



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

JAMES A. BANKS
KERRY AND LINDA KILLINGER ENDOWED CHAIR IN DIVERSITY STUDIES EMERITUS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

July 27, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to offer my strongest professional recommendation for Professor Rhonda Sofer.

Over many years I have come to know Professor Sofer through our shared commitment to multicultural education, diversity, and international collaboration. Our professional relationship has included my participation as a keynote speaker at two international conferences she organized, including the international conference of the European TEMPUS project *DOIT (Development of an International Model for Curriculum Reform in Multicultural Education and Diversity Training)*. I have also had the opportunity to invite Professor Sofer to serve as a critical reader of a chapter in a book I edited, *Citizenship Education and Global Migration: Implications for Theory, Research, and Teaching*, which was published by the American Educational Research Association in 1917. I only ask colleagues whose scholarly judgment I highly respect to prepare prepublication reviews of my articles and books.

Professor Sofer represents a rare combination of scholar, educational leader, and international strategist. Throughout her career she has demonstrated that multicultural education is not simply an academic field of study but a guiding framework for educational transformation. Her work consistently reflects the belief that diversity, equity, intercultural understanding, and democratic values should be woven into the culture of educational institutions rather than treated as isolated topics within the curriculum.

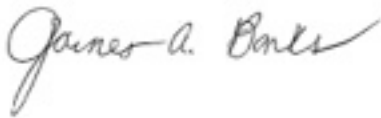
What has particularly impressed me is Professor Sofer's ability to translate educational ideals into sustainable institutional practice. She has successfully developed and led complex international partnerships involving universities, governments, and international organizations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caucasus. Through these collaborations she has helped institutions strengthen teacher education, curriculum development, civic education, internationalization, and professional capacity while fostering meaningful dialogue among diverse cultural communities. Her leadership of international projects promoting multicultural education and democratic citizenship has demonstrated how academic cooperation can become a powerful catalyst for institutional and social change.

Professor Sofer possesses exceptional organizational ability, strategic vision, and cultural sensitivity. She has a remarkable capacity to bring together individuals from diverse national, cultural, religious, and professional backgrounds and create an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and shared purpose. These qualities are increasingly important in today's interconnected global world.

Equally important is her unwavering commitment to educational excellence. Whether working with faculty members, educational leaders, ministries of education, or international organizations, she consistently approaches her work with intellectual rigor, professionalism, integrity, and deep respect for cultural diversity.

I am pleased to strongly recommend Professor Rhonda Sofer as an international consultant, advisor, researcher, and leader in higher education, multicultural education, and international institutional development. I am confident that any institution or organization that has the opportunity to work with her will benefit greatly from her expertise, experience, vision, and commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James A. Banks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James A. Banks
Kerry and Linda Killinger Endowed Chair in Diversity Studies Emeritus
Past President, American Educational Research Association
Member, National Academy of Education
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences