

Beirut Declaration: Academic Partnership for Human Mobility

Beirut, Lebanon, November 7, 2017

We, participants of the 4th Conference of the Alliance of Leading Universities on Migration (ALUM) in Beirut, pledge to link our academic work directly to pressing migration issues to contribute to evidence-based, targeted, effective, and well-communicated policy measures.

Global migration and human displacement are at the highest levels since the Second World War. UN statistics suggest that around 1 billion people – *or one in seven* – now live outside of their country or region of origin, and human mobility is set to continue in the future. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, together with the recent G7 and G20 efforts, highlight the urgent need for improved understanding of the full spectrum of migration dynamics.

Attention to migration and refugees has increased in recent years among academics, international institutions and policy-makers, but for the most part they have worked in parallel. This has led to unnecessary delays between research and practice, while the gap between public perceptions and evidence has dangerously widened.

We live in turbulent times when academics have a **duty to engage**. There is an urgent need for direct linkages among researchers, policy-makers, multilateral institutions, the private sector, civil society and the media to ensure that cutting edge research informs public opinion and policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Alliance of Leading Universities on Migration (ALUM) is a policy-focused network across disciplines currently encompassing 20 universities in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa as well as the Americas, boosting academic knowledge across regions.

We strongly believe in **high-quality, globally connected, yet locally informed research to feed policy-making**.

We consider **universities as social mediators** among key stakeholders of the migration and refugees processes. As credible conveyors we offer open and safe places for deliberations.

As ALUM members we commit to:

- Making **evidence more readily available and accessible** to the media and the public;
- Assessing the experience of the increasing number of **migration agreements** (“Deals”) with the objective to achieve socially responsible outcomes;
- Disseminating evidence and best practices on **migrant protection, integration and return** in the framework of improved legal pathways;
- Supporting the access of migrants and refugees to **higher education**;
- Assessing and promoting the adoption of good practices for migrant and refugee access to **physical and mental health services**;
- Working with responders to evaluate the **quality and access to humanitarian assistance** that people-on-the move have today;
- Monitoring governments’ and other stakeholders’ **commitment** to global burden sharing arrangements in order to ensure accountability.

Each ALUM member will develop actionable plans for delivering on these commitments. ALUM members will also jointly develop public monitoring and reporting mechanisms for these commitments in the coming months and announce them by March 2018.