



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

14 July 2016

Dear Mr Awad,

As the Director of the Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo, I know you are integral to the Centre's engagement in the human rights movement through its projects. I therefore write to you to solicit the support of the University for the #WithRefugees campaign launched by UNHCR on 1 June.

As you know, the world is currently witnessing the highest levels of displacement ever recorded. The number, complexity, and protracted nature of today's conflicts mean that over 65 million people have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety and protection.

Against this backdrop, divisive political rhetoric on asylum and migration issues and disturbing levels of xenophobia, are together presenting significant challenges to refugee protection in certain regions.

However, alongside these developments, we have also witnessed high levels of generosity from host communities, a massive outpouring of volunteerism, and a willingness by ordinary people to become involved in the refugee cause.

The surge of support provides a strong platform for UNHCR to work to mobilise States in support of a Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees. Securing protection and solutions can only be achieved through international solidarity and responsibility sharing.

UNHCR has therefore launched the #WithRefugees campaign and petition. These call on world leaders to show solidarity and find solutions for people displaced by war or persecution. The petition is available on www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/. The petition is to be delivered to the UN Secretary-General and the co-chairs of the UN General Assembly on September 16, ahead of the General Assembly high-level summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

We would be very grateful for your support in helping make this campaign a success. You can do this by posting the petition on your website and social media channels and asking students to sign the petition. We can support your work on refugees by putting your logo on our #WithRefugees coalition page and promote any mobilization efforts through our social media channels.

I therefore very much hope that we will be able to count on your support for the campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Goodlake
External Relations Officer