



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Briefing Series on Syria

Five Years of War: The Plight of Civilians in Syria and the Refugee Crisis of a Generation

Wednesday, March 16th, 2016
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
2255 Rayburn House Office Building

Panelists



Wynn Flaten is currently World Vision's Syria Crisis Response Director based in Amman, Jordan. In this role, he oversees World Vision's work related in northern Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Kurdish Region of Iraq related to the crisis. Mr. Flaten has over 30 years of experience in the aid and development sector including three different assignments in Afghanistan, most recently as World Vision's Country Director.



Frances Charles is the Advocacy Director for World Vision International's Syria Crisis Response. Frances oversees policy development and humanitarian advocacy programs across Turkey, northern Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. Frances is a conflict policy specialist with over seven years of experience in research and practice across Africa and the Middle East. She has been based in Senegal, Mali, eastern DRC and now in Amman, Jordan. Frances holds a Masters of Science from University

College London, specializing in international public policy, and a wide range of interests within the sector. Frances has contributed to policy thinking and practice mainly around civil-military coordination and the changing nature of peacekeeping in contracted crises.

Erin A. Weir is the Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser for the NGO Forum (a body composed of 52 International and Syrian humanitarian organizations currently operating in northern Syria). Erin has over 11 years conducting analysis and advocacy, and operationalizing strategies to improve the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict throughout Africa and the Middle East. Erin has contributed extensively to the development of policy and training to improve the protection of civilians by UN peace operations, and has worked with global policy makers to improve humanitarian access and the delivery of lifesaving aid to civilians in need. She holds a Masters of Science in international and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh. Erin is currently based in Antakya, Turkey.