

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