

Supporting refugees to heal from trauma
and build a new life in Australia



2018

Refugee Ball





Welcome to the 10th Refugee Ball

From the STARTTS CEO

This is a momentous year for STARTTS! As they say good things come in three's. We celebrate the 30 years of uninterrupted service provision during which we made a difference to the lives of over 60,000 clients. We celebrate 20 years of our world-class magazine, *Refugee Transitions*, and of our course, 2018 also marks the 10th anniversary of our wonderful Refugee Ball that keeps getting better every year!

Ten years ago we decided that we needed a fun way to celebrate the commitment of STARTTS friends and supporters to assisting survivors of torture and refugee trauma in their journey to heal and build new lives in Australia. The Refugee Ball became a way to catch up with them in a relaxing atmosphere, to thank them for their ongoing support, and to raise funds for worthwhile causes consonant with STARTTS mission.

This was a terrific decision, as these ten years of successful Refugee Balls have confirmed. Not only has the Refugee Ball given us the chance to touch base with friends and supporters, but also to meet new ones. It has attracted people from all walks of life, of all ages, and from all corners of our wonderfully diverse Australian community, certainly including all the refugee communities we work with.

This year the focus of our fundraising is overseas, towards the global fund raising strategy we launched last year in this very room at the 9th Refugee Ball. Unfortunately, much of the world has become more difficult for colleagues seeking to do similar work to ours helping people to have a life after torture. It has become more dangerous for them, and it has also become harder to find ways to fund their work. Meanwhile, the number of forcibly displaced people has risen to almost 70 million, and so has the number of people whose lives have been affected by torture and other traumatic forms of human rights violations.

The global fund raising strategy we are piloting in Australia aims to create an additional source of funds to sustain the work of colleagues involved in healing torture and trauma survivors in places where the need is extreme and funding opportunities few and far between. You can help not only by donating generously tonight, but also by spreading the word about this campaign among your friends, colleagues and contacts. The details of how you can do this are inside this program.

Let's work together to help torture and trauma survivors have a life after torture not just in Australia, but also elsewhere in the world!

Thank you for your support in joining us tonight on what promises to be an unforgettable night! Have fun!



Jorge Aroche
Chief Executive Officer / STARTTS

Silence is the worst enemy of the struggle against torture, and the fight to ensure that survivors have access to the means to rebuild their lives in health and dignity after torture.

— Jorge Aroche, IRCT President

Proceeds from the Ball

The funds raised at the Refugee Ball over the past ten years have supported some of our most vital and innovative projects.

This year funds raised at the ball will go towards the Support Life After Torture campaign – a fundraising initiative of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) - to ensure that torture and refugee trauma rehabilitation services globally are able to continue to provide vital medical, psychological and social services. In the current political environment where torture is no longer seen as a moral outrage and the number of refugees is increasing every year – many centres are seeing reduced funding from donors and governments. Thousands of survivors, including refugees, torture victims, and others fleeing conflict rely on these centres to relieve their pain and guide their recovery.

Visit www.lifeaftertorture.org.au and www.irct.org for more information

Rehabilitation is a right

When a person has been damaged by unspeakable acts of violence, we have a duty to help that person claim back their life. It is the compassionate and moral thing to do. It is also that person's right, clearly stated in Article 14 of the Convention Against Torture. There are thousands of torture survivors in the world, but sadly only a few will receive the support they desperately need and are entitled to. Rehabilitation services are not always available or accessible, or don't have enough funds to support everyone who needs their help. This Campaign aims to change that.

