

EXPANDING EDUCATION PATHWAYS FOR REFUGEES: BUILDING MOMENTUM

Friday, 5 May 2023 | 11:00 – 17:00

Aula Maxima, University of Galway

BACKGROUND

For the first time since records began, the number of people forced to flee worldwide has surpassed 100 million. Of the university-aged refugees wishing to continue their higher education, only 6% can do so due to the countless barriers they face. Higher education is one of the most effective ways of supporting refugees to rebuild their lives and create a better future for themselves. Education pathways enable refugees to access study opportunities that would otherwise be inaccessible to them by removing these barriers, assessing them on their skills, qualifications, and academic potential, while also allowing them to find a safe and stable new home free from conflict and persecution.

The EU-Passworld project, led in Ireland by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre, is a three-year EU-funded pilot that aims to bridge this gap by creating education pathway scholarships at Master's level across Irish universities for motivated refugee students residing in Africa. The University of Galway will be the first Higher Education Institution in Ireland to pilot the initiative, offering a talented refugee student based in Nigeria an education pathway scholarship to continue their studies at the College of Science and Engineering in 2023, with the support of a Community Sponsorship Group.

OBJECTIVES

The workshop will be structured in the framework of EU-Passworld, around the growing education pathway ecosystem across the EU, the University of Sanctuary Initiative, and testimonials from refugees.

The primary objectives of the discussion are:

- Provide a platform for knowledge exchange and networking between EU-Passworld partners, higher education stakeholders, and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) advocates from across Belgium, Italy, and Ireland with representation from Universities, NGOs, civil society and Government bodies.
- Share experiences on best practices and procedures, challenges, and solutions at each stage of designing education pathway programmes linked to community sponsorship with the University as the community.
- Build momentum behind the growing movement to expand education pathways by identifying concrete actions HEIs can take to scale-up scholarship opportunities for displaced persons in 2023 and beyond.

It will be of particular interest to EDI advocates in higher education interested in learning how to expand accessibility of higher education in Ireland for refugees and displaced people either via the University of Sanctuary Initiative or similar access initiatives, working towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

ATTENDANCE

Please confirm your in-person attendance by registering via this [link](#). Register [here for online hybrid attendance](#). For any additional queries, please contact tessa@nascireland.org or helly@unhcr.org.

AGENDA

Time	Theme
10:30–11:00	Registration
11:00-11:05	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helen Maher, Vice-President EDI at University of Galway
11:05-11:20	Introductions and Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tessa Cornally, Complementary Pathways Officer at Nasc ▪ Aoibhinn Helly, Programme Manager at UNHCR
11:20-12:00	University of Galway's Sanctuary Programme <p>Moderator: Aidan Harte, University of Sanctuary Coordinator, University of Galway</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Deirdre Curran, Vice-Dean EDI at University of Galway ▪ Obadiah Niyibizi, Sanctuary Scholar at University of Galway
12:00-13:00	Designing Education Pathways: Challenges and Opportunities <p>Moderator: Charlotte Bertrand, Complementary Pathways Expert at UNHCR</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrew Flaus, Vice-Dean International at University of Galway ▪ Raf d'Haese, Diversity Policy Officer at KU Leuven ▪ Cécilia Brassier-Rodrigues, University of Clermont Auvergne ▪ Catherine Gladwell, Chief Executive at Refugee Education UK
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:10	Engaging Communities in Education Pathways <p>Moderator: Tessa Cornally, Complementary Pathways Officer at Nasc</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nael Saoud, Community Sponsorship Officer at Nasc ▪ Giulia Dedej, LLM Student & CSG Chairperson ▪ Brian Doherty, Development Worker at GCCN & CSG Member ▪ Rev. Alistair Doyle, University Chaplain & CSG Member ▪ Tara Dawson, LLM Student & CSG Member
15:10-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-16:30	Building a Sustainable Future for Education Pathways <p>Moderator: Irene de Lorenzo-Cáceres Cantero, Sr. Policy Officer at Refugee Hub</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daniela Vitiello, Assistant Professor of EU Law, University of Tuscia ▪ Hermon Tesfay Berhane, Refugee Graduate at University of Florence ▪ Tihomir Sabchev, Postdoctoral Fellow at Refugee Hub ▪ Yohannes Sisay Molla, Refugee Graduate at University of Bologna ▪ Helena Barroco, Chair of the Nexus 3.0
16:30-17:00	Wrap-Up and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aoibhinn Helly, Programme Manager at UNHCR ▪ Mary Dempsey, Vice-Dean EDI at University of Galway ▪ Walter Gear, Executive Dean of College of Science & Engineering, University of Galway
17:00	Finish