



TALENT BEYOND —BOUNDARIES—

Talent Beyond Boundaries was founded in 2015 by Mary Louise and Bruce Cohen, while members of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative fellowship.



Why We Exist.

During their fellowship at Harvard, Bruce and Mary Louise Cohen became aware of the large numbers of skilled refugees facing barriers to practicing their professions and with few or no options to move safely and legally to rebuild their lives and careers.

As they began their research, the Cohens found that for many decades, academics and policy makers had been discussing labor mobility as a potential solution for refugees by academics and policymakers for decades, yet no group had ever implemented labor mobility pathways for refugees.

The Cohens traveled extensively to learn from refugee communities, NGOs, and U.N. agencies before launching Talent Beyond Boundaries' pilot project. Throughout the project's development, refugees, governments, and civil society groups affirmed the great need for a pathway to solutions that recognized refugee skills while providing for safe, legal migration.

With seed funding from their own family foundation, Talent Beyond Boundaries was born, and partnerships formed with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. State Department to launch a program in Jordan and Lebanon.

In 2016 TBB joined forces with a similar Australian based initiative, the Refugee Jobs Marketplace, started by philanthropist and businessman John Cameron. John is now Vice Chairman of the TBB board.

TBB is committed to being a catalyst for refugee labor mobility, collaborating with governments, the private sector, and civil society groups to increase the number of complementary pathways available to refugees to move to safety and prosperity.