

by Elaina Loveland

A Refuge for Refugees

IMAGINE NOT HAVING A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

For millions of people across the globe, not having a home is a reality. Refugees from Darfur, Somalia, Burundi, Iraq, and North Korea are just a few refugee populations that have been displaced due to violence, war, political or religious beliefs, or because their particular social group is ostracized in their native land. With recent violence in Syria, yet another refugee population has emerged. In late September the United Nations warned that the number of Syrian refugees could surpass 700,000. As the recent Syrian example attests, living in exile away from one's familiar customs and culture is a plight that sadly is growing in the twenty-first century rather than diminishing.

Without a home and facing an uncertain future, many refugees can easily find themselves without hope. But fortunately, the higher education community has renewed a sense of hope for many refugees. When they find a home on a campus, refugees can begin to rebuild their lives and imagine a bright future again. This issue's cover story, "Transforming Lives," by Susan Ladika tells the stories of refugees who have been transformed by pursuing their higher education and finding a campus they can call home. And some of these refugees mentioned in this article, like Adeb Yousif, a peace and conflict resolution doctoral student from Darfur, is paving the way to help other refugees like himself by launching a nonprofit dedicated to that mission.

And it's not just refugees that leave their countries and find a home on a college campus. All international students and scholars can excel when they find a new home within the communities of their adopted country as they pursue their degrees. Universities provide many support services for international students and scholars, but getting involved in the local community deepens the sense of community that international visitors can feel while pursuing higher education. "Local Connections," a feature article by Karen Doss Bowman, shows what a difference building a sense of community for international students and scholars can make to their personal and academic success. **IE**

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