

# Refugee, Asylee & Immigrant Experiences: The Stories Behind the Status

DHS Resettlement Programs Office



The goal of this session is to personalize the term “immigration status” and learn from the stories behind the status. To increase understanding and empathy for the experience of being a newcomer to the US, as reflected in the lived experience of DHS RPO staff.

# Resettlement Programs Office Mini-Series

- **Immigration Status 101: Federal vs. State Benefits Eligibility**

- The goal of this session is to promote basic understanding (high level overview) of immigration structures in the United States and broad eligibility for federal/state programs based on immigration status.
- Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am

- **Minnesota's Resettlement Network: Services for New Arrivals in MN**

- The goal of this session is to build knowledge of MN Resettlement Network services and the supports available to ORR-eligible populations in Minnesota.
- Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am

- **Refugee, Asylee & Immigrant Experiences: The Stories Behind the Status**

- The goal of this session is to personalize the term “immigration status” and learn from the stories behind the status. To increase understanding and empathy for the experience of being a newcomer to the US, as reflected in the lived experience of DHS RPO staff.
- Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 9am

# Meet the RPO Team



Teri Guhl



Kelli Schmitz



Snezhana Bessonov



Jessica O'Brien



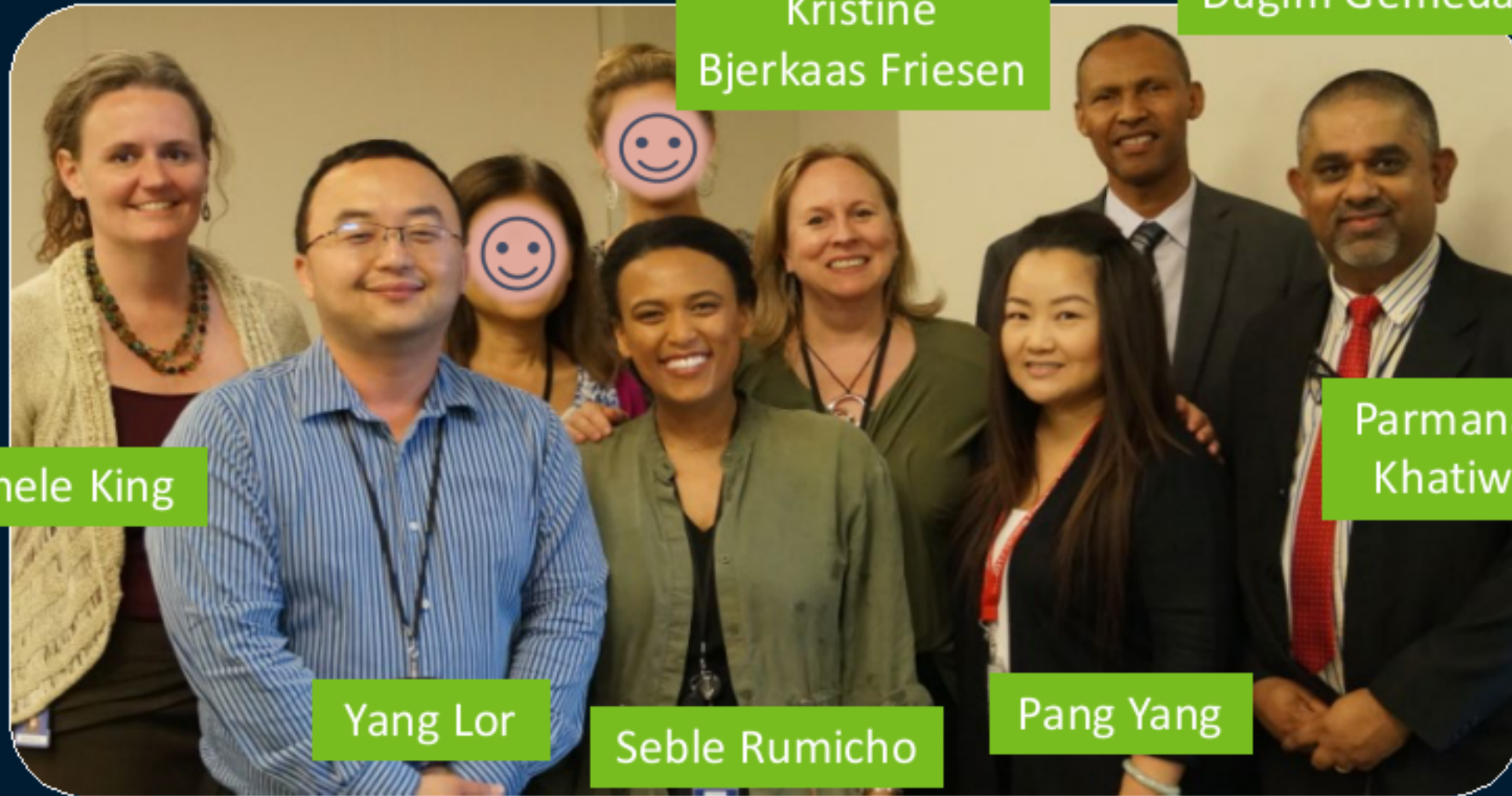
Gaoly Yang



Christy Peterson



Chel Jones



Kristine  
Bjerkaas Friesen

Dagim Gameda

Rachele King

Yang Lor

Seble Rumicho

Pang Yang

Parmananda  
Khatiwoda

Samsam Abdalla



Tetiana Banari



# RPO Team: Personal Experiences

Yang Lor

Parmananda Khatiwoda

Samsam Abdalla

Dagim Gameda

Gaoly Yang

Snezhana Bessonov

## Immigrant Experience Insights from RPO Staff

- Brief recap of your US arrival process
- How does your experience inform your work in human services?
- What do you want human services workers to know in their work with newcomers to the US?



# Questions for our team?

Yang Lor

Parmananda Khatiwoda

Gaoly Yang

Samsam Abdalla

Dagim Gameda

Snezhana Bessonov

Kristine Bjerkaas Friesen

