that remind me of the incredible team we've built together.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication, passion, and unwavering support. Whether you're a member of the SEEK team, a partner organization, or a member of the communities we serve, your contributions have been invaluable.

As we look ahead, I am filled with hope and optimism for what we can accomplish together. Let's continue to stand in solidarity, amplify marginalized voices, and work towards a more just and equitable world for all.

With most profound appreciation and warmest regards,

Umbreen Salim

Founder & Managing Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, SEEK continued its unwavering commitment to promoting epistemic, political, and social justice for diverse populations, particularly refugees and migrants, worldwide. Grounded in principles of solidarity, collaboration, and inclusion, SEEK embarked on various projects and initiatives to reshape narratives, advocate for policy change, and foster meaningful connections within communities.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international forum for negotiating and implementing agreements related to climate change. In 2023, SEEK actively participated in the UNFCCC PCCB 5th Capacity Building Hub at COP28. SEEK's engagements at COP28 highlight our commitment to advocating for feminist leadership for achieving climate justice within the climate change discourse. SEEK organized a session on empowering refugee women through opportunities in the green economy. This involvement underscores SEEK's recognition of the intersectionality between climate change, gender equality, and social justice, emphasizing the need for inclusive solutions and policies that prioritize vulnerable communities like refugees and migrants.

The 8th European Migration Forum in Brussels provided another significant platform for SEEK's advocacy efforts. This forum brought together stakeholders, policymakers, and advocates to discuss critical issues related to migration, integration, and policy frameworks. SEEK's participation in roundtable discussions showcased the organisation's commitment to shaping the narrative on migration and fostering sustainable labour market integration for migrants in Europe. By engaging in these forums, SEEK contributed to policy discussions, amplified the voices of marginalised communities, and advocated for inclusive approaches to migration management and social inclusion.

The CoFe Tables initiative brought together feminist leaders and climate justice advocates from 13 countries to reimagine responses to climate change through a feminist lens. By amplifying the voices of frontline actors and championing resilience, this project aimed to influence decision-making at COP-28 and beyond. Additionally, the Climate Change and Migration Series amplified the voices of those affected by climate-induced displacement, advocating for urgent action and proposing concrete measures for climate justice.

Collaborating with the Central European University OSUN Science Shop, SEEK engaged in knowledge co-creation through projects like "Portraits of Power," providing platforms for migrant and refugee women to advocate for social inclusion.

Furthermore, SEEK's "Holding Hands" project provided resources and solidarity circles to support Ukrainian women refugees in the Netherlands. Overall, SEEK's annual report for 2023 showcases impactful initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting justice and inclusion globally. Through research, advocacy, and knowledge generation, SEEK continues to drive positive change in public perception and policy discourse.

CLIMATE
JUSTICE
NOW!

Key Initiatives and Projects

-IRMSDL-

Welcome to the forefront of progressive research and advocacy in the year 2023, where SEEK Feminist Research to Response Network proudly unveils its latest endeavour:

CLIMATE JUSTICE

THEN VS. NOW



ADVANCING ADVOCACY

SEEK has been committed to raising the voices of migrant women by participating in a range of impactful events



SEEK participated in the UNFCCC PCCB 5th capacity building hub at COP 28 🌱🌍

At COP28, SEEK organized the discussion on 'Refugee Women, Climate Action and the Green Economy', and advocated for inclusion of refugee women's voices at the Rights-Based Climate Action Day on 9 Dec 2023. SEEK took recommendations of refugee women that covered a range of important issues arising out of lived experience of refugee women

- Ensuring equal participation of women in high-level policy-making platforms.
- Promoting feminist perspectives.
- Disseminating information to women about their rights and available resources.
- Removing barriers to women's participation in climate policy-making.
- Developing equitable funding channels for women-led organisations.



SEEK PARTICIPATED IN THE 8TH EUROPEAN MIGRATION FORUM BRUSSELS

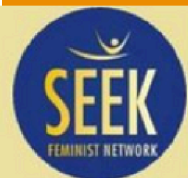
On December 4-5th, 2023, our founder and managing director, Umbreen Salim, participated in two roundtables at the 8th EU Migration Forum:

- (1) What is needed for more sustainable labour market integration?
- (2) How can we change the narrative on migration in the age of polarisation and disinformation?

This forum looked at specific needs, skills and communication for stronger inclusion of migrants in Europe today.

These engagements epitomise seek's dedication to advancing advocacy for migrant women and fostering inclusive approaches to address pressing global challenges.

