

CURRICULUM VITAE RAI FRIEDMAN

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1. Family name: Rai

2. First names: Friedman

3. Date of birth: 23/03/1993

4. Passport holder: Canada, Poland

5. Residence: Canada

6. Education:

Institution (Date from – Date to)	Degree(s) or Diploma(s) obtained;
The University of British Columbia 09/2018 – 05/2020	M.P.P.G.A (Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs)
University of Victoria 09/2011 – 08/2018	B.A (Anthropology)

6a. Other Education

Institution (Date from – Date to)	Certificates
Carleton University 05/2024 – 06/2024	Fieldworker Training and Cross-Cultural Research Course
York Entrepreneurship Development Institute 09/2023 – 01/2024	Non-Profit Accelerator Program
Ben-Gurion University 05/2020 – 08/2020	Global Health Summer Program

7. Language skills: Indicate competence on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 – excellent; 5 – basic)

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	C2	C2	C2
Hebrew	C1	C1	C1
French	A2	A2	A2

8. Membership of professional bodies: United Nations Network on Migration; UNHCR East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Economic Inclusion Working Group; International Rescue Committee Documentation Campaign Advisory Committee; UN Hamburg Call to Action

on Internal Displacement Committee; Strathmore Law School Forced Migration & Displacement Research Hub

9. Other skills: (e.g. Computer literacy, etc) SPSS, STATA, Kobo Collect; HTML, CSS: MS Office, Wix, Canva

10. Preset position: Principal Consultant with Rai Friedman Consulting; CEO & Founder of the Canadian Non-profit Global Rights Defenders

11. Years within the firm: 3 (as an independent consultant)

i. Years within the non-profit: 3

12. Key qualifications:

Key Qualifications:

- Accomplished migration and human rights specialist with over eight years of experience advancing evidence-based policy, governance reform, and socio-economic inclusion for displaced populations across East Africa, the Middle East, North America, Southeast Asia and Europe. Throughout my career, I have provided expert consultancy to national governments, intergovernmental bodies, and development organizations (e.g., Global Affairs Canada, Canadian Bar Association, CUSO International), advising on feminist foreign policy, legal reform, and participatory governance. Lastly, I serve as a strategic advisor to law faculties and NGOs, guiding the integration of refugee voices into policy discourse, legal education, and rights-based program design.
- Founder and Executive Director of *Global Rights Defenders*, an internationally engaged NGO that operationalizes rights-based, refugee-led solutions through strategic partnerships with UNHCR, ILO, IRC, Strathmore Law School, and other key institutions including academic, governmental and civil society based.
- Directed interdisciplinary research initiatives utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methodologies (STATA, Kobo Collect, FGDs, KIIs, MSR), producing high-impact insights to guide refugee policy and programming. Thereafter, I spearheaded high-level advocacy initiatives addressing refugee legal identity, access to justice, and inclusive digital and economic ecosystems—delivering demonstrable impact within complex governance contexts such as Kenya’s national refugee frameworks.
- Architect and facilitator of capacity-building programs that have equipped over 50 refugee leaders with advanced competencies in project management, funding literacy, and leadership—strengthening local agency and institutional sustainability.
- Regularly engaged as a keynote speaker, moderator, and academic contributor at global policy forums and symposia, including the Women’s Economic Forum, UNHCR Economic Inclusion Working Group, the Migration Summit, the Global Campus of Human Rights amongst others.
- Co-authored and submitted policy reports, briefings, and legal analyses to the United Nations Human Rights Council, national governments, and international NGOs—contributing to measurable shifts in legal and development policy.

- Widely published in international policy forums and thought leadership platforms such as *DevelopmentAid*, *Illuminem*, and *Lawyers Rights Watch Canada*, addressing themes of climate-induced displacement, governance innovation, gender justice, and the right to be free from arbitrary detention and imprisonment.

