



**E.AHAMED MODEL
UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE 2025 INDIA**



Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)



***Promoting Refugee Health and Protection:
Strengthening Support Systems and Advancing
Inclusive Asylum Policies***

BACKGROUND GUIDE

**Unity Transcending Boundaries:
Patching Together the Global Mosaic**

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE



The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), formally known as the Third Committee of the UNGA, is an important body focused on addressing a broad array of global issues associated with human rights, social development, and cultural matters.



Formation and Early Years

SOCHUM was established in 1948 due to the need to address social and humanitarian issues that had gained international prominence due to the repercussions of World War II. The beginning of SOCHUM was purely efforts to clearly define and protect fundamental rights, culminating in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Evolution and Expansion

Over the past years, SOCHUM's command has expanded covering a wide array of problems, reflecting the changing priorities of the international society. SOCHUM's work has also contributed to the making and adoption of many international treaties like the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

At the end of the Cold War, new opportunities for international cooperation arose and the committee's agenda expanded to a wider array of topics such as the rights of children, elderly, and persons with disabilities.

In the United Nations, SOCHUM plays a key role in stimulating international cooperating and promoting fundamental human rights, cultural diversity, and social justice worldwide. Its work is imperative to advancing the United Nations' mission of promoting peace, security, and human dignity for all.

SOCHUM plays a key role in addressing a large variety of issues facing the international community. Through its work on human rights, social development and cultural preservation, SOCHUM facilitates principles of dignity, equality, and justice that go in line with the UN. As the world continues to face more complex and interconnected challenges, SOCHUM's contributions from the past remain essential to build more peaceful, just, and a more inclusive international society



Influence in the United Nations

SOCHUM's influence within the UN is profound as it addresses issues that are at the heart of the UN's mission which is to promote equality, dignity, and social progress. SOCHUM's works often intersect with other UN bodies, including UNHRC, ECOSOC, and many other specialized agencies like UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR. Through its resolutions and reports, SOCHUM serves as a valuable guide for shaping policies and programs of these above-mentioned entities.



Activities and Achievements

The committee addresses a large scope of issues under human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Cultural preservation and promoting diversity are other important aspects of SOCHUM's work.

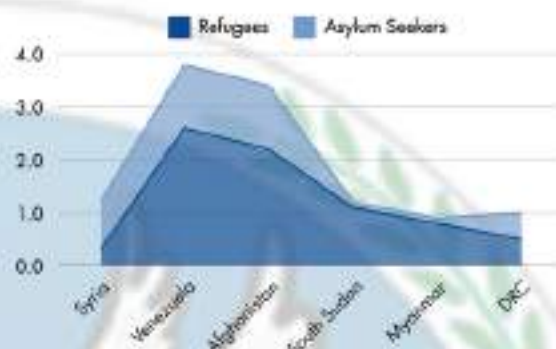
SOCHUM has played a crucial role in framing policies for refugees and also in creating consciousness about the refugee issues. The committee has made recommendations which include increased support to refugee hosting countries, fight against xenophobia and discrimination of refugees and refugees' improved protection against sexual and gender based violence in the refugees' camps. SOCHUM helped develop the Global Compact on Refugees (2018), which offers a strategic blueprint of more predictable and equitable sharing of responsibilities among states to respond to refugee situations.

INTRODUCTION

“

*Refugee Health
and Protection
Advancing
Asylum Policies*

The global refugee crisis has made it imperative to enhance the health and protection of displaced populations. It comes as no surprise that refugees face a number of obstacles including limited healthcare, education, legal support, and employment opportunities.



10 MILLION+

are confined in this situation, they cannot receive proper treatment for adequately sick, cannot study or find work, their legal status remains uncertain for years.

The issues of their health and safety are international concerns; governments have the responsibility to not let the refugees sit and rot in camps but rather be assisted, equipped to establish their lives again.



1951 CONVENTION 1967 PROTOCOL

The main principles of refugee law are set out in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, which sets out the general definition of a refugee and guarantees refugees a number of rights specific to their status.