CoFe Tables



SEEK




participated in the

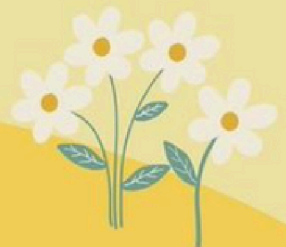
8th European Migration Forum Brussels

Advancing Advocacy Agenda for Inclusions
of Migrants in Europe today!



 4-5 December 2023

 EESC, Brussels



FEMINIST LEADERSHIP FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



SDG 13
13 tables
13 feminist leaders
13 countries



Co-Creating Feminist Tables

LEADERSHIP FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Co-Fe Tables represents a pioneering effort to integrate feminist leadership into the fight for climate justice.

Co-Fe Tables, an initiative under the SEEK project, stands for Co-Creating Feminist Tables, with a primary focus on promoting feminist leadership within the realm of climate justice advocacy. This initiative aims to bring together feminist leaders actively advocating for climate justice to reshape traditional approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

WHY	WHEN	WHERE	HOW
Co-Fe Tables provide spaces for the missing stakeholders on the climate change tables and high-level dialogues	April to November 2023. COP28 dates: November 30 to December 12	13 countries: Bangladesh, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Germany, Nigeria, Turkey, Lebanon, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Japan, Kenya	Feminist Leadership Co-creating at Global Level SDG 13, we conduct dialogs on 13 tables, gathering 13 countries with 13 feminist leaders.

Feminist Leadership for Climate Justice



2nd session:
11 august 2023
14.00 CET



13 Resilient women leaders
13 CoFe Tables
13 Countries
Advancing SDG goal 13

THE CO-FE TABLES
INITIATIVE AIMS TO BRING
ABOUT SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE
CHANGE DISCOURSE BY:

- Elevating the voices of feminist leaders and frontline actors in decision-making processes.
- Shifting the focus towards feminist responses and solutions for climate change.
- Promoting inclusivity and justice within the climate change ecosystem.
- Advancing SDG 13 and contributing to global efforts to combat climate change and its impacts.



**GLOBAL
DIALOGUES
INCLUSION
FRONTLINE ACTORS
OF**

**ADVOCACY ACTIVISM
AND**





OUR CLIMATE STORIES



Video Series

Climate Talks - An informative series providing insights into climate change issues and fostering dialogue on potential solutions.



Policy Briefing Series

Climate Change and Migration - Comprehensive policy briefings offering actionable recommendations to address climate-induced migration.



Connecting Knowledge - A space for interdisciplinary discussions and reflections on climate change and migration.

Blogs

In 2023, SEEK embarked on a dynamic Climate Change Advocacy Campaign to delve into the intricate relationship between climate change and migration while offering insights and recommendations for addressing this pressing issue.

Expert Talks: I Am Because We Are: Our Climate Stories

Our Climate Stories - A platform to showcase the lived experiences of migrants, refugees, activists, and at-risk groups affected by climate change, amplifying their voices and calling for urgent climate action.



Policy Brief: Climate Change and Migration Series

The Policy Brief of Climate Change and Migration Series curated by SEEK aimed to shed light on the realities faced by migrants, refugees, and vulnerable communities due to climate-induced displacement. The Series showcased stories of lived experiences and collaborative learning, advocating for Climate Justice for all.

Inclusion, Collaboration, Action: Addressing Climate-induced Migration—This paper provides an in-depth analysis of strategies to foster inclusion, collaboration, and action in addressing climate-induced migration.

In response to the escalating crisis of climate-induced migration, SEEK Research Network presents a comprehensive policy brief outlining three pivotal recommendations for effective policy intervention. Recognizing the lack of specific international policies addressing climate-induced migration despite the displacement of millions globally, SEEK proposes the introduction of loss and damage financing, prioritization of climate migration discussions, and reinforcement of community-based adaptation strategies. These recommendations aim to mitigate the severe impacts of climate migration by establishing a dedicated financing mechanism for loss and damage, advocating for climate migration as a standalone agenda item at international conferences such as COP27, and empowering communities through stakeholder engagement and capacity building. With climate migration posing an increasingly urgent threat to global stability and security, SEEK urges policymakers to implement these measures to foster resilience and protect the rights and livelihoods of those affected.



Another promising headway from SEEK, in 2023, is actively engaging in advocacy campaigns, including joining the UN PARIS Committee on Capacity-Building for climate-related capacity-building efforts. Participation in events like the "Dialogue on Strengthening Youth Capacity" underscored SEEK's commitment to fostering synergies and enhancing coordination in climate action efforts.



