

## GRACE A. FELTEN, MSW

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### EDUCATION

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- University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Social Work – *Doctor of Philosophy Candidate*
- University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Social Work – *MSW*  
Concentration: Policy Practice  
Specialized Areas of Focus: International Social Work / Women and Children in Families  
UConn Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate: Human Rights
- Western Connecticut State University – *B.M.*
- WAMOGO Regional High School – *Graduate*

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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International social work; human rights; refugees; the impact of forced migration & post-conflict on women and girls; reproductive health; volunteering/community service, global health; child, early & forced marriage.

### RESEARCH

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#### **Refugees in Greece: The Impact of Forced Migration on the Reproductive Health of Women & Girls**, UCONN, 2018

Thessaloniki & Athens, Greece: July/Aug. 2018.

*Principal Investigator: Kathryn Libal, PhD*

- Conducted sixteen in depth qualitative interviews with humanitarian staff and volunteers working with refugees in Greece.
- Collected observational fieldnotes during site visits to refugee camps, community centers and informal spaces.

#### **Graduate Research Assistantship**, UCONN, 2018-Present.

*Faculty Supervisor: Kathryn Libal, PhD*

- Participated in research project exploring community mobilization to support refugee resettlement in the U.S., Canada, Greece, and Germany.
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed data for theme development using NVivo software.
- Researched government and state refugee resettlement models and policies.

#### **Graduate Research Assistantship**, UCONN, 2017-2018.

*Faculty Supervisor: Kathryn Libal, PhD*

- Conducted over twenty in depth qualitative interviews with refugee resettlement providers and volunteers working with refugee resettlement across the United States.
- Compiled research on Za'atari and other refugee camps in Jordan.
- Contributed toward publication and presentations based on the research.

#### **Graduate Research Assistantship**, UCONN, 2016-2017.

*Faculty Supervisor: Kathryn Libal, PhD*

- Conducted qualitative interviews with refugee resettlement providers in Utah and Kentucky to inform research and publications.

- Compiled research on the global issue of child, early, and forced marriage.

### **Experiences of Resettlement for Syrian-Armenian Refugees in Armenia, UCONN, 2016.**

*Faculty Supervisor: Rebecca Thomas, PhD*

- Conducted qualitative interviews with Syrian refugees of Armenian descent, working as part of a research team with UCONN and Yerevan State University: Yerevan, Armenia.
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed data for theme development using NVivo software.
- Contributed toward publication and presentations using this research.

## **AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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- *Human Rights Graduate Research Grant*, The Human Rights Institute, UCONN, 2019 (\$2,000, competitive inter-disciplinary research grant award).
- *Pre-dissertation Travel Scholarship*, UCONN, 2019 (\$750).
- *Doctoral Research Facilitation Fund*, UCONN, 2018 (\$2000).
- *Rollin Williams/Y.C. Wu Doctoral Fellowship*, UCONN, 2017-2018 (\$10,000).
- *Kay W. Davidson Doctoral Scholarship*, UCONN, 2017-2018 (\$500).
- *Rollin Williams/Y.C. Wu Doctoral Fellowship*, UCONN, 2016-2017 (\$10,000)
- *Pre-Dissertation Conference Travel Scholarship*, UCONN, 2017 (\$750)
- *School of Social Work Doctoral Scholarship*, UCONN, 2016 (\$1,000).
- *Miriam June Silverman Scholarship Award*: given to one MSW student dedicated to women's rights, UCONN, 2016 (\$1,000).
- *Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award*: given to a woman scholar who has excelled academically within each school and demonstrated dedication to research and service to the university community, UCONN, 2016 (highly competitive).
- *Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) National Travel Scholarship Award*: given to one macro-based MSW student nationwide, CSWE APM Conference, 2015 (\$750, highly competitive national award).
- *Conference Scholarship Award*, UCONN, 2015 (\$650).
- *Treasurer*, Graduate Student Organization, UCONN School of Social work, 2013-2014.

## **MANUSCRIPTS**

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- Thomas, R., **Felten, G.** Yagaloff, L., & Yarmaloyan, M. (2019). Returning home: The experiences of resettlement for Syrian-Armenian refugees into Armenia, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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- Libal, K., **Felten, G.**, & Harding, S. (2019). State and community approaches to refugee resettlement: Voluntarism and the residual welfare state. In Berthold, S. & Libal, K. (Eds.), *Refugees and asylum-seekers in the United States: Interdisciplinary perspectives*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Press.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROCESS**

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- **Felten, G.** (In process) The Reproductive Health and Wellbeing of Forced Migrant Women in Greece: A Qualitative Critical Case Analysis.
- **Felten, G.** (In process). Jane Addams: Paving a path for international social work and the United Nations security resolutions on women, peace, and security.

## TEACHING

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- Research Methods for Social Work Practice, Masters level, UCONN, 2019.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### International

- The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference, 2018, Oral Presentation: “Doing Something to Fight Injustice” Voluntarism and Refugee Resettlement as a Mode of Political Engagement: Thessaloniki, Greece.

