More scholars are displaced and in danger now than at any time since the start of World War II

"We had many explosions in our neighborhood -- next to my home, to my university and to my children's school. After that, I had received multiple death threats, my home has been bombed. For that reason, I was forced to move, hoping to find a safe place to survive with my two kids. The brazen nature of these incidents terrifies and haunts me. My daily journey to my university is fraught with danger. I'm targeted by the regime and by the rebels because I'm a woman from a religious minority group and a scientist. My colleague was assassinated by armed groups." – IIE-SRF Scholar

Rescuing threatened scholars and defending academic freedom has been part of IIE's vision and history for over 100 years. In the 1930s, IIE was instrumental in founding the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars, which rescued more than 330 scholars fleeing persecution in Europe. IIE established the Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF) in 2002 to make permanent its commitment to supporting endangered scholars. Today, IIE-SRF is the only global program that arranges and funds fellowships for threatened and displaced scholars at partnering higher education institutions worldwide. More than 400 partner institutions around the world have joined in this effort to protect scholars worldwide.

As part of IIE's scholar rescue centennial in 2020, IIE-SRF launched a new initiative to build on and strengthen its global partnership network, called the IIE-SRF Alliance. Alliance partners include individuals, institutions, and organizations that are committed to offering practical support to threatened and displaced scholars, such as temporary academic positions, professional development opportunities, and career advancement.

How IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund works

- Professors, researchers, and intellectuals from any country and any discipline may apply for fellowships to support temporary visits to institutions in any safe country. Applications are accepted at any time.
- A selection committee reviews vetted applications and awards fellowships to scholars whose lives and work are threatened. The committee considers the quality of scholarship, severity of the threats faced, and other factors.
- The fellowship package includes a grant of up to $25,000 (typically renewable for a second year), individual health insurance, funding for relocation to the host country, professional development and advising resources, and dedicated support from IIE-SRF and its partners – before, during, and after the fellowship.
- Fellowship grants are issued to hosting institutions, which appoint fellows to a visiting academic position and generally provide financial support that is equal to or greater than the IIE-SRF award.
- Fellows resume their work in safety at the host institution—teaching courses and seminars, guest lecturing, participating in academic events, completing research, publishing their work—throughout the fellowship.
- If conditions improve sufficiently, scholars may return home to continue their work and help rebuild universities and societies ravaged by conflict, repression, and fear.

Quick facts as of August 2020

IIE-SRF awards:	1,380 (including renewal awards)
Scholars' countries of origin: 60	Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Greece, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe
Host university countries: 46	Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, China (Hong Kong), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iraq (Kurdistan), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States

Please join us by nominating, hosting, or supporting a scholar.