



cara

Strategy overview
2026-2029



The challenge

Every year, hundreds of thousands of academics are endangered by conflict, persecution, and authoritarian regimes. Forced to discontinue their work, they can no longer teach, research, or exercise their academic freedom.

The consequences reach far beyond the individual. Universities lose expertise. Societies lose critical thinking, innovation, and informed debate. In the most fragile contexts, entire knowledge systems are at risk.

This is not a series of isolated crises. It is a sustained and growing global challenge.

Our purpose

To help knowledge thrive, everywhere.

Our mission

Cara provides a lifeline to academics at risk, enabling them to continue their teaching and research. When academics continue their work, knowledge grows, higher education systems stay resilient, and societies benefit.

We convene a network of 135 UK universities to act collectively, combining direct support to individuals with country programmes that strengthen entire higher education systems.

- Our Fellowship Programme places academics at UK universities where they can continue their work in safety.
- Our Country Programmes support those who remain in high-risk contexts with professional development, research resources, and connection to the global academic community.
- Our coordinated virtual support brings assistance to at-risk academics wherever they are and whenever they need it.



The difference we make

For more than 90 years, more than 12,000 academics have accessed our support and gone on to make enduring contributions to academia. Among them: 16 Nobel Prize winners, 18 fellows later knighted, and more than 100 fellows of the Royal Academy and British Academy.

Through their engagement with Cara, academic fellows have a direct positive impact on the UK. Their work also sustains the knowledge needed for thriving societies worldwide.

Our vision

Demand for our support has grown sixfold since 2013. Enquiries have risen by 400% since 2020. This moment demands more than crisis response. It demands transformation.

In response, we are strengthening post-placement pathways, expanding programmes into more countries, and scaling our reach with more robust virtual support. We are building global alliances that will make the protection of knowledge structural, sustained, and truly worldwide.

Specifically, by the end of 2026, we will:

- Support 120–150 academics through our Fellowship Programme and strengthen post-placement outcomes.
- Launch a virtual support platform and a Palestine Programme pilot, and identify the locus and outline of a second country programme.
- Create an active Cara community for collective impact by connecting with our alumni, deepening partnerships with our fellows and university partners, and forming strategic alliances with organisations that share our mission.
- Amplify the impact of Cara's work through improved monitoring and evaluation, knowledge exchange, and proactive communications.

By 2033, our centenary year, Cara will leverage our leadership position to formalise a global alliance with organisations doing similar work. Together we can reach more academics, serve a rapidly growing need, and scale our impact.



Our values

Collaboration & community: We stand in solidarity with the academics and families we support, amplifying their voices and contributions to the academic community.

Integrity & trust: We build every relationship on a foundation of trust and commitment, and take responsibility for our decisions.

Resilience through knowledge and learning: We advance and protect learning, recognising education as resilience in the face of persecution.

Get involved

The protection of knowledge is a shared responsibility.

Universities can host fellows on campus or virtually, join Cara's network, or support country programmes.

Individuals can donate, amplify Cara's mission, or provide expertise as academic supervisors and mentors.

Partner organisations with a shared mission can provide funding, expertise, and in-kind support.

Together, we can ensure that academics at risk are not silenced, and that the knowledge they create continues to benefit society for generations to come.

When academics thrive, knowledge prospers.



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Cara (The Council For At-Risk Academics)

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