13. Specific experience in the region:

Country	Date from – Date to
Canada	Ongoing
Kenya	Mar 2023 - Current
Ethiopia	Jan 2021 – Dec 2021
India	Sept 2019 – May 2020
Saudi Arabia	Sept 2019 – Sept 2022

14. Professional experience

Date From – Date To	Location	Company & reference person (name & contact details)	Position	Description
Jan 2023 – Present	Kenya / Canada / Remote	Rai Friedman Consulting Self-employed as consultant/mentor/speaker/author	Policy & Migration Consultant	Led climate-displacement policy analysis and migration governance publications. Conducted program evaluations, stakeholder interviews, and mixed method analysis for UNHCR, ILO, and IRC.
Nov 2022 – Present	Nairobi, Kenya	Global Rights Defenders (GRD) Emanuel Garavello (emanuel.garavello@gmail.com)	Founder & CEO	Founded and lead a refugee-led NGO focused on rights-based advocacy, research, and capacity development. Manage partnerships with UNHCR, ILO, Strathmore Law School, and others. Led capacity training activities with refugees. Built partnerships with UNHCR, ILO, and IRC on resilience-focused initiatives.
Jan 2025 – Present	Nairobi, Kenya	Strathmore Law School Zayn Aslam zayn.aslam@strathmore.edu	Program Advisor / Lecturer	Developed refugee law curriculum focused on localization and resilience.

				Built partnerships with RLOs to support rights in practice.
Jan 2024 – July 2024	Nairobi, Kenya	WUSC / CRAWN Trust Winfred Kimeu winfred@crawntrust.org	Policy & Advocacy Consultant	Produced gender-climate policy briefs. Highlighted links between digital exclusion and climate vulnerability. Led consultations and presented at Women’s Economic Forum.
June 2023 – Aug 2024	Nairobi, Kenya	Connected Learning in Crisis Consortium Francis Randle randle@unchr.org	Project Manager	Managed UNHCR-funded podcast project with refugee students. Oversaw budget, coordinated field teams, and supported grant writing.
Jan 2021 – Dec 2021	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia/ Home-based	CUSO International Haragewoin Abebe haregewoin.abebe@cusointernational.org	Policy & Research Consultant	Conducted comparative M&E evaluations on volunteer protection. Advised on policy reform at national level.
Sept 2019 – May 2020	Rajasthan, India	Rajiv Gandhi Institute / UBC	Policy Consultant	Led climate. Induced gender-inclusive policy development for socio-economic resilience. Focused on enhancing water access and promoting gender equity in drought-affected rural Rajasthan. This work included conducting qualitative evaluations and facilitating cross-sectoral exchanges to support climate adaptation and inclusive development planning.
Sept 2018 – Nov 2019	Vancouver, Canada	UBC Centre for Migration Studies	Research Advisor	Supported SSHRC-funded integration project. Applied STATA and mixed methods to assess refugee resilience in urban Canada.
May 2019 –	Ottawa, Canada	Global Affairs Canada Wayne Restoule	Program Coordinator	Monitored Feminist International Assistance Policy outcomes and

Aug 2019		Wayne.restoule@international.gc.ca		analyzed performance indicators related to gender, climate, etc. Produced success stories and strategic recommendations.
Jan 2021 – Aug 2021	Vancouver, Canada	AMSSA	Policy & Research Analyst	Led refugee services evaluations. Delivered policy recommendations that addressed socio-economic vulnerability and integration.
July 2022 – Aug 2023	Vancouver, Canada	Canadian Bar Association BC Rachel Barsky rachelbarsky@gmail.com	Policy Consultant	Produced public tools and submissions on governance and access to justice. Strong clarity in writing and understanding of legal frameworks.
Jan 2021 – June 2021	Vancouver, Canada	VAST	Policy & Research Analyst	Advocated for refugee mental health reform. Created trauma-informed policy recommendations.
Sept 2019 – Sept 2022	Saudi Arabia/ Home-based	Lawyers Rights Watch Canada Gail Davidson justgail@portal.ca	Case Monitor	Led advocacy campaigns on civil rights violations. Submitted legal recommendations to UN systems, integrating anti-corruption and governance principles.

