

## GRACE A. FELTEN, MSW

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### EDUCATION

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- University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Social Work, Hartford, CT – *Doctor of Philosophy Candidate (PhD) - (2024 Expected)*
- University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Social Work, Hartford, CT – *Master of Social Work (MSW) (2016)*  
Concentration: Policy Practice  
Specializations: International Social Work / Women and Children in Families  
UConn Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate: Human Rights
- Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT – *Bachelor of Music (BM) - (2006)*

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Human rights; refugees and migrants; sexual and reproductive health and rights; volunteering/informal humanitarianism, the impact of forced migration & post-conflict on women and girls; child welfare; global health; education and livelihood opportunities for women and girls; child, early and forced marriage; community engaged research

### PUBLICATIONS

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- Wang, V., Felten, G., Katende, C., & Djurkovic, B. &. (2022). Programming in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic: Stories of hope and ingenuity. United Nations Population Fund. <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/programming-time-covid-19-pandemic-stories-hope-and-ingenuity>
- Libal, K., Harding, S., Popescu, M., Berthold, S., & Felten, G. (2021). Human rights of forced migrants in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: An opportunity for mobilization and solidarity. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*, 6, 148–160. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41134-021-00162-4>
- 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*, 21, 469–484. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-019-00663-2>
- 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.

### PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

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- Hall-Faul, M., Dubuque-Gallo, C., Felten, G. & Vasquez Reyes. The impact of a teaching peer support group on doctoral student instructors: A collaborative autoethnography. Under review at the *Journal of Social Work Education*, July 2023.

### PUBLICATIONS IN PROCESS

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- **Felten, G.** & Libal, K. (Anticipated 2023). Politics, Proximity, and Religion: Understanding motivations of volunteers working with refugees and asylum seekers in Greece and the United States.
- Parekh, R., Mauldin, R., **Felten, G.**, Hall-Faul, M., & Schuman, D. (Anticipated 2023). The impact of transportation access on health and social support among older immigrants: A mixed methods systematic literature review.
- Feely, M., Carlson, P., **Felten, G.** (Anticipated 2023). Chronic families in the child welfare system: A mixed-methods integrative literature review.
- Parekh, R., Mauldin, R., **Felten, G.** (Anticipated 2023). The lived experience of older immigrants accessing social activities: A qualitative interpretive meta synthesis.

## RESEARCH

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### **Graduate Research Assistantship, UCONN, 2022-2023.**

*Faculty Supervisor: Rupal Parekh, PhD*

- Participated in a mixed methods systematic review on the impact of transportation access on the physical and mental health of older immigrants in the United States.
- Trained in Covidence systematic review software.
- Contributed towards a qualitative interpretive meta synthesis on the experiences of older immigrants accessing social activities.

### **Graduate Research Assistantship, UCONN, 2021-2022.**

*Faculty Supervisor: Megan Feely, PhD*

- Analyzed qualitative results from 16 focus groups with parents regarding home visiting services in the state of Connecticut.
- Contributed towards presentation and publication regarding parent feelings of stigma, shame, and judgement within home visiting services.

### **Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), 2020**

- Interviewed resettled refugees in the state of Connecticut for a qualitative rapid review of services provided by IRIS.

### **Graduate Research Assistantship, UCONN, 2019-2020.**

*Faculty Supervisor: Megan Berthold, PhD*

- Participated as a central part of a research team exploring community mobilization supporting refugee resettlement in the U.S., Canada, Greece, and Germany.
- Conducted qualitative interviews with refugee resettlement agency staff, humanitarian staff, and volunteers supporting refugees and migrants.
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed data using NVivo software.

### **Graduate Research Assistantship, UCONN, 2016-2019.**

*Faculty Supervisor: Kathryn Libal, PhD*

- Conducted in-depth qualitative interviews with refugee resettlement providers and volunteers working with refugees and asylum seekers across the United States.
- Researched government and state refugee resettlement models and policies.
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed data for theme development using NVivo software.
- Contributed towards literature review on refugee camps in Jordan.
- Compiled research on the global issue of child, early, and forced marriage.

**Experiences of Resettlement for Syrian-Armenian Refugees in Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia:** May, 2016.

*Principal Investigator: 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.
- Coded and analyzed data from 24 interviews using NVivo 10 software.
- Contributed toward peer-reviewed article and presentations.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**University of Connecticut** -The Performance Improvement Center (PIC), a research-to-practice partnership between UCONN and the Department of Children and Families (DCF)

*Research Assistant (2022-present)*

- Participated as a critical part of a team conducting an integrative literature review on chronic families in the child welfare system, including leading the literature search, protocol design, and data extraction.
- Drafted and submitted IRB application for qualitative research project involving one-on-one interviews and focus groups with DCF caseworkers regarding chronic families.
- Contributed towards planning of larger qualitative project comprised of interviews and focus groups with families involved in DCF.

