

# Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network

A Roadmap to the 2023 Global Refugee Forum

**Academic institutions** can contribute to responses to forced displacement and statelessness on a daily basis through teaching, research, solidarity, community outreach and advocacy.

**Professors** lecturing on forced displacement increase awareness of refugee issues everywhere. **Researchers** build the evidence needed to enhance humanitarian and development interventions.

Universities also **open their doors** to refugees, offering scholarships and facilitated admission, and including them in services, such as legal aid and psychosocial support.

## THE GLOBAL COMPACT

Recognising the importance of academic contributions to protection and solutions for refugees, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) called for a **Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network** (GAIN) on forced displacement and statelessness issues 'to facilitate research, training and scholarship opportunities in support of its objectives' (para 43, GCR).

GAIN was established in 2019 and includes over 140 members. Its secretariat is based in the University of Essex. Researchers, professors, scholars and students willing to work together with UNHCR and other actors towards **GCR deliverables** & **pre-matching** of pledges are invited to join the network by emailing [gain.globalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:gain.globalnetwork@gmail.com).

## THE SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO CHAIRS

To achieve its objectives, GAIN has identified the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chairs model for **expansion**.

The model is a **framework** to formalize partnerships between UNHCR and academic institutions to support activities promoting teaching, research and community outreach at the country level, in support of UNHCR's efforts to **localize** responses to refugee situations and the GCR itself.

In 2023, **48 Chairs** were active in Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Mexico and United Kingdom. In 2023, the model celebrates its **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Brazil** and initiates a **collaboration** with IDRC Forced Displacement Chairs.

## UNHCR'S 2023-2024 STRATEGY

### Expand the De Mello Chairs

2 New Countries/Year

4 New Chairs/Year

### Support high-quality pledges

**Measurable** outcomes

**Resourcing** institutions in low- & middle-income countries

**Engaging** scholars with lived experience of displacement

### Strengthen GAIN membership

Membership **transparency**

Comprehensive **Terms of Reference**



# Pledges & Contributions

- Academic & Research Institutions are invited to make concrete pledges that will achieve tangible benefits for displaced, stateless and host communities. Pledges are commitments that advance the four objectives of the GCR: ease the pressures on host countries; enhance refugee self-reliance; expand access to third-country solutions, and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.
- States, international organizations, NGOs, businesses and affected communities are encouraged to submit joint pledges with academic and research institutions towards evidence-based policymaking, awareness raising of refugee situations, and more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing and funding allocation to academic institutions in low- and middle-income countries.

## WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge or a contribution may consist of commitments to introduce new policies, bills, and laws that improve the lives of refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons. GAIN can assist academic partners and other stakeholders in identifying specific actions they can take to contribute to protection and solutions for displaced and stateless persons.

## Example of Pledges

### Teaching

- Train public service providers and university staff on refugee-sensitive and tailored approaches
- Establish new higher education programs on forced displacement, statelessness and human rights

### Research

- Research grant bids that target funding for universities based in low- and middle-income countries which are hosting the vast majority of forcibly displaced and stateless persons
- Commit to engage forcibly displaced and stateless persons in research from design to dissemination

### Solidarity & Community Outreach

- Scholarships & professorships for forcibly displaced students, scientists, and scholars
- Include forcibly displaced and stateless persons in university services (e.g. legal aid, language classes, healthcare, psychosocial support, etc)

### Localization

- Join the multi-stakeholder mega pledge co-led by GAIN, IDRC, LERRN, FFVT and the De Mello Chairs: [Shifting Power: Advancing Localization of Research and Elevating the Voices of Host and Forcibly Displaced Communities Globally](#).

## WHY JOIN GAIN AND MAKE A PLEDGE? VISIBILITY, INFLUENCE & COLLABORATION

Pledging entities join a cohort of publicly recognized actors engaged in GCR implementation; are invited to participate in global knowledge and peer-to-peer exchanges on thematic evidence-based policymaking with stakeholders; and informed of GRF pledge matching opportunities.

**How to be recognized as GAIN Multi-Stakeholder Pledge contributor:** 1. SUBMIT A PLEDGE on the GRF pledging dashboard. 2. Indicate: “**#ShiftingThePower**” in the pledge description.

# 2022 GAIN Highlights

In 2022, **Prof. Liliana Jubilut** joined **Prof. Geoff Gilbert** as a Co-Chair of GAIN.

## Teaching

- Participation in Sanremo International Institute of Humanitarian Law courses and fora
- Contribution to lectures hosted by academic, research and higher education institutions
- Support to the De Mello Chairs in designing teaching curricula on forced displacement

## Research

- Organization of Research Webinar Series on translating academic research into effective responses to forced displacement
- Facilitation of research collaboration between De Mello Chairs in different countries
- Dissemination of ASILE and PROTECT Research Consortia findings among UNHCR staff – UNHCR is a member of ASILE and PROTECT Advisory Board

## Solidarity & Community Outreach

- Facilitation of a closed research grant call to the De Mello Chairs from the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC – Canada). The grant of 600,000 CAN dollars will be implemented by the selected De Mello Chairs in 2023
- Support to UNHCR country offices and universities interested in implementing the De Mello Chairs in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and United Kingdom
- Sharing of scholarship opportunities, research grants, courses and publications on forced displacement with network members

## CONTACT US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE AND/OR SHARE OPPORTUNITIES AND INITIATIVES

### Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network Secretariat

[gain.globalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:gain.globalnetwork@gmail.com)

**Geoff Gilbert**, Co-Chair of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network, UK

[g.gilbert@essex.ac.uk](mailto:g.gilbert@essex.ac.uk)

**Liliana Lyra Jubilut**, Co-Chair of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network, Brazil

[liliana.jubilut@unisantos.br](mailto:liliana.jubilut@unisantos.br)

**Ana Carolina Pinto Dantas**, Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR

[pintodan@unhcr.org](mailto:pintodan@unhcr.org)

## LINKS

[Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network – GAIN](#)

[2022 Research Webinar Series](#) – Translating academic research into effective responses to forced displacement

[2021 Academic Conference](#) – 70 Years Protecting People Forced to Flee