CONTINUING COLLABORATIONS

Collaborative Innovation in Addressing Contemporary Issues

Portraits of Power



Empowering Through Creative Engagement: "Portraits of Power"

An essential contribution to this collaboration was SEEK's project, "Portraits of Power." This initiative provided a creative retreat for young migrant and refugee women, offering workshops and

mentorship to foster a safe space for reflection on cultural taboos. Students from the course played a pivotal role in designing the retreat, ensuring effective participant engagement and promoting inclusivity.

In partnership with CEU OSUN Science Shop, SEEK embarked on an innovative collaboration centered around "(Mis)Performing World

Politics," a master's-level course led by Dr Erzsebet Strausz. This interdisciplinary coursework explored the nuanced dynamics of global politics within the framework of contemporary challenges. Next, figure out how you're going to accomplish your goals. Write down the steps you're planning to take, the people you'll be working with, and the estimated time of completion.

Decolonial Feminist Approach to Knowledge Sharing

"Portraits of Power" embodies a decolonial feminist approach to knowledge-sharing, emphasizing epistemic non-violence and collective liberation. By empowering young migrant and refugee women, the project aims to amplify their voices and challenge social injustices.

CONNECTING NARRATIVES TO POLICY ACTION

As part of the project, SEEK organised "Power Circles," online retreats focused on collective learning and knowledge-sharing. These circles facilitated interactive exercises aimed at self-reflection and exchanging ideas, ultimately translating participant narratives into actionable policy responses.

Research Papers on collaborative learnings



GRATITUDE TO SUPPORTERS

The realisation of "Portraits of Power" was made possible through the generous support of Mama Cash, OSUN, and Central European University. This collaboration underscores SEEK's commitment to co-creating knowledge and fostering meaningful partnerships for social change.

For further insights into this project and its outcomes, interested parties are encouraged to explore SEEK's publications and research papers, including "A Year of Science Shop: OSUN," "Journal Entries of (Mis)Performing in World Politics," and "Co-Creating Safe Spaces for Migrant Women – Decolonizing Knowledge Production and Knowledge Sharing Practices."



(Mis)performing World Politics

EXPERIENCE OF UKRAINIAN DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE EU

WHAT IS IT?

Ukrainian women interviewed

16

Blocks of questions

7

- Personal info
- Language barrier
- Cultural integration
- Communication with the diaspora
- Access to the labor market
- Housing
- State/EU help

Countries

9



SURVEY

[#StandWithUkraine](#)

At SEEK, we stand with the Ukrainian people, working hand in hand to better understand and address their unique needs based on their lived experiences.

SEEK has conducted a survey with young people displaced residing in 9 countries. They've shared their struggles and challenges, identifying the main problems they're facing because of displacement. Seek is committed to continue supporting Ukraine in every way possible.

Holding Hands

In 2023, SEEK continued its journey with the "Holding Hands" project, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to supporting Ukrainian refugees, particularly girls and women affected by war-induced trauma. The project remains dedicated to empowering these individuals to reclaim agency and integrate more effectively into host societies, both in the Netherlands and beyond. SEEK persistently harnesses the collective power of support, facilitating transformative actions and fostering the mutual exchange of experiences, fears, problems, and hopes among participants. The introduction of Solidarity Circle events and the Knowledge Repository for Ukrainian refugees exemplifies SEEK's ongoing efforts to co-create safe spaces for mutual sharing, fostering integration, and promoting inclusion within receiving societies.



ABOUT US



SEEK is a research and response initiative positioned in principles of solidarity, listening, collaborating, nurturing, learning and growing together, striving to collaborate with and to augment the perspective of refugees and migrants into public policies and programs that directly affect them in the host countries across the globe. We believe there are diversity of knowledges and ways of knowing. We endeavor reimagining the current migration research, narrative and scholarship by bringing migrant “knowledges” and “perspectives” into the nexus of the current migration policy discourses to provide evidence-based public policy. Our research is based on principles of co-creation of knowledge with the people and communities.

We work as a network of experienced researchers, advocates, activists and scholars based in different countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Haella Foundation extends its support Mama Cash supports SEEK with its for SEEK Research to Response project Portraits of the Power, which Network's project I am Because We are: engages young migrants and refugees Our

OUR
DONORS



Climate Stories. With their support, in the Netherlands in storytelling and we hope to continue amplifying the writing retreats, and the project voices of migrants, refugees, activists, Holding Hands, which supports and at-risk groups being affected by Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers climate change and call for the urgency in the Netherlands and beyond to of climate action to protect the lives overcome the war-induced trauma and and livelihoods of vulnerable integrate smoothly into the receiving communities.

