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ACCESSCAL ANNUAL GALA SET TO ‘HELP REFUGEES THRIVE’

United Nations Refugee Agency Worldwide Communications and Spokesperson Melissa Fleming to Deliver Gala Keynote

ANAHEIM, Calif. (January 13, 2015) – [Access California Services \(AccessCal\)](http://www.accesscal.org), a health and human services nonprofit organization that supports over 10,000 underserved Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees and immigrants annually, will hold its annual gala to raise funds for programs and operations that empower, train and support in-need immigrant and refugee families in southern California. The gala will be held at the Hilton Anaheim on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015. Registration begins at 5 p.m.

“Refugees are forced to flee their countries and many linger in refugee camps for years with uncertainty, lack of basic needs, and many lost dreams,” said AccessCal Founder and Executive Director Nahla Kayali. “When refugees resettle in the United States, they face even more challenges, including language, economic and cultural barriers they never imagined they would face, and that is why AccessCal is here: To integrate, empower and provide them access to resources that help them become contributing and successful citizens.”

Melissa Fleming, the Chief Communications and Spokesperson at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), will deliver the AccessCal gala keynote speech. Fleming speaks on behalf of the millions of displaced and uprooted refugees internationally. “Lets Help Refugees Thrive Not Just Survive” is Fleming’s recently featured [TED Talk](#).

During the gala, AccessCal will honor three community leaders who have dedicated their lives to human services. Honorees are:

- Musa Y. Nasir, M.D., Co-founder and Chairman of the Board, Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)
- Adnan Khan, President, The Council of Pakistan American Affairs (COPAA)
- Hisham Seify, M.D., Ph.D., President, Board of Directors Egypt Cancer Network 57357

AccessCal provides support to individuals and families, 95 percent of whom arrive from Arab and Muslim countries. Over 60 percent of AccessCal support is dedicated to refugees through various programs, including a Refugee Social Services program and a Refugee Health Assessment program.

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The gala will include a silent auction, a dinner, an awards ceremony, a keynote speech, and entertainment featuring comedian and TV personality Tehran Von Ghasri. Watch the gala 2015 [teaser](#). Individual tickets are sold for \$100 and may be purchased online at www.accesscal.org/gala-2015. Opportunities for gala [sponsorship](#) are also available.

About Access California Services

Founded in 1989, [Access California Services \(AccessCal\)](#) is a culturally and linguistically sensitive health and human services nonprofit organization, which provides social and economic services to local Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees, and immigrants; however, AccessCal is nonsectarian. Anyone who needs support in the community will receive it regardless of race, religion or ethnicity. In 2014, AccessCal served over 10,000 community members, providing over 20,000 units of service. Services include: Vocational English training, case management and advocacy in 13 languages, citizenship and immigration services, employment and tax services, emergency financial assistance, educational services, healthcare access services, counseling and support, community service and civic engagement, refugee services, and refugee health assessments.

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