

SCIENCE IN EXILE INITIATIVE

Podcast gives platform to refugee scholars

The **Science in Exile podcast series** was produced by the International Science Council ([ISC](#)) in collaboration with its Science in Exile partners, The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries ([UNESCO-TWAS](#)) and the InterAcademy Partnership ([IAP](#)), as a contribution to the [Science in Exile initiative](#).

The aim of the podcast series was to create space for **displaced and refugee scientists** to share their stories and give an insight into their scholarly research and how their research careers have been affected by displacement. The series raised awareness of the challenges faced by at-risk, displaced and refugee scholars, and of the good practices that can support those scientists to continue their research. In line with the aims of the Global Compact on Refugees, the podcast interviews highlight the kind of activities and actions that are most useful for refugee scientists and the communities and workplaces in which they are based.

In the third episode of the series, sociologist **Alfred Babo** shared his story of leaving Côte d'Ivoire and seeking refuge in Ghana, then Togo, and eventually in the United States, where he is now settled and working in the Sociology and Anthropology department at Fairfield University.

Alfred Babo's story gives an insight into why scholars can find themselves particularly at risk in times of conflict, and the support they need in order to be able to continue their work in safety and to enhance their self-reliance as refugees. The podcast explores the realities of protracted displacement and uncertainty, and the effects for mental and physical wellbeing. As a co-founder of the ['Share the Platform' initiative](#), Alfred ends the podcast with a call to action for all organizations involved in supporting displaced people and refugees to make space for the refugees themselves to speak up and share their knowledge and experience. That's exactly what the ISC and its partners in the Science in Exile initiative hoped to achieve with this podcast series, which you can listen to here: <https://council.science/podcast/science-in-exile/>

The [Science in Exile initiative](#) aims to create a network of like-minded organizations that will work together to develop a platform and roll out a coordinated advocacy campaign, so as to foster a cohesive response for the support and integration of at-risk, displaced, and refugee scientists. The initiative is built on a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach, and participants are at-risk, displaced and refugee scientists, and stakeholders such as international organizations, universities, research institutions and science academies, and governmental programmes and organizations supporting at-risk, displaced and refugee scientists.

The initiative's mission is to enhance the work and lives of at-risk, displaced, and refugee scientists globally. Its vision is an active international movement which promotes the protection of scientists, leading to better science and contributions to humanity.

As such, Science in Exile can contribute particularly to the objectives of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN), as it promotes research and knowledge sharing, as well raises awareness, on the topic of displaced and refugee scientists, and calls upon the international science and humanitarian communities to increase and strengthen opportunities and support for forcibly displaced scholars, including via fellowships.