



Education International Africa Regional Committee demands equal treatment and protection for African students fleeing war in Ukraine

We, the Members of the Education International Africa Regional Committee, meeting online on 9 and 10 March 2022, have adopted the following declaration on the need for equal treatment and protection for African students and other migrants fleeing conflict in Ukraine.

1. Following reports that African students and other migrants were facing racist discrimination as they seek to flee cities under attack in Ukraine, which includes black people being prevented from boarding buses and trains and being forced to wait for hours in the cold at the border with Poland;
2. Considering the African Union's official condemnation of incidents of racial discrimination against Africans trying to flee the conflict in Ukraine, as well as that from the representatives from the [three African nations on the UN Security Council](#), Kenya, Ghana, and Gabon, all condemning reports of discrimination against African citizens at the Ukrainian border;
3. Further considering the Ukrainian Government's public acknowledgement that African immigrants seeking to flee the violence have faced racist, disparate treatment compared to white Ukrainians;
4. Recalling various UN resolutions and conventions aiming to protect refugees and asylum seekers, namely the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#) which emphasises that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law;
5. Further recalling that international law prohibits discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
6. We express our profound solidarity with, and support for, African students and other migrants caught up in the Ukraine conflict and seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, but are being denied the right to enter the European Union based on their origin and their race;
7. We reaffirm the purposes and principles of the EI policy regarding refugees and migrants as informed by various resolutions passed by the World Congresses. We reiterate the need for European Governments and states everywhere to uphold the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties;
8. In this regard, the EI Africa Regional Committee strongly condemns racial discrimination against African students and other migrants as they seek to flee cities under attack; and urge all countries to respect international law and show the same empathy and support to all people fleeing war notwithstanding their racial identity;

9. We urge the European Union and EU member states to treat African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with dignity and to grant them safe and unhindered passage as stipulated in UN treaties; and,
10. We call on security and immigration services in Ukraine and neighbouring countries to take concrete and immediate measures to ensure the safe and unhindered passage of African students and other refugees fleeing conflict in Ukraine.