UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

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UN Refugee Agency Engagement with University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2016

In August 2016, I had the honour of representing UNHCR's Reginal Office for South-East Asia as the keynote speaker at the **7th University Scholars Leadership Symposium** in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Symposium offered a unique platform to discuss one of the biggest humanitarian challenges facing the world today – forced displacement – with the bright young minds who are best placed to make a difference.

With some 700 participants from around the world, the discussions were refreshingly diverse and covered a wide range of issues. Scholars spoke of the need to end conflicts that are forcing people to flee their homes, and the need for countries to do more to share responsibility for hosting refugees. Many wondered how to change negative attitudes towards refugees, and how to help them back on their feet so that they can contribute to their host and home communities.

I was inspired by the openness of the dialogue, the solidarity towards some of the most vulnerable people on earth, and the innovative ideas towards finding solutions.

Kudos to Humanitarian Affairs UK for organizing this important annual event. It doesn't just shine a light for tomorrow's leaders, it also gives a voice to voiceless people in forgotten crisis around the world.

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