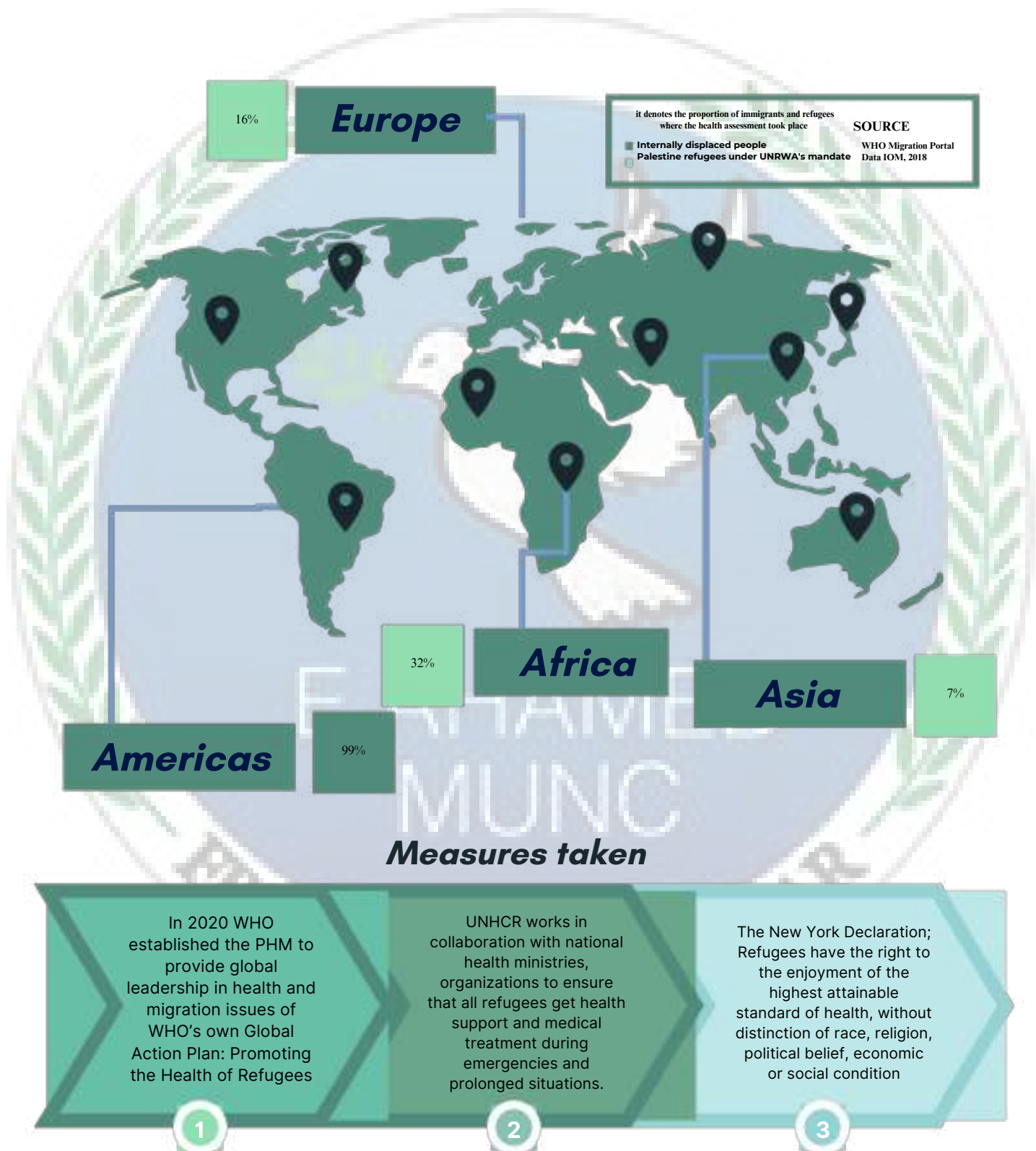
HEALTH IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL, INCLUDING REFUGEES.

Under the 1951 Refugee Convention, people who flee their homes should get the same health care as the locals, but worldwide, not enough work has gone into this.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Asylum seekers who are being discriminated against, human trafficked, and suffering from the effects of civil wars and oppressive regimes have seen 80 million individuals flee their own countries. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for example defines these people as ones who are denied basic necessities of life including; adequate and affordable medical care, legal assistance, as well as protection from the elements.

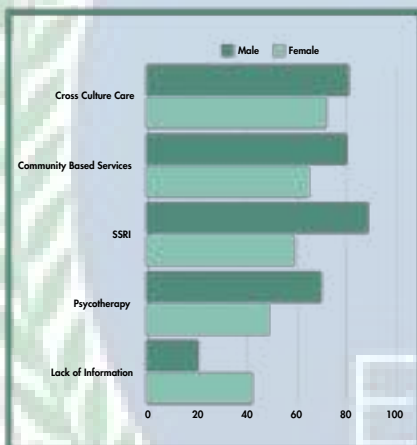
Equitable access to Primary Healthcare and Mental Health Support





Global Healthcare

The global figure of migrants is standing around one billion, which makes eight percent of the people living in the world today. They experience high levels of violence, trauma and often have to deal with loss, and their living conditions are not easy.

