

Delivered Electronically

June 16, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Antony Blinken
U.S. Department of State
Office of the Secretary
Room 7226
2201 C. Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Secretary
Nebraska Avenue Complex
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20395

Dear President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Secretary Mayorkas:

On behalf of over [150 higher education and organizational leaders](#), I write to you to share the attached statement in support of students and scholars fleeing from violence and humanitarian crises, in advance of World Refugee Day on June 20, and to applaud the administration for implementing policies that ensure that refugee students and scholars are provided key humanitarian protections. We are especially heartened by the PRM [announcement](#) of the private sponsorship pilot program to launch later this calendar year, with special recognition of the role of higher education.

This year, in many parts of the world, we have witnessed how conflict and humanitarian crises are increasing the global refugee and displaced populations by millions. Of these, only five percent of college-eligible refugees are able to access higher education. Higher education leaders are well-positioned - and committed - to helping change that. In order to do so, we urge the administration to advance policies that are inclusive, equitable, and durable. We specifically recommend:

- Make visas available to displaced international students and scholars who qualify to come here, and ensure regulatory processes support them during their stay here.
- Move quickly to launch broader scale private sponsorship of refugees, including university sponsorship of refugee students, by using the new P-4 category in refugee admissions.

We stand ready and eager to work with your agencies to implement these key lifesaving and educational protections for refugee students and scholars.

Sincerely,



Miriam Feldblum, Executive Director, Presidents' Alliance

PRESIDENTS' ALLIANCE | ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS FLEEING FROM VIOLENCE AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES

The war in Ukraine and the resulting humanitarian crisis have accelerated a call to action by colleges and universities to support refugees and displaced students worldwide. We strongly condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The war has not only caused thousands of civilian deaths and forced millions of Ukrainians to flee, but also has led thousands of Russians to seek safety from their repressive regime, including those in academia. While the tragedy is acute in Ukraine, unfortunately it is not unique to that country. Students, academics, and their families from numerous countries throughout the world continue to seek refuge and relief while international students and scholars attending U.S. universities and colleges struggle to make ends meet and keep up their studies while their home countries are in turmoil. We express solidarity with all of these impacted students and scholars currently on our campuses and stand eager to welcome scholars and enroll additional students seeking education and safety.

We support our nation doing more to relieve the plight of those impacted by events beyond their control. We applaud the administration for implementing policies that ensure that students and scholars from impacted countries are provided key lifesaving and educational protections. We urge the administration to advance policies that are inclusive, equitable, and durable:

- **Make visas available to displaced international students and scholars who qualify to come here, and ensure regulatory processes support them during their stay here.**
- **Move quickly to launch broader scale private sponsorship of refugees, including university sponsorship of refugee students, by using the new P-4 category in refugee admissions.**

These measures are an opportunity for the United States to stand by its values and will significantly expand the United States' humanitarian reach by enabling U.S. colleges and universities to play a key role in accelerating displaced and refugee students' higher education access and success. We in higher education stand ready to meet this moment to address the urgent challenges facing fleeing and displaced students and scholars.

Signatories

Carmen Ambar, President, Oberlin College
David Anderson, President, St. Olaf College
Claudia Araiza, Chancellor, Southern States University
William Armaline, Director, SJSU Human Rights Institute
Kelli Armstrong, President, Salve Regina University
Steve Bahls, President, Augustana College
Irma Becerra, President, Marymount University
Allan Belton, President Pacific Lutheran University

Esther Benjamin, CEO & Executive Director, World Education Services, Inc.
Dr. Joanne Berger-Sweeney, President, Trinity College
Joe Bertolino, President, Southern Connecticut State University
Audrey Bilger, President, Reed College
Erik Bitterbaum, President, SUNY Cortland
Anne Blackhurst, President, Minnesota State University Moorhead
Brock Blomberg, President, California Institute of Integral Studies
Leon Botstein, President, Bard College
Jonathan Brand, President, Cornell College
Esther Brimmer, Executive Director & CEO, NAFSA: Association of International Educators
John Bunting, Principal Senior Lecturer, Georgia State University
Alison Byerly, President, Carleton College
Nancy Cantor, Chancellor and Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University-Newark
Karen Carey, Chancellor, University of Alaska Southeast
Ana Mari Cauce, President, University of Washington
Anthony Cerna, President, Being the Blessing Foundation
Terrence Cheng, President, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
Carol Christ, Chancellor, UC Berkeley
Brent Chrite, President, Bentley University
Bryan Coker, President, Maryville College
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Joe Coon, Interim President, Niskanen Center
Isiaah Crawford, President, University of Puget Sound
Raymond Crossman, President, Adler University
Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University
Jose Luis Cruz Rivera, President, Northern Arizona University
Glenn Cummings, President, University of Southern Maine
James Danko, President, Butler University
Janine Davidson, President, Denver Metropolitan State University
James W. Dean, Jr., President, University of New Hampshire
Darla Deardorff, Executive Director, Association of International Education Administrators
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Michael V. Drake, MD, President, University of California System
Noelle E. Cockett, President, Utah State University
Raj Echambadi, President, Illinois Institute of Technology
Mark Erickson, President, Northampton Community College
A. Gabriel Esteban, President, DePaul University
Edward Feasel, President, Soka University of America
Miriam Feldblum, Executive Director, Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
Jane Fernandes, President, Antioch College
David Finegold, President, Chatham University
Dr. Carol Folt, President, University of Southern California