Photo: African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, Uganda (ACTV) Courtesy IRCT





Program

- 6:30** ***Pre-dinner Drinks / Arrival***
Music Duo of Mesopotamia
- 7:00 Doors Open to Ballroom
- 7:30 David Smiedt Introduction by MC and Host
Welcome to Country
- 7:45** ***Entrée Served***
- 7:45 **Jorge Aroche CEO Welcome Speech**
- 7:55 **Performance** Ethiopian Dance Group
- 8:10 **Keynote Speaker** Nyadol Nyuon
- 8:30** ***Main Served***
- 8:50 **Special Performance** Joseph Tawadros AM - *Permission to Evaporate*
- 8:57 **Video Segment**
- 9:00 **Nashwan Yousif** Torture Survivor
- 9:10 **Musical Interlude** Joseph Tawadros AM - *Heal*
- 9:17 **Video Messages** IRCT Global Campaign Ambassadors
- 9:20** ***Break***
- 9:40** ***Dessert, Tea & Coffee Served***
- 9:40 Live Auction
- 9:50 Raffle drawn and silent auction closes
- 10:00 **Performance** Monsieur Camembert
- 12:00 Evening Concludes



Photo: Nyadol Nyuon with her grandmother after 20 years apart

Keynote Speaker

Nyadol Nyuon

Nyadol is a commercial litigator with Arnold Bloch Leibler and a community advocate. She was born in a refugee camp in Itang, Ethiopia, and raised in Kakuma Refugee camp, Kenya. At eighteen, Nyadol moved to Australia as a refugee. Since then she has completed a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Melbourne. Outside her work, and through the experiences of her family and community, Nyadol has developed an interest in issues concerning human rights, multiculturalism, the settlement of refugees and those seeking asylum.

She has volunteered extensively in relation to these areas has worked with governmental and non-governmental organisations. In terms of advocacy, Nyadol has presented at various conferences and forums on issues impacting the settlement of African Australians in Victoria and Australia in general. She regularly appears on the media including recent appearances on ABC's *The Drum* and as a panellist on The ABC's QandA. In both 2011 and 2014, Nyadol was nominated as one of the hundred most influential African Australians. She is currently a board member of the Melbourne University Social Equity Institute.



I am honoured and delighted to be involved with the Refugee Ball event to raise much needed funds aimed at supporting life after torture. It will be a night to remember those who continue to look for safety and security, but it will also be a chance to celebrate what is possible when we all work together to improve the lives of those impacted by war and conflict.

— Nyadol Nyuon



“ *Article 5:
No one shall be subjected
to torture or to cruel,
inhuman or degrading
treatment or punishment.*

— UN Declaration of Human Rights

Nashwan Yousif Awtan



Mr. Nashwan Yousif Awtan was born in Iraq in 1975. He arrived in Australia via Jordan as a refugee in 2016. He has a Diploma in Senior Business Administration and studied in the Police Academy in Iraq. In addition, he has qualifications from 18 countries that include a certification from Australia for defusing explosive devices. Nashwan reported witnessing and surviving the war and violence first hand as a Policeman in Nineveh, Mosul, Northern Iraq. He has saved many lives and was trained and involved in high security war related operations that included defusing landmines and explosives.

He recalled rescuing many civilians injured in the Iraq war and also assisting with the last rites and burial of those who did not survive. In 2018, Nashwan recollected horrific accounts of being kidnapped and tortured by Islamic insurgents in Iraq in an interview with Marc Fennell for SBS the Feed (*Torture Therapy: Giving Survivors their lives back*). The story went viral and has since been nominated for a 2018 United Nations Media Day Award. After his arrival on a Humanitarian visa, Nashwan received support at STARTTS. He currently resides in South Western Sydney in NSW along with his wife and children.

Lunch & Wine Tasting in the Hunter Valley by Helicopter

1 trip, starts at \$2,500

With a private helicopter for the day and your own pilot, you'll depart Bankstown Airport and travel north to the Hunter Valley where you'll land at a beautiful French restaurant, Bistro Molines and winery. You'll land just in front of the dining area and make your way to your reserved table. You'll enjoy a fabulous gourmet lunch for 2 and then finish the afternoon with a personal wine-tasting session and tour at the winery. When you're ready, your pilot will then take you back to Sydney where you'll land again at Bankstown. This tasting, grazing, flying experience will leave memories to last a lifetime!

Valid until 31 March 2019.



