

# **Louisa Taylor**

**Director at Refugee 613**

Ottawa, ON, CA

Director at Refugee 613

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## **Biography**

Louisa Taylor is co-founder and director of Refugee 613, a grassroots project supporting Ottawa's response to the global refugee crisis. Refugee 613 helps to inform, connect and inspire residents to improve the settlement and integration of refugees in the national capital. In her previous life as an award-winning writer and editor, Louisa's journalism appeared in the Toronto Star, Maclean's magazine, the Ottawa Citizen and The Economist, among others. Louisa is co-chair of Welcoming Ottawa Week, an annual festival of events celebrating Ottawa's immigrant community, founder of @datafestOTT which explore intersections between migration and new technology, and serves on the Advisory Committee on Social Innovation, which explores new policy ideas in settlement and integration for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Public Policy, Program Development, Philanthropy, Print Media, Social Services, Public Relations and Communications

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Immigration, Human Rights, Diversity & Inclusion, Coalition Building, Refugee Resettlement, Strategic Communications, Communications for Non-Profits, Stakeholder & Public Engagement

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## **Affiliations**

The Travers Debates, The Migrationist, Datafest Ottawa

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## **Education**

**McGill University**

B.A. History and Political Science

**Metropolis Professional Development Program**

Migration Policy & Management

**University of Oxford, School of Continuing Education**

International Labour Migration Migration Studies

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## **Accomplishments**

### **United Way Community Builders of the Year Award 2016**

Refugee 613 was one of four agencies chosen to represent the community when the United Way honoured Ottawa's collective work to resettle more than 1,600 Syrian refugees in 2016.

### **Joan Gullen Award for Media Excellence**

For Ottawa Citizen series on the social and health implications of expansion of gambling in Ontario.

### **Canadian Medical Association Media Award for Excellence in Health Reporting**

For Ottawa Citizen series Unhealthy Welcome, about immigrant and refugee health.

### **Joan Gullen Award for Media Excellence**

For Ottawa Citizen feature on a homeless shelter for young women.

### **Media Leadership Award**

From the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, for coverage of immigration policy and newcomer communities in Ottawa

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