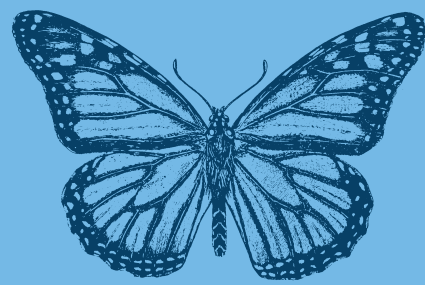


BREAKING BOUNDARIES ACCESS TO EDUCATION



The Right to Education

Articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognize the right of everyone to education. States Parties agree that education "shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity" and it "shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups."



Barriers to Education

Often people on the move, especially those who have undergone forced displacement, experience significant gaps in education. Consistent and quality schooling is often unattainable due to unforeseen and uncertain circumstances. Barriers to schooling can be further exacerbated when newly arrived migrants do not fit the criteria for certain educational programs. States have an obligation to protect and promote the right to education.



Access in Australia

In Australia, while the government provides migrants on temporary visas with a secondary education, it does not provide assistance for them to continue onto tertiary education, leaving them at a great disadvantage to their peers. Despite living domestically in the country, with many graduates completing their entire secondary education in Australia, they are classed as international students. Due to this, to attend university they are required to pay exorbitant international fees upfront. This is unaffordable for the vast majority of people on temporary visas.



Formal & Informal Education

The Mercy World recognises the need for migrants to be accommodated in formal education systems and also supported through informal education to flourish intellectually and socially. Some refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants can often find themselves excluded from formal systems. Education, both formal and informal, is critical to a person's development, inclusion and contribution to society. Importantly, education is recognized as an inherent and inalienable human right meaning that no one's access to education or to educational institutions should be excluded or limited based on their migratory status.



Call to action!

Prioritize access to education at primary, secondary and tertiary level for all migrants, regardless of status. The human right to education should be given the highest priority for all children, adolescents and adults, as a pathway for development both socially, communally and financially.

