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**Listserv Summary: Overseas Campuses as Safe Havens for Refugees and the Stateless**

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**February 15, 2017**

An inquiry was made to the AIEA Listserv asking for insight into how institutions are responding to the turbulence of refugees and stateless peoples impacted by recent political events. These were some of the key questions:

1. Who is having these discussions across their campuses already and what are the major concerns, resources, and solutions you have found?
2. Who has overseas campuses and would be willing to be a resource for other US institutions? Is there a location we can list our overseas campuses and contacts that are willing to have conversations about hosting other US institutions' affected groups?
3. If redirecting staff/students/faculty already to other campuses or to international partner institutions, what are the concerns and experiences regarding visa requirements and ongoing support?
4. How can we continue this group discussion as we anticipate more immigration changes with this Administration? Who else should we add to this discussion?

**Summary of responses:**

The general consensus is that most AIEA institutions who responded are supporting those affected by the travel ban and immigration issues to the US. Many institutions without international campuses were interested in the responses of different campuses. Several institutions offered actual steps taken by their campuses, including:

**Specific Action:**

1. We have had discussions at our University leadership level and will be using our overseas campuses as safe havens for any of those who are stateless or refugees who cannot return to the US (faculty, staff, students, and scholars). We have two international campuses that are approved locations. We are planning to address each case individually so as to ensure we can provide support, teaching/learning, and research resources for our faculty, scholars, and staff. In the case of students, a custom learning continuity plan will be created by each department involved. Technology will play a major role in maintaining a connection between...and the people in this situation. If there is a case that other US institutions may need to partner with us for access to an overseas campus, we are open to discussions.

2. We had been in talks with US institutions with respect to establishing programs aimed at DREAMers, and DACA students in particular, which would help them to seek their permits for travelling down and at the same time reconnect with their family heritage. The events of last November have led us to change and rethink our plans and prepare in case large groups are forced to return.

Our Rector has taken a strong position with respect to "return migration". He was one of the first to speak up and state back in early December that our institution was preparing to receive returning students "with open arms" and we have been designing the academic, administrative and support conditions that are required to be prepared for future eventualities.

I know that what you are posting about is somewhat more extensive and that you are worried about those of your community that might become "stateless" or unable to return to the U.S., however I think that there might be room for starting talks between our institutions (and others) to see how we might jointly propose some strategies and palliative or tiding-over strategies until the situation becomes clearer.

3. I oversee an International Program Center where students can receive our undergraduate degree in China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Switzerland. We run our program in collaboration with our local partners and we currently have students from various countries including 7 countries listed in the travel ban.
4. Interestingly, before seeing your message I'd written to other administrators at...to let them know we could host stranded students/scholars at our three Centers abroad (two in Europe; one in Africa). So internal discussions are happening here. Our semester is already well underway so the ban will really have an impact on those planning to come here \*next\* semester, or scholars who go back and forth frequently.

Certainly if other US institutions who don't have any overseas centers or campuses of their own have a need for a safe haven for any of their students and scholars, we'd be more than willing to help out. There might be some costs involved but we would work to minimize those and I'm ready to be flexible and creative!

5. We are also in discussions, and we will use our international campuses as locations for students, faculty and staff should that be necessary. Our international locations (Europe, Africa, and Asia) have their own degree-seeking student population, but also host a number of non-degree students from other institutions. Most are from the U.S. and on study abroad, but the infrastructure is in place for non-degree students at our campuses. We also have a limited faculty mobility program.