



Mobilizing Academic Community Action in Response to the Refugee Crisis

As the global refugee crisis is unfolding across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, sixty million people have been displaced by conflict and over 410,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean from the Middle East so far this year. Understanding that the primary responsibility for peace rests with Governments, the urgency of the global refugee crisis is a challenge that requires support from all actors in society on a short-, mid- and long-term basis.

The UN Global Compact and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) are calling on businesses to take action. In conjunction, the UN Global Compact's Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative and its Steering Committee members AABS, AACSB International, ABIS, AMBA, CEEMAN, CLADEA, EAUC, EFMD, GMAC, and GRI are calling on business schools and management-related Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to work together with business to take action. HEIs play a key role in building more sustainable societies and creating new paradigms through the education of current and future leaders.

The leaders of the international academic community are called to take action and address the refugee crisis. In particular, **by providing access and scholarships to business and entrepreneurship related classes and knowledge resources to refugees**, HEIs can contribute to the education of those who will return home to build a future worth living with their families and within their communities.

Furthermore, HEIs can take steps to raise awareness and understanding regarding the situation of refugees, and foster social cohesion. HEIs are called to offer their support and incentivize their students to be engaged in these efforts. By joining forces with business, governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and/or other HEIs, business schools can forge long-term partnerships for education and sustainable development. HEIs should determine how best to support, based on their own assets and capabilities.

[Click here](#) to join the movement and make a commitment to the refugee crisis. Commitments will be highlighted on the official UN Business website.