**University of Connecticut**

*Adjunct Professor (2019-2022)*

- Human Rights in Social Work (Masters); Spring, 2021/Spring, 2022
- Research Methods for Social Work Practice (Masters) Fall, 2019/Spring 2019/Spring 2020
- Social Welfare Policy (Bachelors) Fall, 2020

**The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** - the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency

*Consultant (2020-2021)*

- Led project working with regional and country UNFPA offices globally to determine best organizational practices for sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Analyzed regional programs and wrote case studies for 16 best practices.
- Co-authored publication on solutions, trends, and best practices in response to COVID-19.

**The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC)** – a state agency that oversees a network of programs and services that help young children and families thrive

*Research Assistant (2020 – 2021)*

- Conducted qualitative data analysis on community and provider focus groups for the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) statewide needs assessment.
- Contributed toward reports and presentations on the MIECHV needs assessment results.
- Co-facilitated focus groups with parents and conducted one-on-one interviews with service providers for the Sparkler project, a pilot phone ‘app’ educating parents on childhood development.

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

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

- 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.
- Co-facilitated sessions on gender equity for Kenya’s National Action Plan to localize UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace & security in Nairobi, Isiolo, and Bungoma, Kenya.
- Conducted interviews with government officials and civil society members working toward women’s rights in Kenya.
- 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 IASSW 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 producing a policy statement on unaccompanied child migrants that was 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.
- 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 – 2014)***

- Performed daily management of office and staff.
- Managed all aspects of projects between staff and clients.
- 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 – 2008)***

- Responsible for the nationwide Roots and Shoots College and University 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 JGI offices in China and the United States.
- Managed Roots & Shoots graduate fellows, interns, and volunteers.
- Created and led 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)***

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

## **INTERNSHIPS**

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

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### International

- Harding, S., Libal, K. & **Felten, G.** (2018). Citizen Mobilization and New Solidarities Opposing European and US Restrictionism. The 17th Conference of The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. Thessaloniki, Greece.

### National

- Hall-Faul, M. Dubuque-Gallo, C., **Felten, G.**, & Vasquez Reyes, M. (2023). The Impact of a Teaching Peer Support Group on Doctoral Student Instructors: A Collaborative Autoethnography. Society for Social Work and Research. Phoenix, AZ.
- **Felten, G.**, Feely, M. & Parr, K. (2023) Fear and Stigma with Home Visiting: Barriers to Participation. Society for Social Work and Research. Phoenix, AZ.
- Libal, K., Harding, S., **Felten, G.** & Berthold, M. (2019) Social work, volunteerism, and refugee resettlement: Fostering collaborative approaches. The Council on Social Work's 65th Annual Program Meeting. Denver, CO.
- Harding, S. & Libal, K. & **Felten, G.** (2019) "Doing something to fight injustice": Voluntarism and refugee resettlement as a mode of political engagement. Society for Social Work Research 23rd Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

- Dodd, S. & Felten, G. (2019). Reporting Sexual Violence to College Officials: The Impact of Trust and Connection on Campus Climate. Society for Social Work Research 23rd Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- Harding, S., Libal, K. & Berthold, M. & Felten, G. (Associated Researcher) (2018). Engaging Social Work to Defend the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. The Council on Social Work's 64th Annual Program Meeting. Orlando, FL.
- Libal, K., Harding, S., Berthold, M. & Felten, G. (2017). Refugees and Xenophobia: Social Work Responses in the United States and Europe. The Council on Social Work's 63rd Annual Program Meeting. Dallas, TX.
- Healy, L., Thomas, R. L., Gatenio Gabel, S., & Felten, G. (2015) Representing Social Work at the United Nations. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM), Denver, CO.

## AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- *School of Social Work Pre-doctoral Fellowship, UCONN, 2023 (\$750).*
- *Cristina Wilson Scholarship, UCONN, 2022 (\$1,000).*
- *Davidson Dissertation Stipend, UCONN, 2021 (\$500).*
- *Dissertation Research Fellowship, UCONN, 2020 (\$5,000).*
- *Konover Travel Scholarship, UCONN, 2019 (\$750).*
- *Human Rights Graduate Research Grant, The Human Rights Institute, UCONN, 2019 (\$2,000).*
- *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 one female scholar who has excelled academically within each department and demonstrated dedication to research and service to the university community, UCONN, 2016.*
- *Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) National Travel Scholarship Award: given to one macro-based MSW student nationwide, CSWE APM Conference, 2015 (\$750).*
- *Conference Scholarship Award, UCONN, 2015 (\$650).*

## SUBMITTED NOT FUNDED

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- Fulbright U.S. Student Program Open Research, 2020 – Semifinalist
- AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship, 2020, (\$20,000)
- PEO Scholarship – nominated, 2020, (\$15,000)