



Design for Humanity Summit: Exploring the intersection of design and humanitarian action for human dignity

22 June, 2018 @ Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus, New York

[#Design4Humanity](#) [#Design4Dignity](#)

Design for Humanity Initiative

At a time of heightened and prolonged global calamity, humanitarian actors persistently strive to design sustainable relief and recovery operations that restore dignity and foster resilience of affected populations. Similarly, a growing community of designers from diverse disciplines - ranging from built environment and emergency architecture to product and graphic design - [endeavor to contribute their skills for social change and humanitarian action.](#)

The [Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs \(IIHA\) at Fordham University](#) and the [UN Migration Agency \(IOM\)](#), will explore the intersection of design and humanitarian action by launching the [Design for Humanity Initiative](#).

Through bridging their areas of expertise, both humanitarian and design professionals can more effectively design dignified and durable solutions that tackle today's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Whether ensuring more dignified shelters and settlements for displaced persons, designing more inclusive and resilient urban ecosystems or employing art and design as a vehicle for advocacy - the possible synergies between design and humanitarian action are endless.

Design for Humanity Summit

As a first step in this Initiative, the **Design for Humanity Summit** will be held on June 22, 2018 at Fordham University in New York City. Designers and humanitarians will convene at the one-day event to participate in interactive panel discussions and breakout sessions led by practitioners and scholars.

Ultimately, the Summit **aims** to explore how designers and humanitarians can collaboratively drive humanitarian response in a more dignified, inclusive, and sustainable direction by:

- Facilitating dialogue among design and humanitarian practitioners as well as representatives of crisis-affected populations, the donor community and governments;
- Deepening understanding about current complex humanitarian challenges; principles and ethics; and possibilities for design innovation;
- Highlighting potential impact and relevant critiques of a range of piloted and pioneered design projects for humanitarian response;
- Forging future collaboration, project implementation and partnership opportunities; and
- Disseminating lessons learned to a wide audience of designers and humanitarians.

In pursuing these objectives, the Summit will strive to reach the following key **audiences**:

- Professional humanitarian practitioners and scholars
- Professional design practitioners and scholars
- Humanitarian donor community
- International humanitarian policy makers
- Representatives of crisis-affected populations
- Relevant media outlets

Topics to be explored during the Summit may include:

- Public interest design and design thinking for inclusive humanitarian response
- Transformation of camps into sustainable cities and communities of resilience for host and displaced communities
- The nexus of private sector and innovation in humanitarian response
- Art, architecture and design for human rights advocacy

- Design for protection of at-risk populations in humanitarian crisis
- Sustainable design to mitigate the effects of acute and protracted urban crises
- Innovative prototypes of new humanitarian design trends

In addition to panel and breakout sessions, these topics will be illuminated through an **art and multimedia exhibition** that will evocatively highlight the reality of forced displacement in the aftermath of crisis globally as well as the potential for design solutions.

The Design for Humanity Summit is made possible with the support of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, the Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Fordham University. Community partners include InterAction and the American Society of Interior Designers.

Looking forward

The impact of the Summit will extend beyond the event, looking forward to further research, publication, and collaborative projects in the future through the three-year Design for Humanity Initiative. Following the Summit, a print publication and online communications content will collate lessons-learned and serve as a resource for humanitarian and design practitioners as well as an impetus for further cross-sector collaboration.

The IIHA will implement subsequent projects globally, encouraging design and humanitarian practitioners and students to pursue innovative solutions that promote long-lasting, durable change. These projects may entail a rotating workshop series, research trips in the field, training courses, internship placements, art exhibits, communications campaigns, or subsequent events.

Summit Organizers



Institute of International
Humanitarian Affairs



Housed at Fordham University, the [Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs](#) educates the future generation of humanitarians in the classroom, shapes humanitarian leaders in the field, and innovates solutions to complex humanitarian challenges worldwide. Over the past 20 years, the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs has trained more than 3,000 humanitarian professionals from 140 countries worldwide.



The [UN Migration Agency \(IOM\)](#) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.