

Meet the Refugee Highway Partnership Europe Leadership Team 2024



Sue Butler- Sue served with Arab World Ministries in the Middle East and Arabian Peninsula for 24 years, latterly supporting local believers from muslim backgrounds. She is a fluent Arabic speaker and enjoys mentoring and discipleship. She returned to the UK in 2016 and worked in refugee support mostly with Arabic-speaking refugees. She joined Welcome Churches in 2018 as Head of Training and Church Engagement and has written much of their training for UK churches welcoming refugees. She served as Joint CEO of Welcome Churches from 2021 - January 2024, developing and growing the charity, their Welcome Network, their partnerships and their training for churches. Since leaving Welcome Churches, she continues to be involved locally in the UK with refugees from many nationalities, she's Vice-Chair of Wycombe Refugee Partnership and she is a trustee for Intercultural Churches UK. Sue joined the RHP leadership team in 2023.

Rodrigo da Silva - Rodrigo is a Brazilian-born Christian theologian, ordained Baptist minister and global development professional. He brings over 14 years of experience working in churches, mission organisations and non-profit organisations in three continents: South America (Brazil), Africa (Mozambique) and Europe. As managing director, Rodrigo's responsibilities at All4Aid include: leading the organisation, developing its strategic plan, mobilising new workers and volunteers, conducting speaking engagements and raising funds. Rodrigo is married to Annalena, a German social worker and systemic therapist. Together they have two young children, Eloy and Lui. Rodrigo has been part of the RHP leadership team since 2020, helping manage the finances and in establishing a membership model and multiple income streams to sustain and grow the RHP Europe network.



Whitney Gerdes - Whitney is originally from the U.S., currently serving as the Global Educational Specialist with the International Association for Refugees (IAFR). She is based out of Vienna, Austria since 2008. She has a bachelor's in Education, an M.A. in Human Services, and is a certified youth trauma specialist working in schools for over 10 years. After attending the European Roundtable in 2016 her focus has been shifting to advocating for and serving alongside refugee children, youth and women. She is currently getting to train, advocate for, and help equip educational initiatives along the refugee highway as well as serving in leadership roles in various other organisations. She has been the managing director for the last year as well as the communications manager for RHP Europe for the last 3 years. Her focus is making space for forcibly displaced women and children who are often pushed to the margins.



Matt Paschall - Matt is married to Nicole and has 4 children (ages 25 to 15). He serves with United World Mission in Budapest. Having had a focus on ministry to unreached peoples for over 20 years, for the past 7 years, Matt has been establishing partnerships among refugee ministries in the urban centres of Europe. Matt holds his doctorate in Global & Contextual leadership, he is the Coordinator of the HowWillTheyHear Campaign and co-Founder of Quest Academy which is a growing collaboration of organisations and churches mobilizing and training migrant missionaries to share the gospel, provide trauma care and show the love of Christ among the forcibly displaced. Matt has served on the RHP Leadership Team since 2015 helping to organize the annual RHP Roundtables and expanding the network to include more leaders, churches and ministries with a vision & heart to reach and equip refugees for mission.

Peter Samir - Peter is originally from Egypt, and now living in Bangor, NI. Peter serves with SIM UK in the Arabic ministry for Europe, building bridges between cultures by equipping and empowering the local church, migrants and refugees. He is married to Gillian and has two daughters. Prior to his current role, Peter served for 9 years in Barcelona Spain. He is involved in reaching and training new believers from different backgrounds, and mobilising the local western church to reach out to people on the move in Europe. Peter is a presenter of the Al Massira program. He is also one of the founders of Quest Academy International, which develops leaders to lead outreach, evangelism, and discipleship ministries effectively in multicultural contexts. On the RHP team, he is helping to connect and train Arab and Farsi speaking leaders to the network.