A pass to the 9th International Conference On Human Rights Education: Unleashing the full potential of civil society

Starting price \$500

The international conferences on human rights education (ICHRE) are a series of dialogues on human rights education as a means of promoting democracy, the rule of law, justice, and intercultural and social harmony. The 4-day Conference is expected to be attended by some 400 Australian and international HRE experts, practitioners, decision makers and thought leaders from government, civil society, academia and the private sector including: First President of Timor Leste - **Dr Xanana Gusmão GCOLIH GCL GCMG (Hon); Mr Steve Killelea AM** - IT Entrepreneur and Founder, Institute for Economics and Peace and Global Peace Index; **The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG** - Laureate of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education (1998); Chair UN Commission of Inquiry on North Korea (2013-14); Co-Chair of the IBA Human Rights Institute (2018); **Professor Peter Shergold AC** - Chancellor, Western Sydney University; **Ms Paula Gaviria Betancur** - Presidential Advisor on Human Rights, Colombia and more. (Includes Conference Gala Dinner, Sydney Harbour Cruise & Sunset drinks under Sydney Opera House Sails).

26 - 29 NOVEMBER 2018 - Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus



Entertainment

David Smiedt

MC & Host



David Smiedt has been delighting audiences around the country and overseas with his brand of warm inclusive comedy for over six years and is now one of Australia's finest comedian MC's and corporate performers. David is a regular on television shows such as Mornings with Kerri-Ann Sunrise, The Today Show, Ready Steady Cook and having appeared on Stand Up Australia he is also the author of six humorous books. He also is a writer for a wide range of magazines including Elle, Cosmopolitan, Men's Health, Women's Health, Body & Soul and Vogue where he specialises in a humorous take on style health trends and celebrity profiles. Aside from being the current grooming editor for GQ Australia he is the only journalist in Australian publishing history to be in concurrent issues of lads-mag Ralph and Your Garden. David opened for Joan Rivers during her Sydney theatre run Mark Watson's Sydney festival season and Martin Short's Melbourne Crown Casino performances.

Duo of Mesopotamia



Bashar Hanna, composer, singer, multi-instrumentalist, art therapist and writer and Dr Duraid Haddad, a violinist and doctor who practices medicine in Australia, are members of The Mesopotamian Ensemble – a quintet established in Western Sydney in 2016, whose union of the violin, oud, percussion, guitar, drum and keyboard explores the beautiful infinite of the musical world of Mesopotamia. A voice of the diaspora, theirs is an intimate fusion of Mesopotamian and Middle-Eastern classical and contemporary folk music styles. In Sydney in 2017, the ensemble represented the voice of the Middle-Eastern Australian refugee community at the Sofar Sounds & Amnesty International music event 'Give A Home', in support of the world's refugees. The Mesopotamian Ensemble has been featured at numerous refugee live arts and cultural events across Sydney. In honour of all refugees and asylum seekers in our world, the Duo of Mesopotamia, will perform the sounds of humanity.

Ethiopian Dance Group



Tonight's performance is a collaboration between two Ethiopian Cultural dance groups, *Samrawit* and *Selam Fikir* at this year's Refugee Ball joining our incredible line-up of artists and performers. *Samrawit* means "she who unifies" and *Selam Fikir* means "Love and Peace." Together the dancers symbolise "Unity in Love and Peace."



The group will share a small piece of their beloved motherland through their passion for the dance and love for traditional costumes. Past performances include: Africultures Festival; World Multicultural Festival (ACT); African Women's Dinner Dance and a feature in the recent video, 'Made for Now - Australia', a montage of dance celebrating cultural diversity. All born in Ethiopia, the group members who range from age 11-46 years old, would love to share their passion and culture with the rest of the world.