15. Publications

i. Articles

Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch. (2023). *What We Heard Report: Family Law Act Modernization – Phase 1* [PDF]. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://cbabc.org/BC/media/docs/responses/2023/What_We_Heard_Report.pdf

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch. (n.d.). *CBABC Response To Intentions Paper* [PDF]. Canadian Bar Association BC. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://www.cbabc.org/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_bc/pdf/Advocacy/Submissions/CBABC_Response_to_Intentions_Paper.pdf

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch. (n.d.). *Lawyers' Guide To UNDRIP* [PDF]. Canadian Bar Association BC. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://cbabc.org/BC/media/docs/resources/Lawyers-Guide-to-UNDRIP.pdf>

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch. (n.d.). *Pronouns In Court Toolkit: Definitions And Faqs* [Web toolkit]. Canadian Bar Association BC. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://cbabc.org/resources/practice-tools/pronouns-in-court-toolkit/definitions-and-faqs/>

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch. (2023, August 14). *Submission To The Law Society Of BC: Inclusive Language Guidelines* [PDF]. Canadian Bar Association BC. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://cbabc.org/BC/media/docs/submissions/2023/2023-08-14_CBABC-Submission_LSBC-Inclusive-Language-Guide.pdf

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch. (2023, June 23). *CBABC Endorsement Of Rise Report On Safety In BC Courts* [PDF]. Canadian Bar Association BC. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://www.cbabc.org/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_bc/pdf/Advocacy/Submissions/CBABC_Endorsement_of_Rise_Court_Safety_Report.pdf

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch. (2023, June 23). *Submission To The Court Services Branch: Virtual Court Interfaces* [PDF]. Canadian Bar Association BC. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.cbabc.org/BC/media/docs/submissions/2023/CBABC-Submission-CSB-Virtual-Court-Interfaces.pdf>

DevelopmentAid. (n.d.). *International Women's Day*. DevelopmentAid. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/175636/international-womens-day-3>

Friedman, R. (2020, January 14). *Saudi Arabia: Unconditionally Free Waleed Abu Al Khair Immediately* [Letter]. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.lrwc.org/saudi-arabia-unconditionally-free-waleed-abu-al-khair-immediately-letter/>

Friedman, R. (2021, February 11). *Saudi Arabia: Women's Rights Defender Loujain Al Hathloul Released After Three Years In Prison | Welcome Developments* [Web page]. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.lrwc.org/saudi-arabia-womens-rights-defender-loujain-al-hathloul-released-after-three-years-in-prison-welcome-developments/>

Friedman, R. (2022, July 12). *Saudi Arabia: Release Dr. Mohammed Fahad Al Qahtani* [Letter]. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.lrwc.org/saudi-arabia-release-dr-mohammed-fahad-al-qahtani-letter/>

Friedman, R. (2023, November 22). *Voices Rising: Refugee-led Solutions Conference 2023 — Narrative Report* [Conference report]. Global Rights Defenders. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://www.globalrightsdefenders.org/files/ugd/628ef4_c5704a9ac5cb44ba9528e3e907771266.pdf

Friedman, R. (n.d.). *Saudi Arabia: Arbitrary Detention & Torture Of Women's Rights Defender Loujain Al Hathloul* [Web page]. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from

<https://www.lrwc.org/saudi-arabia-arbitrary-detention-torture-of-womens-rights-defender-loujain-al-hathloul/>

Garavello, E., Friedman, R., et al. (n.d.). *Addressing Inequalities: A Comprehensive Policy Framework For The Realization Of Economic, Social And Cultural Rights* [Web document]. Global Human Rights Defence. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://ghrd.org/document/addressing-inequalities-a-comprehensive-policy-framework-for-the-realization-of-economic-social-and-cultural-rights/>

