



## **Guidelines for research with former refugees in New Zealand: quick reference.**

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum is a rights-based, community development and advocacy organisation representing refugee-background communities in Wellington New Zealand.

While we want to encourage interest in and interaction with our communities, we also want ensure that our communities are respected and that interviewers assist us to strengthen the wellbeing of our communities.

### **Working with former refugees**

If you:

- Work *with* us, not *on* us;
- Respect us;
- Intend to validate our experiences and worldviews;

We have a good chance of working together well.

### **Questions to consider:**

- How can you ensure the interview process contributes to the wellbeing of our communities?
- How will you build trust? Take a humble approach – have a cup of tea and a chat before the interview.
- How much time do you need from participants and/or interpreters?
- Costs: can you build in koha for participants?
- How can you approach your interview questions with open minds and hearts? This includes admitting how little you know about those from whom you are seeking information, taking time to listen, and being aware of your own preconceptions, attitudes, beliefs and cultural assumptions.

When conducting interviews, watch body language as well as listening to speech. Watch people's eyes for indications of engagement. Respect silence – some things are too hard to share.

Be careful with your questions: For example, a 'straightforward' question such as 'how many children do you have?' can be problematic because there may be children left behind in camps and their fate is unknown.

Please let the research team know if you have any more questions:

Alia Bloom - [alia@crf.org.nz](mailto:alia@crf.org.nz) | Muktar Sheikh - [muktar@crf.org.nz](mailto:muktar@crf.org.nz).

Ph: 04 801 5812 | [www.crf.org.nz](http://www.crf.org.nz)