

Hourie Tafech

Short Bio

Hourie is a PhD candidate at Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University Newark. Hourie's dissertation examines the factors that impact the entrepreneurial activities of refugees in U.S. cities. Before arriving in the US, she lived in Malta for few years, where she co-founded Spark15, the first refugee-led organization recognized by the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As a president of Spark15, she advocated for the rights of refugee youth in Malta before the Office of the President of Malta, The Minister for European Affairs and Inclusion, The Ministry of Education, and UNHCR-Malta. Hourie was selected as one of 40 young leaders to represent young refugees in the annual meeting of the United Nations Higher Refugee Commissioner in 2016 in Geneva. In 2020, Hourie was one of six women from the U.S. and Canada awarded a prestigious Margaret McNamara Education Grant (MMEG). In 2021, she was also awarded an international fellowship from American Association of University Women (AAUW). Since arriving in the U.S., she assisted in developing and implementing the University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants (UARRM) initiative and its student division "Student Voices for refugees." Hourie is always eager to represent the voice of refugees and underrepresented groups, particularly women, access to higher education and entrepreneurial activities.