Global Rights Defenders. (2025, March). *The Power Of The East African Community Treaty: An Alternative To Durable Solutions For Refugees* [Presentation]. UNHCR Operational Data Portal. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/115236>

Friedman, R. (2025, May 17). *Migration Governance Is The Key To Sustainability*. Illuminem Voices. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://illuminem.com/illuminemvoices/migration-governance-is-the-key-to-sustainability>

Friedman, R. (2023, December 14). *Now Is The Time To Legally Recognize Climate Refugees*. Illuminem Voices. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://illuminem.com/illuminemvoices/now-is-the-time-to-legally-recognize-climate-refugees/>

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. (2019, May 31). *LRWC newsletter: April–May 2019 edition* [PDF]. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://www.lrwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LRWC.Newsletter.April-May-2019.Final_.pdf

Migration Summit. (2024, August 14). *Refugee Integration Is The Solution, Not The Problem: Here's How Kenya's Migration Governance Model Leads By Example*. Migration Summit. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://migrationsummit.org/2024/08/14/refugee-integration-is-the-solution-not-the-problem-heres-how-kenyas-migration-governance-model-leads-by-example/>

Spotify. (n.d.). *GRD Now* [Podcast profile]. Spotify for Podcasters. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/grd-now/>

United Nations General Assembly. (2024). *Report Of The Special Rapporteur On The Human Rights Of Internally Displaced Persons. (A/79/207)*. Gblal Human Rights Defence & Global Rights Defenders [Written Statement] <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/179/51/pdf/g2417951.pdf>

ii. Speaking Engagements

Cuso International. (2022, February 15). *Stronger Together – Helping To Build Community Resilience: A Cuso International Town Hall* [Webinar]. CanWaCH. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://canwach.ca/event/stronger-together-helping-to-build-community-resilience-a-cuso-international-town-hall/>

Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (EAAF). (2024, December 23). *Taller Del EAAF Sobre Migrantes Desaparecidos Y Fallecidos: Workshop On Missing And Deceased Migrants* [Web Page]. EAAF. Retrieved June 20, 2025, From <https://eaaf.org/taller-del-eaaf-sobre-migrantes-desaparecidos-y-fallecidos-workshop-on-missing-and-deceased-migrants/>

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. (2021, March 8). *Saudi Arabia And Iran: Women's Rights Defenders Featured In Panel For International Women's Day 2021 Event*. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://www.lrwc.org/saudi-arabia-and-iran-womens-rights-defenders-featured-in-panel-for-international-womens-day-2021-event/>

Local Engagement Refugee Research Network. (2024, February 9). *Voices Rising: Refugee-Led Solutions webinar* [Web page]. LERRN. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://carleton.ca/lerrn/2024/voices-rising-refugee-led-solutions/>

Migration Summit. (2024). *Normalizing Refugees' Right To Meaningfully Participate* [Video]. YouTube. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfany5qFojw&list=PL6cp6kydiOXcS3y4_vumcYg6jJZQSHF8y&index=4

Na'amal. (2024, December 5). *Government Policies And Refugee Employment In Kenya* (Season 2, Episode 17) [Audio podcast episode]. In *Voices of Resilience*. <https://naamal.transistor.fm/17>

Re:BUiLD (International Rescue Committee). (2024, October 15–16). *Research & Policy Symposium* [Web page]. Re:BUiLD, International Rescue Committee. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://rebuild.rescue.org/index.php/research-symposium>

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Women's Economic Forum Kenya. (2024, February 28–29). *Women's Economic Forum Kenya 2024* [Web page]. University of Nairobi Women's Economic Empowerment Hub & CRAWN Trust. Retrieved June 20, 2025, from <https://womeneconomicforumkenya.com/wef-kenya-2024/>

16. Websites

Rai Friedman Consulting
<https://www.raifriedman.com>

Global Rights Defenders
<https://www.globalrightsdefenders.org>