

ORIENTATION GUIDE

XII National Seminar of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair



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ORIENTATION GUIDE¹

Engagement of Authorities and Academia in the protection and search for solutions for refugees and migrants

In 2003, UNHCR initiated an academic dissemination and training program in Latin America to strengthen the learning of university professors and students in the areas of International Refugee Law, International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. The project initiative was named “Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair” in honor of the Brazilian Diplomat Sérgio Vieira de Mello, who died in Iraq in 2003 in an attack on UN headquarters in that country, after spending a large part of his professional career in the United Nations working with refugees as a UNHCR staff.

During these years, the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair (SVMC) has proven to be a key actor to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers have access to rights and services in Brazil, motivated by the strengthening of an inclusive approach, protective education and applied research to consolidate the reception of refugees in the university environment and host communities. The Chair’s engagement is thus multifaceted and aligned with the whole-of-society approach underlined in the Global Compact on Refugees. The SVMC is currently composed of 30 higher education institutions distributed across all regions in Brazil² and its initiatives generally fall under one of the following four pillars:



¹ The recommendations and opinions expressed in this Guide are the result of the discussions of the Thematic Tables of the XII SVMC Annual Seminar and do not necessarily represent those of UNHCR.

² SVMC is currently made up of 16 Federal Public Universities, (UFSM, UFRGS, UFSC, UFPR, UFABC, UFSCar, UNIFESP, UFF, UFES, UFU, UFMG, UFG, UnB, UFGD, UFMS, and UFRR); 4 State Public Universities (UNICAMP, UERJ, UEPB and UEMS); and 10 Private Universities (UNISINOS, UNIVALI, UNICURITIBA, UniSantos, PUC-SP, PUC-RJ, PUC-MG, UVV, UNIFACS and UPF).

o **Teaching, including access to higher education**

The Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair promotes the dissemination of issues related to forced displacement, primarily promoting the teaching of International Refugee Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Human Rights Law. This axis is the basis for the creation of the Chair. It is through teaching that academic training and the strengthening of the knowledge of teachers and students in those disciplines take place. Furthermore, the Chair also promotes through this axis the access of refugees and asylum seekers to higher education, supporting this population not only with specific admission programs and university permanence initiatives, but also offering support with the revalidation of diplomas.

o **Research**

This axis of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair that focuses on research encourages the dissemination of themes related to the protection of refugees and their local integration in Brazil. The Chair promotes the theme of international protection through curricular and extracurricular activities, including public conferences, academic seminars, and academic publications. SVMC has been able to generate quantitative and qualitative data and provide a greater understanding of the sociocultural dynamics that impact local integration, in the formulation of public policies aimed at this population, providing greater visibility on the topic of refugee protection for the academic community, civil society, private sector and host community.

o **Extension and Community Services**

University extension is understood as the interdisciplinary process that promotes the knowledge acquired through the teaching and research developed at the university with the external public. It can be defined by the articulation of scientific knowledge, acquired in the academic environment, with the needs of the community in which the university is inserted, interacting and transforming social reality³. This process has a direct impact on the lives of refugees, and through it the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair ensures a network of support and assistance and promotes greater local integration and peaceful coexistence with host communities. Among the university extension projects developed by the SVMC for the benefit of the refugee population, stand out those relating to health services in general, mental health and psychosocial support, classes of Portuguese language, legal advice, and labor integration.

o **Advocacy and public policy formulation**

Universities also advocate for the strengthening of the response of governments and the influence of authorities, non-governmental partners and society at large in adopting practices that guarantee the protection of refugees at the municipal, state and /or national levels. Experience shows that the potential to discuss not only the admission and revalidation of diplomas for refugees, but also various issues such as housing and working conditions, are paramount in current institutional activities.

