

## Charter of Santiago for the Global Refugee Forum

### Commitment for the Global Refugee Forum by the Latin American Academic Network on the Law and Integration of Refugees

1. We representatives of the Latin American academy, professors, teachers researchers, gathered in Santiago de Chile during the days 2 to 5 October 2019 in the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> Latin American Conference on Refugees Law and International Protection with the aim to exchange our academic and jurisprudential advances, our research and constructive criticism on the protection and solutions for asylum seekers, refugees, displaced and stateless persons (hereinafter "persons of interest"), we want to express in this Charter our firm commitment to the First Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be hold in the city of Geneva on December 17 and 18, 2019.

2. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), affirmed in December 2018 by the UN General Assembly, "aims to lay the foundations for a predictable and equitable distribution of burden and responsibility among all Member States of the Nations United, together with [...] members of the academic field and other experts"(paragraph 3, UN Doc. A / 73/12).

3. In this context, the GCR indicates that "A global academic network on refugee, other forced displacement, and statelessness issues will be established, involving universities, academic alliances, and research institutions, together with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders, to facilitate research, training and scholarship opportunities which result in specific deliverables in support of the objectives of the global compact. Efforts will be made to ensure regional diversity and expertise from a broad range of relevant subject areas." paragraph 43, UN Doc. A / 73/12).

4. Following up on the consultations carried out between UNHCR and the Academia, researchers, and other interested parties, the "Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network" (GAIN) has been created, which will focus on three main areas, namely: (1 ) research; (2) teaching on displacement and other issues related to the objectives of the GCR; and (3) scholarships, and other forms of support for displaced academics and students. The Network aims to complement the activities of existing academic networks and provide added value, especially through the objectives of GCR. Its objectives will include facilitating the exchange between researchers and academics worldwide, in a wide range of disciplines, especially for those regions, countries, and institutions that have limited access to networks and resources.

5. In order to participate in the GAIN and contribute to the implementation of the GCR, academics, researchers and litigating lawyers of the university clinics of the 'Latin American Academic Network on Refugee Law and Integration' want to directly commit to the GRF in the following support areas:

#### **a. Address the immediate needs of people of interest:**

- I. Through the legal clinics, both existing ones and those of future establishment, strengthen the orientation, counseling and free legal representation for asylum seekers

and refugees and other people in need of international protection, to ensure the improvement of protection, inclusion and access to rights and justice.

- II. Support emblematic cases in national and regional courts for the progressive development of the rights of refugees and their human rights, as well as the protection standards, fill protection gaps, or correct rights violations and promote frameworks legal and institutional frameworks of good public policies to attend needs.

**b. Conduct and disseminate comprehensive and multidisciplinary studies on situations of forced displacement in the Americas:**

- I. Socialize the applicability of instruments and regulatory frameworks, both international and national, and the study of the phenomenon of human displacement, through comparative publications and research, in particular through:
  - i. Comparative studies that analyse national and regional legal frameworks, as well as public policies or state practices and jurisprudence, and identify possible protection responses (asylum, human rights, complementary protection, or others) in countries of origin, transit and destination;
  - ii. Studies on access to basic services, education, health, employment, assistance and housing for persons of interest;
  - iii. Studies on the operation, results and innovative opportunities to achieve lasting solutions.
- II. Create an online platform that allows systematizing and disseminating studies and diagnostics on forced displacement, statelessness and protection responses and durable solutions in the Americas.

**c. Strengthen national capacities in international protection and access to the rights of persons of interest to provide adequate responses:**

- I. Promote academic courses in different grades or vocational training, diplomas, masters or other training, as well as conferences, seminars and round tables on issues related to international protection, durable solutions and complementary ways to admission.
- II. Facilitate the collection, systematization and dissemination of Latin American jurisprudence in the field of international protection, through online platforms, as well as, on access to rights for persons of interest.
- III. Provide awareness-raising workshops on the needs and rights of persons of interest to national authorities, civil society, host communities or other audiences, as well as workshops to improve coexistence with persons of interest.
- IV. Encourage exchange programs between students and teachers in order to strengthen spaces to share good practices in the field of international protection and durable solutions.

**d. Facilitate the admission of persons of interest to higher education in the host countries:**

- I. Streamline and promote access to higher education, as well as promote technical education that allows a dignified insertion in the labor markets of the host countries, favoring local integration for people in need of international protection.
- II. Streamline and promote the recognition of diplomas from countries of origin, keeping the principle of confidentiality, and the elimination or reduction of administrative costs associated with the study.
- III. Provide and give access to language courses in the host country to promote access to education.
- IV. Develop school and university scholarship programs in order to guarantee their access to education and stay in the host country, and provide higher education to boost the effectiveness of local integration.

Santiago of Chile  
5 October 2019