



The Global Task Force on Third Country Education Pathways

Statement on the Afghan Students Crisis

The Global Task Force would like to call further attention to the plight of Afghan refugee youth, especially young women, who are facing an uncertain future with limited opportunities to continue their education. The members of the Global Task Force stand united in their conviction that this is a critical moment to support these young Afghans in accessing safe pathways with secure legal status and protection safeguards in other countries through higher education programmes. To that end, the Global Task Force members call on:

- States to facilitate access to such options through visa and documentation waivers, access to permanent legal status upon graduation, financial support to higher education institutions and commit to the expansion of Afghan refugees' access to education-based solutions;
- Higher education institutions to support programmes and study places, ensure relevant procedural waivers to supplement documentary and credentials requirements and facilitate student integration upon arrival;
- Private sector and philanthropy to commit financial resources to support programming and evaluate and consider innovative funding models for sustainable financial support in the future.

Many Global Task Force members have worked with Afghan students over the years to improve their access to higher education opportunities. The Global Task Force and its members are committed to ensuring continued support for Afghan refugee students by:

- 1) Engaging national authorities and policy makers in conversations on opening and expanding legal pathways for Afghan refugee students;
- 2) Raising awareness about the importance and impact of higher education pathways for refugee students among the global higher education community;
- 3) Building the capacity of higher education institutions to design and implement education pathways;
- 4) Supporting universities in devising the necessary framework for supporting incoming refugee students and receiving faculty and staff;

- 5) Ensuring availability of infrastructure to provide individual case support and travel facilitation, as well as integration of students in their new hosts countries;
- 6) Supporting higher education institutions in developing pilot programmes and sustainable funding models for education pathways;
- 7) Working with foundations and the private sector on identifying priorities for supporting education pathways;
- 8) Raising awareness on the needs of the Afghan students and relevant protection considerations to better define and design supporting actions and schemes.

The Global Task Force stands with Afghan refugee youth in various parts of the world at this time of crisis, strongly supporting the rights of the displaced to access higher education opportunities through safe and legal pathways to durable solutions.

About the Global Task Force: The Global Task Force promotes and supports the expansion of tertiary education as a complementary pathway for refugee students. Global Task Force members include representatives of states, regional and international bodies, the private sector, NGOs, UN agencies and donors who are engaged in or supporting complementary education pathways and are committed to expanding tertiary education opportunities as a durable solution for refugee students.

To learn more about developing higher education pathways for refugee youth, please reach out to the Global Task Force's Secretariat at edpathwaystf@wusc.ca.

Endorsing Global Task Force Members

Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)

European University Association (EUA)

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Japan ICU Foundation (JICUF)

Open Society Foundations (OSF)

Open Society University Network (OSUN)

Proyecto Habesha

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