³ UFES, Dean of Extension, available at: <<https://proex.ufes.br/o-que-%c3%a9-extens%c3%a3o-universit%c3%a1ria#main-content>>. Last accessed on May 10, 2021. For more information also check: National Policy of University Extension. Available at: <<https://proex.ufsc.br/files/2016/04/Pol%C3%ADtica-Nacional-de-Extens%C3%A3o-Universit%C3%A1ria-e-book.pdf>>. Last accessed on July 31, 2021.

Furthermore, every year, SVMC organizes its National Seminar. In September 2021, the XII National Seminar of the SVMC, whose central theme discussed the protection of refugees in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, was organized by UFES, UFSM, UFRGS and UFU. The Seminar broadly debated the prospects for the integration of refugees in Brazil. Issues such as the importance of revalidating diplomas, linguistic and cultural acceptance, current public policies, and access to services by refugees were addressed by professors and authorities, including with the participation of refugees. These discussions result in the guidelines below, which aim to guide public authorities in the formulation of policies for refugees and migrants, as well as demonstrate the different forms of academic engagement in the protection and search for solutions for these populations.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The proposals presented in this technical document start from the recognition that the realization of the rights of refugees and migrants as a fundamental axis of human rights requires clear positions regarding the promotion of a culture of rights that is inclusive and respects multiculturalism. Thus, the principles that guide the proposed guidelines are those already recognized in the main international instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights and the rights of refugees and migrants.

We start with the following considerations:

- That the right to migrate is an inalienable human right;
- That public policies aimed at the refugee population respect the principle of non refoulement recognized in international law;
- That the policy for migrants and refugees should not be confused with the policy of residence permits, striving for the guarantee of rights recognized at the national and domestic level;
- That deportation or forced transfer is a crime against international law;
- That undocumented migrants and refugees have their rights protected in the national territory, especially in terms of access to education, health, work and inclusion in the national financial system;
- That the primary responsibility for the protection of migrants, refugees and stateless persons rests with the State in which they are in;
- That the States where migrants, refugees and stateless persons are in have the duty to provide all the conditions for the realization of a life project and a dignified, secure life;
- That it is the obligation of the States where migrants, refugees and stateless persons are in to provide what is necessary for the satisfaction of economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to housing, food, education, health, culture, work and inclusion in the national financial system;
- That migrants, refugees and stateless persons must be treated with humanity and respect for their honor, origin, dignity, conviction, religious belief, and sexual orientation;

- That public policies aimed at promoting the local integration of migrants, refugees and stateless persons must be guided by affirmative actions;
- That public policies aimed at migrants, refugees and stateless persons do not allow for unfavorable discrimination based on any condition or criterion;
- That public policies aimed at the migrant, refugee and stateless population prevent and combat xenophobia;
- That public policies aimed at the migrant, refugee and stateless population prevent work analogous to slavery;
- That public policies aimed at the migrant, refugee and stateless population guarantee gender equality;
- That public policies aimed at the migrant, refugee and stateless population guarantee the rights and needs of children and adolescents;
- That public policies aimed at the migrant, refugee and stateless population guarantee the rights of Afro-descendants, Romanies and the indigenous population;
- That public policies for the integration of migrants, refugees and stateless persons will be promoted for the best use of their personal and work capacities;
- That public spaces and dialogues are promoted to guide public policies aimed at the migrant, refugee and stateless population;
- That the spaces for formulation of public policies guarantee social participation, especially of the migrant, refugee and stateless population;
- That public policies aimed at migrants, refugees and stateless persons must comply with the principles of equality and equity;
- That public policies aimed at the migrant and refugee population must be guided by interculturality;
- That censuses and other investigations that guide public policies must include markers of difference that consider the migrant, refugee and stateless population;
- That public policies guarantee access to data from censuses and investigations on the profile of migrants, refugees and stateless persons who are in the Brazilian territory;
- That the reception of migrants, refugees and stateless persons at the borders include public policies that guarantee access to adequate information;
- That the policy for the interiorization of migrants, refugees and stateless persons provide for public policies for reception in places of residence or transit;
- That public policies for training public servants are promoted for humanized and specialized care for migrants, refugees and stateless persons;
- That public policies for training justice and public security servants promote training to work in the area of migration and forced displacement;

