

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

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Summary:

The Sanctuary Programme was formed in 2015 in response to the issue of global displacement, which affects more than 80 million people worldwide. The programme initiates and leads on projects that create positive opportunities for young people whose education has been disrupted due to being displaced. The programme supports the meaningful contributions that the King's community can make and builds on a range of projects:

- The Partnership for Digital Learning and Increased Access (PADILEIA) was formed to meet the educational needs of digitally literate refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. With 1,117,174 learners participating to date, PADILEIA delivers blended foundation and short courses and has launched eight bespoke courses designed by King's Online and King's Faculties.
- Sanctuary Scholarships are offered to students who are asylum seekers and have no access to Student Finance. To date, King's has offered 28 scholarships, which comprise full tuition fee support and help with living costs.
- Together with the Home Office, UNHCR, and Citizens UK, King's worked to develop and pilot a unique version of the UK Refugee Community Sponsorship scheme. King's was the first UK university to be recognised as a community sponsor and enabled a Syrian refugee student and their family to come to the UK. That student is due to start an engineering degree at King's in 2022. In response to the invasion of Ukraine, King's is working with Citizens UK and higher education partners on a scalable community sponsorship model for universities to help host displaced Ukrainian students and academics. Jonathan Cox, Deputy Director of Citizens UK said: "We are delighted that King's [...] is working with us to help resettle Ukrainian refugees, and co-ordinate the higher education sector to respond to the crisis. Together we can help this scheme reach scale, ensure that it is safe for refugees and sponsors alike, become sustainable beyond the initial six months."

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** The programme is enhancing the understanding of forced migration among staff and students at King's and is developing opportunities for them to make a positive contribution, for example, through volunteering in the community sponsorship model.
- 2.** As the UK's first university to act as a community sponsor, King's is ideally placed to support other universities in their ambitions to host displaced students and academics. This is a crucial opportunity to develop and deliver a joined up cross sectoral response.
- 3.** Out of King's Sanctuary Programme and the associated research came a further ambition to influence policy and practice around forcibly displacement in the UK and try to create a safe, legal, education-led pathway for people seeking protection.

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1.** The policy landscape in the UK has presented challenges for the development and implementation of the Refugee Community Sponsorship scheme. Expertise has and is still

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being developed to navigate complexity, while research and advocacy works are undergoing to influence national policies.

2. The integration of this theme builds on the expertise of a wide range of stakeholders inside and outside of the university. Most notably the development and implementation of the Community Sponsor Scheme has only been possible thanks to a high level of collaboration and coordination between several parts of the university, this includes the support of a committed network of volunteers.

3. Integrating this theme across the university requires resources, both human and financial. The Sanctuary Programme has largely benefited from the support of a committed sponsor within the university senior leadership.

Conclusions and recommendations to others:

Forced migration particularly impacts young people, disrupting their education and potentially creating a 'lost generation' with few prospects. To help prevent this scenario from occurring, King's builds on its expertise in education, online resources, existing international partnerships, knowledge of the affected regions, research capability and ability to initiate and lead on projects that create positive opportunities for forcibly displaced young people.

King's offers comprehensive wraparound support to forcibly displaced students and academics, with the aim to establish a scalable university community sponsorship model. Moreover, the model being developed and scaled up as part of the response to the invasion of Ukraine will provide a blueprint for how university communities can work together to host displaced students and academics.

Building on an ESRC Impact Acceleration Grant, King's aims to encourage and support other universities to help resettle refugees. This comes with an ambition to develop a new education-led pathway for forcibly displaced people worldwide. King's will offer a set of resources and detailed guidance to strategic university partners on how best to support hosts and refugees through that process.