### National

- SSWR Annual Meeting, 2019, Oral Presentation: “Doing Something to Fight Injustice”, Voluntarism and Refugee Resettlement as Political Engagement.
- CSWE APM 2018, Associated Researcher: Engaging Social Work to Defend the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.
- CSWE APM 2017, Oral Presentation: Refugees and Xenophobia, Social Work Responses in the United States and Europe.
- CSWE APM 2015, Oral Presentation: Representing Social Work at the United Nations

### Invited Presentations

- UCONN, The Gendered Experiences of Forced Migration and its Impact on the Health and Wellbeing of Women and Girls with an Emphasis on Reproductive Health, 2018.
- Western Connecticut State University, Macro-based Social Work: Social Work at the United Nations, 2017.
- UN NGO Committee on Migration, NGO Policy Statement on Unaccompanied Child Migrants: Submission to UNHCR, 2015.
- UCONN SSW International Social Work Day, 2015, Social Work at the United Nations.
- UCONN SSW Human Rights and the Holocaust, 2014, German Travel Study Research.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)** – using research and advocacy to ensure implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security

*Masters of Social Work Fieldwork (2015 – 2016)*

- Co-facilitated sessions on gender equity for Kenya’s National Action Plan to localize UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace & security: Nairobi, Isiolo, and Bungoma, Kenya.
- Conducted interviews with government officials and civil society members working toward women’s rights in Kenya.
- Contributed towards program planning, evaluation, and curriculum building for the Girl Ambassadors for Peace program, a literacy and leadership program based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

- Assisted in writing annual donor reports.
- Collaborated with the GNWP team on grant-writing and research for potential funding sources.
- Monitored and reported on international trends at the 2016 UN Security Council Open Debate and High-level Review of Women, Peace and Security.
- Served on UN NGO Commission on the Status of Women Planning (CSW) committee and the Peace Forum event committee.
- Contributed to communications through blog writing, podcasts, social media, list-serves, and website updates.

## **International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) Representative at the United Nations**

### ***Masters of Social Work Fieldwork (2014 – 2015)***

- Represented the values of social work on the following UN NGO committees: Committee for Social Development; Working Group on Girls; Committee on Migration; Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons; Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication.
- Chaired a subcommittee for the Committee on Migration that conducted research to produce a policy statement on unaccompanied child migrants, submitted to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
- Participated in an advocacy taskforce, promoting the rights of women and girls in the Post 2015 agenda, which included research and mission visits with country delegates.
- Analyzed and distilled lengthy country self-reports on the status of rights for women and girls, in compliance with the Beijing Platform for Action, to use for advocacy work.
- Assisted in the drafting of an international grassroots survey focusing on examples of successful community-based enterprises.
- Led several presentations for the UN NGO Committee on Migration.
- Wrote periodic newsletters for the IASSW.
- Performed research on early marriage for the Working Group on Girls Committee.
- Attended UN meetings, presentations, and events to gauge the status of the Post 2015 agenda and its adherence to human rights.

## **Innovative Techniques**

### ***Project Manager (2009 – 2015)***

- Performed daily management of office and staff.
- Managed all aspects of projects between staff and clients.
- Increased annual product sales by approximately 30%.
- Oversaw installation and support projects between Puerto Rico and the United States.
- Implemented training for customers using custom designed software systems.
- Assisted with media marketing campaigns.

**The Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots Program** – a global program that empowers young people to participate in community service projects for people, animals, and the environment

### ***Manager, Youth Leadership Initiative and College Programs (2006 – 2009)***

- Responsible for the nationwide Roots and Shoots College Program.
- Provided programming, resources and events to motivate college groups to become involved, stay involved, and renew memberships year to year.
- Planned and implemented annual National Youth Leadership Summits.

- Facilitated workshops at the 2008 Global Youth Conference.
- Helped build a partnership between the China and United States JGI offices.
- Managed Roots & Shoots staff members, interns, and volunteers.
- Created the College Leadership Council (CLC), a nationally based council of youth leaders from university groups.
- Traveled to university campuses to provide presentations and support to students, professors, and community members interested in becoming involved in Roots & Shoots.

### **The Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots Program**

#### ***Assistant Coordinator, Roots & Shoots College and University Programs (2005 – 2006)***

- Coordinated community outreach events.
- Helped to build partnerships between university Roots & Shoots groups and other like-minded organizations to strengthen the Roots & Shoots network.
- Wrote and edited content for the University Roots & Shoots Manual and other printed and online publications.
- Maintained the Roots & Shoots University website.

### **INTERNSHIPS**

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- The Jane Goodall Institute, Roots & Shoots Program, (2004 – 2005).

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- National Association of Social Workers (NASW), 2013-Present.
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), 2015-Present.
- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 2018-Present.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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- Plymouth Food Pantry Volunteer, (2011-2014).
- Don Bosco Orphanage Volunteer, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, (2010).