- That public policies promote the right to housing for migrants, refugees and stateless persons who are in a situation of homelessness;
- That public policies promote information (in different languages) about the rights and duties of migrants, refugees and stateless persons;
- That national, state and municipal plans and programs are created with actions that promote and protect the rights of migrants, refugees and stateless persons;
- That public budgets in the Multiannual Plans are assigned to public policies for the local integration of migrants, refugees and stateless persons;
- That the creation of associations of migrants, refugees and stateless persons is encouraged, so that they can voice their interests and needs and act in public spaces with a view to achieve the realization of their rights;
- That public policies are oriented towards the training and professionalization of organizations that have acted voluntarily in the local integration of migrants, refugees and stateless persons;
- That specific policies are created for migrants, asylum seekers, stateless persons and refugees with special protection needs, such as the case of the indigenous population that moves to Brazil.

These general guidelines followed the discussions held during the XII National Seminar of the SVMC in four different tables, where there were debates on the current state of engagement of universities and the possibilities of action in the areas of public policies and social markers, access to rights, linguistic reception, intercultural mediation, revalidation and recognition of diplomas, and inclusion in universities. Below are the results of the debate.

1. Public Policies and Social Markers

INTRODUCTION

This technical document is the result of the work of several individuals and organizations participating in the Table on Public Policies and Social Markers on the XII National Seminar of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs. It proposes guidelines that guide the formulation and implementation of public policies aimed at the local integration of the population of forced migrants and refugees at the federal, regional, and local levels.

The main target audiences of these guidelines include policy makers and managers responsible for policies and actions aimed at the local integration of migrants and refugees at the national and local levels. Secondary audiences include governmental and intergovernmental partners, funding agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and community stakeholders, especially migrants and refugees themselves.

The drafting was under the responsibility of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair team at UFU, under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Marrielle Maia, who compiled the suggestions and proposals collected during the event.

Special thanks are given to the contributions of guests and members of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs who shared their experiences on the topic: Counselor Dr. Hortense Mbuyi (Municipal Immigration Council of São Paulo); Prof. Dr. Vivianne Peixoto (SVMC-UFU); Prof. Dr. Maria da Consolação Gomes de Castro (SVMC-PUC Minas); Prof. Dr. Hermes Moreira Júnior (SVMC-UFMG). Prof. Dr. Brunella Vincenzi (SVMC-UFES).

We are also grateful for contributions from members of the Chair and listeners to the presentations on the Table who submitted their suggestions for the text of this document: Prof. Dr. Rodrigo Lages, Helloisa Faria Alves dos Santos, Joana D'arc Moreira Nascimento, Luara Dias dos Santos, Isaac Oliveira Diniz, Beatriz Souza, Francisca Bezerra, Lília de Melo Maia, Juliana Kiyomura Moreno, Sydney Antônio Silva, Johana Cabral, Vanessa Maciel Franco Magalhães and Daisa Tayná da Silva.

Marrielle Maia Alves Ferreira
Coordinator of CSVU UFU

Considering the guidelines listed above and the diagnoses made during the debates at the XII National Seminar of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs on Public Policies and Social Markers, it is proposed that SVMC promote the principles and guidelines listed above through teaching, research, extension, and advocacy with special attention to the proposals listed below:

