

## Webinar examined forced migration & its Mental Health Challenges

On 2 November 2021, over 50 experts and students across 12 time zones—from Los Angeles to Yerevan-- participated in a webinar, titled “Forced migration and implications for health and mental health.”

This interactive webinar was sponsored by the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations (PCUN). The event was organized and chaired by Professor **Marciana Popescu** of Fordham University in New York City, with the assistance of social work graduate student, **Tanzilia Oren**. Participants were welcomed by two officers of the PCUN--**Elaine Congress** and **Harold Takooshian**—who described the importance of a two-way flow of communication between U.N. leaders and behavioral scientists, and the new PCUN webinar and book series designed to increase this flow. [See Notes 1,2 below.]

This webinar brought together 3 experts on migration, who each spearhead their own NGO. [3,4,5]

**Dr. Svetlana Aslanyan** is the founding Director of the Center for the Development of Civil Society in Yerevan, Armenia. She began to describe her work with migrants and refugees in her war-torn region of Armenia and Syria, until the zoom connection with Armenia crashed suddenly.

**Dr. Ani Kalayjian** is the founding President of the Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention [www.MeaningfulWorld.com](http://www.MeaningfulWorld.com), a global humanitarian volunteer organization founded in 1988, affiliated with the United Nations. She described her NGO’s multi-national work on “challenges for forced migration globally” in 20 nations.

**Dr. Tara Pir** is the founding Director of the Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services (IMCES), a Los Angeles-based community clinic that she formed in 1989, which works with the United Nations in New York City. She described “the humanistic right to migration,” and the multi-lingual services her IMCES provides to U.S. immigrants.

This global webinar was hosted by Fordham University, as part of a six-webinar series coordinated with the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations (PCUN), Fordham Psi Chi, and other NGOs. An 80-minute video of this webinar is available at \*\*\*\*\*

For any details, please contact the speakers below, or Professor Popescu at: [popescu@fordham.edu](mailto:popescu@fordham.edu).

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\*\* Notes: 1. PCUN: <https://linktr.ee/globalsocialgoals>

2. PCUN book series: [www.infoagepub.com/series/International-Psychology](http://www.infoagepub.com/series/International-Psychology)

3. Dr. Aslanyan: [svetaslan@hotmail.com](mailto:svetaslan@hotmail.com), [www.cdcs.am/general.htm](http://www.cdcs.am/general.htm)

4. Dr. Kalayjian: [DrKalayjian@meaningfulworld.com](mailto:DrKalayjian@meaningfulworld.com), [www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)

5. Dr. Pir: [DrPir@imces.org](mailto:DrPir@imces.org) <http://www.imces.org/>

