

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GYA's strategic initiative, mentoring and workshops support at-risk and displaced scholars
- GYA declares support for Afghan scholars
- GYA endorses Scholars At Risk appeal to help Afghan scholars, researchers and civil society workers
- GYA endorses the Lindau Declaration 2020 on Sustainable Cooperative Open Science

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- [Read the GYA Declaration of Support for Afghan Scholars](#)
- [Join the Scholars At Risk urgent appeal to help Afghan scholars and researchers](#)
- [Sign and Support the Lindau Guidelines supporting Open Science](#)
- [Learn more about the GYA's At-risk Scholars Initiative](#)

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy (GYA) in the third quarter of 2021, and complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#); [subscribe here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details.

RECENT GYA STATEMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Sometimes our members' early-career researcher perspective necessitates a specific GYA statement, sometimes it results in the endorsement of what our partners have already communicated, and in certain important cases, it involves both.

The latter is the case when it comes to our support of Afghanistan scholars. Here we have both issued the [GYA Declaration of Support for Afghan Scholars](#), which contains recommendations such as ending the forced return of scholars to Afghanistan, extending current visas and facilitating and accelerating visa processing for Afghan students and scholars.

We have also joined other scholars-at-risk organisations in their appeal to European Union institutions to secure the lives and careers of those in danger due to the current situation in Afghanistan.

As an organisation we have also taken concrete steps to support at-risk scholars and researchers. These activities are detailed on page 2.

And though not related per se, the recent declaration from the Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting serves as an opportunity for the GYA to reiterate some of our principal positions when it comes to Open Science.

GYA ENDORSES THE 10 GOALS OF THE LINDAU DECLARATION 2020 ON SUSTAINABLE COOPERATIVE OPEN SCIENCE

The GYA has long been a nominating partner for the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate meetings, which have inspired many of our members who had the opportunity to participate.

As a forum facilitating the cooperation of highly successful researchers who have received the Nobel Prize with early-career researchers, Postdocs and PhD students, the Lindau Meeting was the right forum to bring about a statement that aligns to GYA's core interests.

The Lindau Declaration 2020 on Sustainable Cooperative Open Science aims to kindle widespread support for a new approach to global, sustainable, cooperative Open Science. While formulated with basic research as its primary focus, the declaration's principles and goals apply to all types of science.

The declaration draws upon, refers to and supports various existing initiatives. As such, it is a call to widely support new ways in science. We invite all to take the discussion a step further by engaging with the [Lindau Declaration 2020 on Sustainable Cooperative Science](#).

GYA SUPPORTS AT-RISK AND DISPLACED SCHOLARS THROUGH ITS STRATEGIC INITIATIVE, MENTORING AND WORKSHOPS

Since 2017, GYA members have sought ways to support early-career at-risk and displaced scholars in their career development through the [At-Risk Scholars Initiative](#), a mentoring and membership programme that collaborates within a network of partner organisations.

At our 2021 online Annual General Meeting, the GYA reinforced its commitment to protecting at-risk scholars and academic freedom by making permanent an alternative selection path to GYA membership for one at-risk scholar applicant per year, through a confidential application and evaluation process. [Read more here](#).

In addition to individual mentoring, the At-Risk Scholars Initiative continues to develop online and in-person workshop formats to address various aspects of professional development in displaced scholars' new countries. A webinar on "[Career options beyond academia](#)", and the [second in-person professional development workshop](#) at Wolfson College, University of Oxford, are two recent examples of regionally focused meetings run in cooperation with partner organisations.

The GYA is keen to collaborate with partners in raising awareness about the need to support at-risk scholars and in offering specific professional development webinars and workshops in different world regions.

GYA ENDORSES SCHOLARS AT RISK APPEAL TO SUPPORT AFGHAN SCHOLARS

The GYA joins higher education associations, networks, and academies to endorse an [urgent appeal by Scholars at Risk](#) (SAR) to European governments and European Union institutions to take immediate action to secure the lives and careers of Afghanistan's scholars, students, and civil society actors.

European higher education institutions are at the forefront of these efforts: over the past two years, 80% of positions of safe haven arranged by SAR were in Europe. These include [SAR](#), the [PAUSE programme in France](#), the [Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#), the [Council for At-Risk Academics \(Cara\)](#) and the [Institute for International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund](#), who arrange temporary positions at higher education institutions around the world for those who are unable to work safely in their home countries.

The GYA encourages other academies and young academies to [join in supporting Afghanistan's scholars](#).

GYA DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN SCHOLARS

The members and alumni of the GYA urge governments, universities and scientific organisations to take immediate action to secure the lives and careers of Afghanistan's scholars and students. A particular focus is necessary to protect women, children, and at-risk groups.

We support and encourage action by National (Young) Academies and scientific communities around the globe to protect the scientific and educational achievements that have been realised in Afghanistan, all of which were gained with the tremendous efforts of the Afghan nation and international organisations.

We hope these actions will help safeguard the lives of students and scholars in Afghanistan who are the pillars of the Afghan scientific community, and also protect education resources in the country that will help forge a brighter future in Afghanistan.

Read the specific recommendations of the [GYA Declaration of Support for Afghan Scholars](#).

[Watch EC member Encieh Erfani \(IASBS, Iran\) discuss the GYA's Declaration of Support for Afghan scholars.](#)

ABOUT THE GYA

The vision of the GYA is *science for all; science for the future*, and its mission is to give a voice to young scientists and researchers around the world. The GYA, founded in 2010, is an independent science academy of 200 outstanding early- to mid-career researchers from six continents who are selected from across disciplines based on their academic excellence and commitment to engage with society. GYA members serve five-year terms, and the GYA presently counts members and alumni from 94 countries. The GYA administrative Office is publicly funded and hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The wide array of GYA activities are supported by a range of international public and private funders.

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