- SVMC actions to building networks with local actors to strengthen the mobilization around public policies aimed at migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons;
- Promotion of teaching, research, and extension actions for the knowledge about the right to cities of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons;
- Promotion of knowledge about the multiple vulnerability of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless children and adolescents, women, LGBTQIA+, Afro-descendants, Romanies and Indigenous peoples;
- Establishment of partnerships with leading organizations for the purpose of promoting public policies aimed at migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons;
- Support for the structuring of civil society organizations dedicated to local integration and promoting access to rights and services for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons;
- Creation of databases on the profile and other guiding aspects of public policies aimed at migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons;
- Promotion of qualification courses and professional (re) insertion articulated with representative entities (commercial and industrial associations, chambers of store managers, among others);
- Promotion of spaces for listening, public hearings, plenary sessions and conferences on themes and issues of migration, asylum, statelessness, and refuge;
- Advocacy actions to build transparency tools in municipal, state, and federal management;
- Creation and publication of protocols for assistance in public facilities for access to rights (such as enrollment in day care centers/schools, assistance in UBS, CRAS, Federal Police, financial institutions, among others)
- Promotion of constant dialogue with civil servants who work at the point of care for migrants and refugees (education, access to rights, health, assistance, public security)
- Promotion of dialogue with the legal and public security apparatus so that the guarantees of the rights of migrants (especially undocumented), asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are ensured;
- Capacity-building of public servants in the executive, legislative and judiciary at the three levels: state, municipal and federal, to promote training in the migration and forced displacement area;
- Action in the strengthening of teaching on migration and forced displacement issues in their courses;
- Support for promotion and participation in the organization of state and municipal committees and councils created to formulate public policies aimed at the migrant, asylum, stateless and refugee population;

- Joint action with civil society and local authorities in the construction of local integration policies that respond to the needs and respect the origin and culture of populations with special protection needs (as in the case of indigenous Venezuelans);
- Promotion of awareness on migrant knowledge and their contributions to Brazilian society in different spaces;
- Promotion of actions that demystify the image of migrants, asylum seekers, stateless persons and refugees as generators of crisis.
- Support and promotion of the presence of migrants, asylum seekers, stateless persons and refugees in the planning, management, execution, and evaluation of public policies.

2. Access to Rights

INTRODUCTION

This technical document is the result of the work of several individuals and organizations participating in the Table on Access to Rights on the XII National Seminar of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair. It identifies current difficulties and proposes guidelines to guide access to fundamental rights by the population of migrants and refugees at the federal, regional, and local levels.

The main target audiences of these guidelines include policy makers and managers responsible for policies and actions aimed at the local integration of forced migrants and refugees at the national and local levels. Secondary audiences include governmental and intergovernmental partners; funding agencies; civil society organizations, academia, and community stakeholders, especially migrants and refugees themselves.

The drafting under the responsibility of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair team at UFES under the coordination of Prof. Brunela Vincenzi compiled the suggestions and proposals collected during the event.

Special thanks are given to the contributions of guests and members of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs who shared their experiences on the topic: Dr. João Freitas de Castro Chaves (DPU), Prof. Dr. João Carlos Jarochinski Silva (UFRR), Prof. Me. Angela Vasconcelos (UFF), and Prof. Me. Rafaela Ludolf (UNIFACS).

Brunela Vincenzi
Coordinator of CSVN UFES

MAIN CHALLENGES AND GUIDELINES

Barriers to rights provided for in the Migration Law: national scene

- Excessive normative and practical exceptions related to Venezuelan displacement impact the interpretation of other rights provided for in this Law;
- Lack of structure at the Federal Police to provide proper assistance to migrants and refugees;
- Recrudescence of problems related to undocumented persons, due to unjustified and excessive demands, both from official bodies and society as a whole;
- The difficulty with bank-related matters remains, despite BACEN's resolution regarding the requirement of official Brazilian documents to open a bank account;
- Recent requirements make it difficult to access the CPF.

The Right to the City based on experiences in Rio de Janeiro

- In urban spaces, persons with less financial resources, in general, inhabit precarious spaces and move in precarious ways in search of their rights;
- Daily coexistence with police violence, drug militias, and drug trafficking brings fear, control, and surveillance to the outskirts population;
- The definitive temporary nature of the condition of migrants and refugees (according to A. Sayad), under these conditions, can cause various psychological sufferings to them;
- Increasing demand for assistance in psychosocial centers;
- The increase in irregular occupations demonstrates the impoverishment of this population;
- The lack of state public policies is verified in many Brazilian states;
- Restriction of rights, surveillance, and control.

