

# RHPW 2025



## Opening Conference – Dec 8 (9:00 – 13:00)

### Mobilizing Compassion: Reclaiming the Heart of Humanitarianism

#### 9:00 – 9:15 – Welcome & Opening Reflections

Hosted by RHPW organisers. A warm welcome, setting the tone for the week, and introducing the theme.

#### 9:15 – 9:35 – Keynote Address: The Compassion Deficit

Keynote exploring the emotional and political erosion of compassion in global aid. Tackles the “Great Crash of 2025” and its implications for humanitarian values and financing ([Prof. Michael Barnett](#))

#### 9:35 – 10:35 – Fire-Cracking Panel: Redefining Aid in an Age of Upheaval

To spark a forward-looking, multi-sector conversation on how humanitarian aid is being redefined in an age of upheaval and uncertainty where compassion is not just a value but a strategy, and where new coalitions, local leadership, technology, and innovative financing are reshaping the way the sector responds to crises across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

#### Panelists

- [Dr. Deepmala Mahla, Chief Humanitarian Officer at CARE](#) – bringing two decades of experience across fragile contexts from Asia to the Middle East
- [Dr. Unni Krishnan, Global Humanitarian Director at Plan International](#) – a lifelong advocate of principled, accountable, and people-centered humanitarian action
- [Nimo Hassan, Director of the Somali NGO Consortium](#) – representing the coordination of local actors in high-risk environments and the power of collective local leadership
- [Federico Motka, Head of Emergencies and Humanitarian Portfolio at Vitol Foundation](#) – bringing a global philanthropic lens to how aid partnerships and financing are being reimagined
- [Tuan Nguyen, Head of Public Sector Industry Partners, Asia Pacific & Japan at Amazon Web Services](#) – showing how technology and innovation can enhance public impact

Panel Moderator: [Uma Narayanan](#)

#### 10:35 – 11:00 – Interactive Pulse Check

Live Polling - Prof. Michael Barnett

#### 11:00 – 11:30 – Coffee Break

#### 11:30 – 13:00 – Storytelling Session: Humanitarian Story Circles

A short, powerful storytelling segment featuring lived experiences from frontline responders or returnees. ( Words Rhythms Images (WRI) and Community World Service Asia (CWSA)