Higher Ed
Afghan Response and Advocacy: Rapid Response Action & Information Briefing

September 9, 2021
12 P.M. ET/ 9 A.M PT

Context & Current State of Play

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President & CEO, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

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Partner at Curran, Berger and Kludt; member, AILA Afghanistan Task Force
Opportunities for Supporting Afghan Scholars & Students

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Director, New University in Exile Consortium

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Director at Sterling Partners; Vice Chair of Board, American University of Afghanistan

Jonathan Becker
Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bard College & Vice Chancellor of Open Society University Network
New University in Exile Consortium

Global Consortium of 35 universities and colleges with the mission to create a supportive intellectual community for exiled, endangered scholars hosted at our member schools in the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, Jordan and South Africa.

Supporting Afghan Scholars, Students & Artists:

Scholars: We expect Consortium schools to host 20-30 endangered Afghan scholars who will be welcomed into the Consortium’s supportive intellectual community of exiled scholars.
• Fellowship (approx. $50,000)

Students: We are trying to help place 148 Afghan university students who have been evacuated to the U.S. and are currently on a military base in Wisconsin. If your institution can accept one or more of these students, please let us know immediately (requires tuition waivers & living stipends).

Artists: We are collaborating with the Artistic Freedom Initiative to bring 10 endangered artists to The New School and help place 10 others at Consortium schools.

How You Can Help: Encourage your university or college to join the New University in Exile Consortium.

Email: mackarie@newschool.edu
Enrolling, Supporting & Advocating for Students

Esther Benjamin  
CEO and Executive Director, World Education Services (WES)

Jennifer Dewar  
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Rebecca Granato  
Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives, Bard College and Director of the OSUN Hubs for Connected Learning Initiatives

Jill Welch  
Senior Policy Advisor, Presidents’ Alliance
Certify your English from anywhere in the world.

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No test centers. No appointments. Take the test online, on demand from your computer.

Fast
Take the test in under 1 hour and get your results in 2 days.

Affordable
Only $49 with unlimited sharing to 3,000+ accepting institutions. 10,000+ fee waivers provided to high-achieving, low-income international students.
Since 2017, Duolingo’s Access Program has provided fee waivers for tens-of-thousands of high-achieving, low-income students in over 70 countries via their counselor or organization.

Partners include UNHCR, United World Colleges, EducationUSA, and the HALI Access Network. But, we understand that not all students are covered by these options.

This year to support Afghan students, we’ve donated $25K to the IIE Emergency Student Fund and are committed to providing fee waivers to any university enrolling affected students.

To request fee waivers or get involved, visit go.duolingo.com/AfghanStudents
The mission of the Task Force is to promote and support the expansion of education as a complementary pathway for admission of refugees to third countries, to meet both the 15by30 target set forth in the Refugee Education 2030: A Strategy for Refugee Inclusion and the goals of The Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. The Task Force will focus on tertiary education opportunities in particular.
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<th>TASK FORCE COMMITMENTS</th>
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<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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<td>Raising awareness about the importance and impact of higher education pathways for refugee students</td>
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<td>Providing technical support to universities for the development and design of education pathways</td>
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<td>Providing individual case support to students while other actors, such as law firms and refugee resettlement organizations, establish a clear structure for student mobility</td>
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<td>Advising on the development of sustainable funding models for pathways</td>
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<td>Membership (As of September 2021)</td>
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<td>Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)</td>
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<td>World Education Services (WES)</td>
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Supporting displaced Afghans as local community members

Diya Abdo
Founder and Director of Every Campus A Refuge

Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director, Presidents’ Alliance
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Resource Folder
Look here for all the resources shared on the briefing!

Stay Connected
Be sure to sign up for the Presidents’ Alliance weekly newsletter to receive additional information, resources, and opportunities for connection and action!