Regional hosting: conditioning invisibility in Bahia

- In Salvador, the Chair became a reception space for refugees and migrants in the context of a knowledge "vacuum" by the public authorities about them;
- The municipality of Lauro de Freitas became an object of interiorization in partnership with Operation Welcome;
- Internal flows continued after the end of the project, with an increase in the population in extreme poverty in the rural region;
- In the scope of the public power, the lack of policies and knowledge about the conditions of vulnerability of refugees and migrants has hampered their access to rights;
- Social invisibility, reflected in the lack of statistics and public policies, makes this non-policy the actual policy for refugees and migrants.

Specific protection needs: the experience in Roraima

- A recent topic on the political agenda: major advances have been made in the last decade;
- Discretion in the elaboration and application of regulations in the context of a “crisis”;
- Difficulty in more effectively involving municipalities and states in the development of migration and refugee policies;
- Difficulty of the civil society organizations in accessing border regions;
- Need to discuss and eventually de-bureaucratize the dynamics of “wider” protection (from “temporary” to “permanent” status) for several migrants;
- Infra-legal standards (ordinances, decrees, resolutions) overlapping the legislation that should regulate the refuge and immigration issue.

MAIN PROPOSALS

- Invest in the potential of Chairs (which bring together research, outreach and advocacy) in other places where there are present issues of access to refugee and migrant rights;
- Raise social awareness about the invisibility of refugees and migrants and about their rights to break the perspective of social exclusion and xenophobia;
- Demand greater clarity from the government on aspects included in the list of human and fundamental rights, vs. those under administrative law, to prevent discriminatory discretion in the lives of refugees and migrants;
- Encourage the creation of regional public policies by state and municipal governments to receive refugees and migrants.

3. Linguistic Hosting and Intercultural Mediation

INTRODUCTION

This technical document is the result of discussions held during the Linguistic Hosting and Intercultural Mediation table of the XII National Seminar of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair, seeking to identify current difficulties and propose guidelines so the population of forced migrants and refugees can access fundamental rights at the federal, regional and local levels.

The main target audience of these guidelines includes policy makers and managers responsible for actions aimed at linguistic reception and intercultural mediation of refugees and migrants at national and local levels, including teachers linked to Portuguese as a Host Language (PLAC) projects, formulators of specific methodologies for this type of activity and mediators. Secondary audiences include governmental and intergovernmental partners; funding agencies; civil society organizations, academia, and community stakeholders, especially migrants and refugees themselves.

The drafting was under the responsibility of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair at UFRGS team, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Rodrigo Lages, who compiled the suggestions and proposals collected during the event.

Special thanks are given to the contributions of guests and members of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs who shared their experiences on the topic: Prof. Dr. Gabriela da Silva Bulla (SVMC UFRGS), Prof. Dr. Rosane Silveira (SVMC UFSC), Prof. Dr. Bruna Pupatto Ruano (SVMC UFPR), and Prof. Dr. Lucia Maria Assunção Barbosa (SVMC UnB).

Rodrigo Lages
Coordinator of CSVM UFRGS

MAIN CHALLENGES AND GUIDELINES

- Promote the continuing education of teachers;
- Think about strategies to deal with high student turnover;
- Think of teaching strategies during the pandemic: use of digital platforms, asynchronous materials, self-studies, etc.;
- Find funding sources to overcome dependence on academic volunteers and undergraduate students;
- Promote access to digital technologies for refugees and migrants;
- Increase integration with the public basic education network;
- Achieve good learning results even with shorter courses or shorter hours;
- Induce the implementation of public policies for linguistic reception;
- Overcome reception as a concept and transform it into action and mode of operation;
- Overcome, at the level of educational institutions, the paradoxical mechanisms of inclusion-exclusion.

