



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Academic Excellence & Missionary Spirit

10

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL:

**REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**



10TH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL
REDUCED INEQUALITIES



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SDG 10.6.3 ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS



10TH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

MORE SCHOOLS TO OPEN DOORS TO ROHINGYA SCHOLARS UNDER THE PHILIPPINES' CPATH PROGRAMME

Published in the **UNHCR Website:** <https://www.unhcr.org/ph/complementary-pathways>

The Government of the Philippines, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Philippines office, has continued to advance the initiative known as the Complementary Pathways (CPATH) programme. This initiative is designed to provide select Rohingya refugee youth displaced in Southeast Asia with access to higher education in the Philippines, thereby enabling a safe and regulated mode of admission, residence, study, and eventually possibility for work and self-reliance. (UNHCR)

The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim minority from Myanmar's Rakhine State, who have faced decades of violence, discrimination, and mass displacement (particularly since August 2017). Recognising their acute protection needs and the importance of durable solutions (rather than indefinite limbo), the Philippines government pledged, in the run-up to the Global Refugee Forum 2019, to explore "complementary pathways" (i.e., formal, safe admission routes) for refugees. In her acceptance speech, Ms. De Guzman-Prestousa emphasized SLU's commitment to living out its core values of inclusivity and diversity beyond policy and documentation, ensuring they are visible in everyday campus life. RGADC-CAR and DSWD Assistant Secretary Janet P. Armas commended SLU for shaping a generation of gender advocates through an empowering academic environment. The recognition reaffirms SLU's leading role in promoting inclusivity and social equity while advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality, reduced inequalities, peace and justice, and partnerships for sustainable progress.



Under this whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, multiple national agencies (education, immigration, social welfare, justice) partner with UNHCR and academic institutions to provide documentation, welfare support, education, and employment pathways.

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Recently, UNHCR Philippines announced that more schools in the country are joining the CPath programme to open additional academic spots for Rohingya scholars. ([UNHCR](#)) The creation of a network of partner schools is intended to strengthen sustainability, institutionalise support, and ensure continuity for the programme. ([UNHCR](#))

Furthermore, a new batch of Rohingya refugee-scholars arrived in the Philippines under the CPath programme. For example, as of July 2025, the Philippines welcomed its 4th batch of Rohingya refugees under this scheme. ([Department of Foreign Affairs](#))

An important event in the timeline was the 2nd National CPath Gathering, held from 7-10 January 2025 at Saint Louis University (SLU), Baguio City, which brought together approximately 50 Rohingya scholars enrolled in six different higher-education institutions, along with partner schools, government and UNHCR staff.



The expansion of the partner-school network is key to scaling and institutionalising the programme beyond ad-hoc arrangements. By drawing in more universities, more slots, co-funding arrangements and local support, the programme can serve more scholars and build a sustainable model.

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From a governmental and humanitarian policy perspective, the CPath programme aligns with the UN SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth) and SDG 1 (No Poverty). It also underscores the Philippines' tradition of being a welcoming country to refugees and displaced persons.

The CPath programme in the Philippines represents a forward-looking, inclusive approach to refugee protection and education. By opening more schools, forging stronger institutional partnerships, and linking education to employment, the initiative offers Rohingya refugee youth not just access, but a real chance for empowerment, integration and long-term resilience. The expansion of this effort signals a deepening commitment by the Philippines government, UNHCR and academic partners to translate humanitarian promise into practical, sustainable pathways for vulnerable populations.

SLU Internationalization Week 2024: FOSTERING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

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Saint Louis University (SLU) held the opening ceremony of the four-day Internationalization Week organized by the Office of Global Relations and Alumni Affairs (OGRAA) on 23 April 2024 at the Fr. Francis Gevers Hall, Diego Silang Building, SLU Main Campus. With the theme, “Celebrating Diversity, Connecting Cultures,” international students, school administrators, faculty members and promoters of internationalization took part in the celebration of the pursuit and accomplishments of internationalization.

