

A statement by the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies on the Passing of Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond, OBE

It is with deep sorrow and a great sense of loss that we announce the passing away of Professor Barbara Harrell Bond, OBE. She passed away yesterday, Wednesday, July 11, 2018. Harrell-Bond is a leading figure in the field of refugee studies. She founded the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University in 1982, the Refugee Law project in Uganda in 1998, the Africa and the Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) and CMRS in 2000.

Harrell-Bond came to Egypt in 2000 invited as a Distinguished Visiting Professor by the American University in Cairo (AUC) to start a refugee studies program based on the same model of Oxford. She developed the main pillars of the program, known at that time, as the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies program (FMRS). The three main pillars of the program continue till today: the FMRS Graduate Diploma, the FMRS Wednesday Seminar Series, and the Winter and Summer Short Courses.

It was at the AUC offices of the Old Falaki Building downtown that Barbara Harrell-Bond established the first legal aid program for refugees that was later affiliated with AMERA UK (Africa and the Middle East Refugee Assistance - now AMERA International) and moved to its own premises. Barbara also taught two of the core courses of the diploma: Introduction to Forced Migration and Refugee Studies and Issues in Forced Migration (now Research Methods) and conducted monthly research meetings for students and researchers. Harrell-Bond served as FMRS Acting Director from 2002-2003 after which she continued as an advisor and professor till 2008 when she left Cairo. In 2005, while still living in Cairo, she was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for her contribution to refugee studies. A reception was organized in her honor by the British ambassador in Cairo that was attended by students, researchers, practitioners, and above all the refugees to whom she dedicated her life.