Special Performance



Joseph Tawadros AM

Joseph Tawadros is established as one of the world's leading oud performers and composers. A virtuoso of diversity and sensitivity, Joseph performs in concert halls worldwide and is known for his brilliant technique, deep musicianship and joyous style of performance. His drive to push musical boundaries has led to many collaborations with significant performers and a solid repertoire of innovative, original music. He has recorded 14 albums and achieved four ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) Awards – in 2012, 2013 and 2014 for Best World Music Album – and as a contributor to the Ali's Wedding soundtrack album in 2017. Born in Cairo, and a resident of Sydney since he was 3 years old, Joseph

was nominated for Young Australian of the Year in 2014, received the NSW Premier's medal for Arts and Culture in the same year and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (AM) for his services to music and composition in 2016. He has performed and recorded with Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and the Academy of Ancient Music in London, making him the first and only Australian composer whose music has been performed by this prestigious orchestra. Joseph is the first world music artist to present a solo concert of original contemporary music for the BBC Proms. In 2019 Joseph will present his Concerto for Oud & Orchestra with Sydney Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras.

Photo: Daniel Sponiar

Headline Act



Monsieur Camembert

Triple ARIA Award winning group Monsieur Camembert has been at the forefront of Australia's GYPROCK scene for the past 8 years. Formed in 1997, Monsieur Camembert are celebrating their 21st birthday this year! It's an extraordinary 21 years that has seen the band win 3 ARIA Awards (with a nomination for a 4th), and perform on major stages from Montreux Jazz Festival to The Sydney Opera House, from the Paralympic Opening Ceremony to the International Leonard Cohen festival in Canada to their sold-out show last August at City Recital Hall! Monsieur Camembert will be doing a handful of very special shows around Australia in 2018 to celebrate their 21st birthday.

With sensitivity, virtuosity, & extraordinary energy, 3x ARIA-winning band Monsieur Camembert brilliantly weaves Gypsy music with other world music styles, to create a truly original & intoxicating blend... from Russian Gypsy songs, to tango and klezmer, from Gypsy swing to Latin grooves, "... they pick you up and carry you on a wave of energy, excitement and poignancy that never relents... the band play with such cohesion, energy and abandon that I experienced an emotion so foreign I barely recognised it: elation.

— John Shand, SMH

About STARTTS

To develop and implement ways to facilitate the healing process of survivors of torture and refugee trauma and to assist and resource individuals and organisations who work with them to provide appropriate, effective and culturally sensitive services.

— STARTTS Mission

The NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, or STARTTS, helps refugees who were forced to leave their country due to persecution in the context of political conflict, organised violence and human rights violations. We help them build a new life in Australia by providing culturally appropriate and cutting edge treatment to heal their psychological, emotional and social scars. STARTTS offers a range of specialised interventions, including counselling, group therapy, programs for children and young people, physiotherapy and community projects. Over the past 30 years we have provided clinical and community development services to over 60,000 individuals.



Nsw Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors

Visit www.startts.org.au for more information.

Refugee Transitions 20 Years



Refugee Transitions is a magazine produced by STARTTS reporting on a wide range of refugee and human rights issues which are relevant to our work. The magazine focuses attention on the impact of organised violence and human rights abuses on health and provides ideas on intervention models to address the health and social needs of refugees. It debates and campaigns for changes necessary to assist, empower and strengthen refugee communities in their settlement process.

Issue 33 of *Refugee Transitions* is now online to download.

IRCT Ambassadors



"I express my great gratitude for their vital work, and for their commitment to ridding the world of an odious practice that should have no place in a humane, peaceful 21st century."

VALE KOFI ANNAN,
FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS



"Torture in all its forms is inhumane and criminal. This global movement stands against these heinous acts and I strongly support IRCT."

A/PROF. MUNJED AL MUDERIS
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON, FORMER REFUGEE, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST



"Through its support for victims and its global campaigning for the universal ratification and implementation of the UN Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol, the IRCT reminds us of our shared responsibility for ending torture throughout the world."

MARY ROBINSON,
FORMER UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



"Your organisation is actually compassion implemented."

TENZIN GYATSO, HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA,
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE



"We have never been more connected as a global community, but the support for those that have suffered the most has never been more under funded."

RABIA SIDDIQUE,
LAWYER, AUTHOR, HUMANITARIAN,
HOSTAGE SURVIVOR



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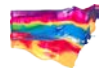


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