THE TEAM



UMBREEN SALIM

Founder and Managing Director

Umbreen Salim is a researcher, feminist, activist, and gender-advocate striving to contribute to efforts to promote epistemic, political, and social justice. Her doctoral research, which focused on the challenges of integration, is with migrant women in the Netherlands. She has over ten years of research and advocacy experience working with women and girls, particularly migrants and refugees, advocating for human rights and social inclusion. She is a social sector development practitioner with over 15 years of project management experience with various NGOs and Governments across Asia, Pakistan and The Netherlands.



SUMBAL BASHIR

Co-founder, Director Projects

Sumbal Bashir is a feminist researcher and a development practitioner, interested in gender equality, Digital4Development, and social inclusion. She has been awarded the Fulbright scholarship (Temple University USA, 2015-16) and Policy Leader Fellowship (School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute, 2020-21), and was selected as Internet Governance Forum Youth Ambassador (Internet Society) for her work on gender equality and digital inclusion



WARANYA AREEROM

Research Team Member

Waranya is a lawyer and researcher, specializing in human rights law. With her master's degrees in European and International Human Rights Law (Leiden University), International Banking and Finance Law (UCL), and International Trade and Commercial Law (Durham University), she has a strong passion for promoting human rights, especially in the areas of business and human rights, migration, and children's rights. Her past volunteer work with NGOs includes data collection for UNESCO and report review for UNDP. Waranya is based in the Netherlands.

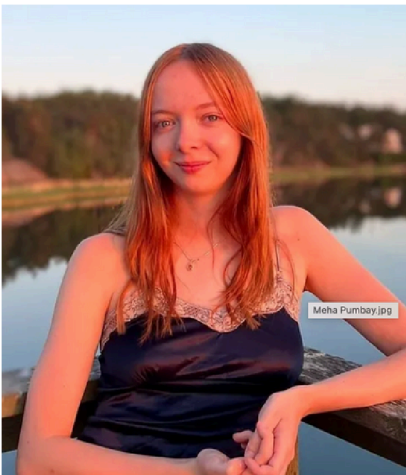
THE TEAM



FALGUNI SINGH

Research Team Member

Falguni Singh is a lawyer with an Advanced LL.M. in European and International Human Rights Law from Leiden University, Netherlands. Specialising in human rights, particularly focused on women's and children's rights, her work is dedicated to promote social justice and advocacy. Falguni's skills encompass legal research, detail-oriented case analysis, and comprehensive reporting. With a multidimensional skill set covering human rights law, women's rights, children's rights, and legal research, Falguni Singh is poised to make meaningful contributions to projects on women's rights.



REBECCA FAIRBEARD

Media Management

Rebecca has recently graduated from Queen's University Belfast with a first-class bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Politics. She wrote her dissertation on the marginalisation of migrant women's voices by the Swedish media and believes strongly in the importance of giving these women a platform to speak for themselves. Now based in The Netherlands, she's eager to continue contributing to this impactful work.



ANASTASIIA HATSENKO

Media management

Anastasiia Hatsenko has experience working for non-governmental organizations and a Ukrainian think tank. Her interests include human rights, gender in public policy, Euro-Atlantic cooperation, and information security. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in international relations (KUBG, Kyiv). She is currently pursuing a second master's degree in international relations at the Central European University.



ALEJANDRA PAYAN

Media management

Alejandra is a Mexican student pursuing a bachelor's of Culture, Politics, and Society. She is a passionate human rights advocate with experience in volunteering, NGOs, and impact projects. Her main focus lies in addressing gender inequality and its related issues, driving her to participate in numerous youth conferences centered around these topics.



MATEJA ZHERAJIKJ

Mateja Zherajikj has researched various controversial and overlooked topics and is a migrant and refugee rights advocate. Her skills include research, advocacy for women's and children's rights, languages, and social media management. Her interests lie in peace and security, conflict resolution, human rights and her work focuses on awareness-raising and advocating towards solution-based outcomes to help those affected by war and climate-change induced natural disasters



KRISTINA BOIAKOVA

Kristina Boiakova is a M.A. Public Policy candidate at CEU Austria. She holds BA degree in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Media Research (NRU HSE, Moscow). She is interested in human rights issues, public policy and entrepreneurship. She was involved in various research projects and, she is passionate about finding the best solutions for contemporary policy issues within the EU and worldwide.

We wish to acknowledge and heartfully thank our donors Haella Foundation and Mama Cash for their valuable contribution to the functioning of SEEK Research to Response Network and advancing global advocacy actions towards climate and human rights justice for all.

This report is compiled by SEEK with major contribution by Falguni Singh, SEEK team member.

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GOT ANY QUESTIONS?



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