PROPOSALS PRESENTED

- Protagonist of refugees and migrants;
- Free PLAC courses;
- Construction of the PLAC field in an integrated relationship with the city;
- Contemplate the different school and linguistic trajectories and the different personal goals in relation to Portuguese;
- Think about the assessment of proficiency levels as a strategy with a bureaucratic purpose, not necessarily as a pedagogical principle;
- Build a reception policy from the bottom up, with the participation of refugees and migrants;
- Think about the confrontation of racism as an inseparable dimension of linguistic hosting;
- Linguistic hosting involves “education of the vicinity”;
- Democratization of social transit;
- Hosting linguistically involves ethical-epistemic-cultural shifts;
- Promote differentiated entry for refugees and migrants at all educational levels;
- Networking and knowledge building in collaboration and cooperation with PLAC students;
- Attain PLAC teaching positions in public and private universities and in the basic network.

4. Revalidation and Recognition of Diplomas and Insertion in Universities

INTRODUCTION

This guiding document is the result of the dialogue produced within the scope of the Table “Revalidation and recognition of diplomas and Insertion in universities”, held on September 28, 2021, at the XII National Seminar of Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair, and aims to contribute to the actions of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chairs on the agenda. The table was organized and mediated by Professor Dr. Giuliana Redin, representative of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair at the Federal University of Santa Maria (SVMC UFSM), and included the explanation and external participation of Camila Suemi Tardin, representative of the NGO Compassiva, as well as the explanation and participation of professors Me. Ângela Magalhães Vasconcelos, representative of the Universidade Federal Fluminense Chair of the Federal Fluminense University, Dr. Suzete Bessa, representative of the Chair of the Federal University of Goiás, Dr. José Blanes Sala, representative of the Chair of the Federal University of ABC, and Dr. Márcio de Oliveira, representative of Chair of the Federal University of Paraná.

Revalidation and recognition of diplomas and inclusion in universities are challenging themes on the local integration agenda. Refugees and migrants face barriers for their qualification to be recognized in Brazil, they are much more subjected to unequal working conditions and our society loses the potential of human, scientific and cultural qualification, essential for their development.

In addition, the refugee situation also makes it impossible to have equal access to higher education. International reports claim that only 3% of young refugees in the world are able to enter a university.

Despite the Refuge Law that ensures facilitation of the recognition of certificates and diplomas and entry into academic institutions of all levels and the Migration Law that recognizes as a principle “equality of treatment and opportunity” and “social, labor and productive inclusion of migrants through public policies”, we have not advanced in the regulations and public policies that put this State commitment into practice. The local experiences and those within educational institutions have given the answers.

The table provided an opportunity for dialogue on the challenges linked to the agenda, as well as the dissemination of good practices and shared initiatives, compiled in this document by the team of the Chair of the Federal University of Uberlândia, represented by Professor Dr. Marriele Maia, Helloisa Faria Alves dos Santos, Joana D’arc Moreira Nascimento, Luara Dias dos Santos, and Isaac Oliveira Diniz.

Giuliana Redin
Coordinator of CSVN UFSM

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The discussions at the table highlighted the importance of Higher Education Institutions as actors that promote lasting solutions to the challenges of local integration of the refugee and migrant population, particularly through access to education and recognition of professional qualification.

The following aspects related to the agenda were highlighted:

- Lack of specific legislation to support policies for the insertion of the refugee and migrant population in universities.
- Regulations and guidelines of the Ministry of Education regarding the revalidation of diplomas and recognition of titles and certificates have had little resolution in response to the reality experienced by refugees and migrants⁴.
- Lack of knowledge from agents working in universities about the legal aspects related to the protection and rights of refugees and migrants, especially the unfavorable conditions they experience;
- Lack of knowledge about the importance of the revalidation of diplomas and recognition of titles and certificates as a development policy for the host community;
- Structural xenophobia is also present in Higher Education Institutions;
- Lack of knowledge about the support network, existing admission policies, facilitated re-entry and revalidation/recognition of diplomas.

