

To: Higher Ed Institutions of Thailand, Thailand Ministry of Education, Embassies, UN agencies, Local and International NGOs & Local Media

Enhancing Educational Opportunities for Refugees in Thailand through Higher Education Scholarships

We, as refugee youth, propose to establish an initiative aimed at expanding higher education opportunities for refugees, drawing from my personal experience as a successful refugee student in Thailand and pursuing my higher education. We understand the challenges and barriers that individuals in similar situations face when pursuing higher education. Therefore, we are eager to contribute to the development and implementation of programs that support refugee students in accessing and thriving in higher education.

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a comprehensive higher education scholarship program for refugees in Thailand that aims to empower and integrate displaced individuals into the educational landscape. By providing access to higher education, we can contribute to their personal development and equip them with skills necessary for self-reliance and positive community engagement.

Thailand hosts a significant number of refugees seeking safety and a better future. However, access to higher education remains a challenge. Thailand is not a party to the 1951 Geneva Convention. This initiative seeks to address this gap by offering scholarships to deserving refugee students.

Some of us, refugee students who have successfully navigated the higher education system, are acutely aware of the transformative impact that education can have on the lives of individuals and communities. However, we also recognize the numerous obstacles that refugees encounter in pursuing higher education, including financial constraints, legal barriers, language barriers, and lack of access to information and support services.

2022 Siam University officially agreed to accept refugees. 2023 August 7 students enrolled in Siam University with DAFI scholarship from UNHCR and JRS scholarship. Siam University has agreed to take more students but we are facing scholarship difficulties for GED exams and for the University enrollment.

We propose the establishment of a comprehensive higher education support program for refugees, which would encompass the following components:

1. Scholarships for GED Exams and in Siam University for higher education.

2. Monthly allowance for Students.

Securing funding and scholarships specifically designated for refugee students to cover tuition fees and living expenses.

By implementing the proposed higher education support program for refugees, we can empower individuals to realize their full potential and contribute positively to society. As successful refugee students, we are committed to leveraging my experiences and expertise to support the educational aspirations of fellow refugees and advocate for a more inclusive and equitable higher education system.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of refugee students and create a brighter future for generations to come.

We demand - EDUCATION FOR ALL

We commit- TO BE THE VOICE OF REFUGEES

This White Paper is written by Ms Ayesha Siddiq, following the student-led dialogue session at the 3C Forum, which was co-hosted by Mahidol University, OUR, CAPRS, University of Auckland and UNHCR at Mahidol University, on the 1st December 2023.

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