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Howard Gillman, Chancellor, University of California, Irvine
Jonathan Goldman, Executive Director, Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
Bryon Grigsby, President, Moravian University
Gregory Haile, President, Broward College
Andrew Hamilton, President, New York University
Antoinette Hays, President, Regis College
Becca Heller, Executive Director, International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Sue Henderson, President, New Jersey City University
Elizabeth Hillman, President, Mills College
Dan Hocoy, President, Goddard College
Samuel Hoi, President, Maryland Institute College of Art
Dr. Mayme Hostetter, President, Relay Graduate School of Education
Denece Huftalin, President, Salt Lake Community College
Glenda Humiston, Vice President, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources
John Jones III, President, Dickinson College
Cristle Collins Judd, President, Sarah Lawrence College
Mary Ellen Jukoski, President, Three Rivers Community College
Linda Kaminski, President, Yakima Valley College
Erol Kekic, Senior Vice President Programs, Church World Service
Marisa Kelly, President, Suffolk University
Renu Khator, Chancellor/President, University of Houston
John Knapp, President, Washington & Jefferson College
Marvin Krislov, President, Pace University
Cynthia Larive, Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz
Paul LeBlanc, President, SNHU
Arien Mack, Director, New University in Exile Consortium
Ali R. Malekzadeh, Ph.D., President, Roosevelt University
Sarah Mangelsdorf, President, University of Rochester
Philomena Mantella, President, Grand Valley State University
Biddy Martin, President, Amherst College
Mike Martin, President, Florida Gulf Coast University
Felix Matos Rodriguez, Chancellor, City University of New York (CUNY)
Gary S. May, Chancellor, University of California, Davis
Dwight A. McBride, President, The New School
Kathleen McCartney, President, Smith College
Joyce McConnell, President, Colorado State University
Patricia McGuire, President, Trinity Washington University
Maurie McInnis, President, Stony Brook University
Belinda Miles, President, Westchester Community College
Judy Miner, Chancellor, Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Sam Minner, President, New Mexico Highlands University

Anthony E. Munroe, President, Borough of Manhattan Community College-CUNY
David Munson, President, Rochester Institute of Technology
Kathleen Murray, President, Whitman College
Robert Nelsen, President, California State University, Sacramento
Krista Newkirk, President, University of Redlands
John Nicklow, President, University of New Orleans
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Eduardo J. Padron, President, Emeritus, Miami Dade College
Laurie L. Patton, President, Middlebury College
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Susan Poser, President, Hofstra University
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Taylor Randall, President, University of Utah
Wendy Raymond, President, Haverford College
Shai Reshef, President, University of the People
Havidan Rodriguez, President, University at Albany, SUNY
Todd Saliman, President, University of Colorado System
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Neal Smatresk, President, University of North Texas
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Diane Steele, SCL, President, University of Saint Mary
Sonya Stephens, President, Mount Holyoke College
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Larry Thompson, President, Ringling College of Art and Design
Quint Thurman, President, University of the Southwest
Dr. Denise Trauth, President, Texas State University
Matthew Turk, President, Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago
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Robbyn Wacker, President, St Cloud State University
Gregory Washington, President, George Mason University
Michael Whelan, President, Wheaton College
Lori S. White, President, DePauw University
Wim Wiewel, President, Lewis & Clark College
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M. Roy Wilson, President, Wayne State University
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Henry Yang, Chancellor, University of California, Santa Barbara



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

August 15, 2022

Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director
Presidents' Alliance
Washington, DC
miriam@presidentsalliance.org

Dear Ms. Feldblum:

Thank you for your June 16, 2022 letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate your concern for students and scholars fleeing violence and humanitarian crises and your attention to their need for humanitarian protections. I also recognize your willingness to work with the responsible government agencies to implement needed protections. Thank you for taking time to consider and recommend inclusive, equitable, and durable policies to address these concerns. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services supports creative and flexible complementary pathways for those fleeing humanitarian crises, including scholarly and employment pathways, and we are looking forward to working closely with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the development and implementation of the new P-4 private sponsorship aspect of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please share this response with the other organizations that cosigned your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ur M. Jaddou" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director