⁴ Article 44 of Law 9.474 of July 22, 1997, which establishes that the recognition of certificates and diplomas, the requirements for obtaining resident status and admission to academic institutions of all levels shall be facilitated, taking into account the unfavorable situation experienced by refugees. Resolution 3 of June 22, 2016 of the National Council of Education which determines that in cases of immigrants who are not in possession of the documentation required for revalidation, universities are allowed to apply evidence of knowledge, content and skills related to the complete course. MEC Ordinance No. 22 of December 13, 2016: Art. 14. Foreign refugees in Brazil, who are not in possession of the documentation required for revalidation and other justified cases, and instructed by specific legislation or rule, may be submitted to proof of knowledge, content and skills related to the complete course, as an exclusive form of evaluation for the revalidation process. Official Newsletter no. 4 of the MEC issued on April 4, 2019 recognizes the right of undocumented immigrants to have their diploma revalidation processes evaluated by educational institutions, regardless of their presentation, the Hague apostille of the transcript and original diploma, therefore, the requirement regarding the presentation of the Consular Seal or The Hague Apostille of the diploma and the academic record cannot be an impediment to evaluate the documents presented by the applicants. Circular Letter nº 01, of April 4, 2019, which allows interested parties who declare themselves as refugees or undocumented immigrants, to present the following information, in order to mitigate the obstacles faced by refugees and undocumented immigrants in their integration with Brazil: 1. Personal testimony about their academic background and professional experience; two. Referral of classmates who have obtained the same diploma; 3. Referral of professors in class who can provide information about your academic performance; Referrals of people or companies with whom you have worked, and who can provide information about your professional performance in your area of training; and 5. The possibility of sending other documents that help the evaluating university to prove your academic training or professional experience. Art. 2 - In addition to these changes, such candidates will no longer be required to send documents that are normally mandatory, such as: diploma, academic record, pedagogical project, among others. Art. 3 - Notwithstanding the possibility of adopting these procedures, we remind you that, according to the discretion of intuition in the exercise of university autonomy, tests of knowledge, content and skills related to the full course may be applied as an exclusive form of evaluation for the process of revalidation, as provided for in Normative Ordinance No. 22, of December 13, 2016 of MEC.

PROPOSALS

Considering the aspects listed above, SVMC are urged to contribute to:

- Promotion of initiatives aimed at giving refugees and migrants access to universities, through differentiated and facilitated admission programs;
- Promotion of initiatives aimed at facilitating the processes of revalidation of diplomas and recognition of titles and certificates in universities, through university autonomy, which consider exemption from fees, document simplification, facilitation in the procedure for receiving and analyzing applications, including response time;
- Promotion of initiatives aimed at the actions for permanence of refugees and migrants in the context of universities, such as the linguistic, psycho-pedagogical, and educational reception as a stage prior to the beginning of the regular development of studies;
- Promotion of initiatives aimed at the insertion of migrants and refugees in postgraduate programs, as an instrument of university internationalization policies;
- Promotion of initiatives with the objective of raising awareness about the importance of the revalidation of diplomas and recognition of titles and certificates as a development policy for the host society;
- Promotion of initiatives with the goal of sensitizing the administrative sectors of universities and the academic community about the refugee protection system and the rights of the migrant and refugee population, particularly about the unfavorable conditions experienced by this population;
- Promotion of initiatives aimed at creating institutional databases on admission policies and processes for recognition and revalidation of diplomas (which include markers of difference);
- Promotion of initiatives that can contribute to the improvement of local, state, and federal legislation on access to education and recognition of the qualification of refugees and migrants;
- Advice to facilitate access to procedures at the respective universities for the entry of migrants and refugees and for the revalidation of diplomas and recognition of titles and certificates.

CSVM UFU, CSVM UFES, CSVM UFRGS and CSVM UFSM

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