

## **'BUILDING SOLIDARITY IN ASYLUM POLICY'**

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## Biography

**Usha Natarajan** (PhD, MA, LLB, BA) is assistant professor of international law at the Department of Law and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo. Her research is multidisciplinary, utilizing third world and postcolonial approaches to international law to provide an understanding of the relationship between international law and issues of development, migration, environment, and conflict.

Dr Natarajan explores the interplay of these issues globally and in the Arab region, with a particular focus on Iraq as well as the ongoing Arab uprisings. Prior to joining the AUC in 2010, she served as Legal Research Fellow for Human Rights and Poverty Eradication at the Center for International Sustainable Development Law at McGill University, and taught international law at the Australian National University.

She has worked with various international organizations including UNDP, UNESCO and the World Bank on law reform initiatives in Asia, including Indonesia during its democratic transition, and in post-independence Timor-Leste. In 2012, Dr Natarajan received the inaugural RP Anand International Law Prize for her essay on 'A TWAIL Reading of the Arab Spring: A Reflection on Sovereignty over Natural Resources'. She completed her PhD in international law at the Australian National University, her MA in international law and the settlement of disputes at the United Nations University for Peace, and her LLB and BA at Monash University.