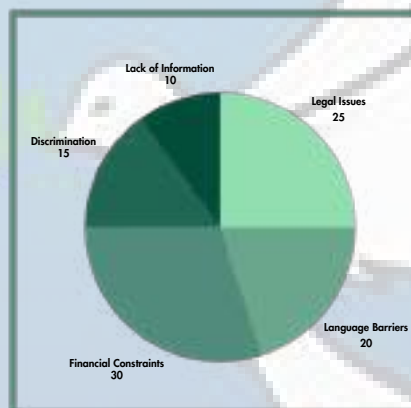


Mental Health Support

Refugees receive traumatic experiences prior to forced removal, after arrival and living in the asylum; they are exposed to abuse, death of their loved ones, and suffering. These experiences lead to mental health issues including PTSD, depression, anxiety and any other psychological and emotional issue a survivor may develop.

Primary Healthcare Access

Primary care in healthcare can be defined as a first level of contact patients have with the health care system, refugee primary healthcare is important in quite many areas such as diagnosis and treatment means and checking diseases early it means that when diseases are detected early they can be effectively and cheaply dealt with and for refugees with existing ailments that need constant attention.



Mental healthcare is crucial for refugees as it enhances the achievement of better physical health and well-being as well as participation in different activities in life including work and education. Social services improve refugees' well-being socially because it assists them to relate well with others in such regions.



Barriers faced by Refugees

Cultural differences and misunderstandings pose a challenge in healthcare settings

Refugees might not have a strong network of people to help them understand and access healthcare services and also receive incorrect information about available resources.

Several traumatic experiences faced by the refugees can make them reluctant to seek help or talk about their experiences

There is a cultural stigma around mental health issues which discourages refugees from seeking help, as they may fear discrimination or social exclusion.

Legal protection and rights of refugees



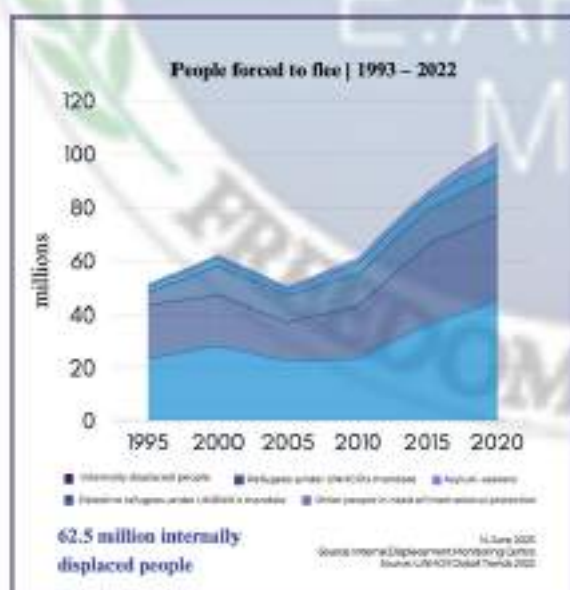
The rights granted to asylum-seekers and refugees stem from their pursuit of asylum with the host country bearing responsibility for ensuring these rights. These entitlements are articulated in both the Refugee Convention and various human rights treaties. They encompass facets such as the right to remain in the host country without facing deportation to the nation of origin (e.g., non-refoulement), access to education, healthcare, housing, employment, and family reunification, among other pertinent issues.

Presently in 2024 when

1 in every 74

people on Earth has been **forced** to flee.

Refugees must be granted fundamental human rights solely because **they are human** and are entitled to freedom.



Refugee protection encompasses a spectrum of measures aimed at upholding the complete rights of refugees. This includes establishing an environment supportive of human dignity, preventing and alleviating the direct consequences of certain violations, and restoring dignified living conditions through reparations, restitution, and rehabilitation measures.

Refugees are accredited to internationally recognized and universally accepted rights based on the ideas of universality, equality, and non-discrimination, created within treaties, customary international law, national legislation, and other regulatory frameworks that establish and protect their full exercise. They are for all human beings.

LEGAL PROTECTION AND RIGHTS OF REFUGEES



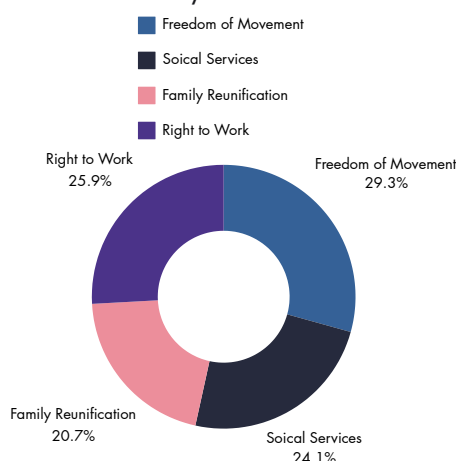
ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP IN JORDAN:

Zaatari, one of the largest refugee camps in the world, is home to over 80,000 Syrian refugees and has evolved into a bustling city of sorts, complete with shops, schools, and even businesses run by the refugees themselves. Refugees have built a vibrant community despite the hardships, showcasing resilience and ingenuity.

However, even in such a dynamic environment, refugees face legal challenges such as restricted freedom of movement and difficulties accessing the formal job market. This highlights the complex balance between survival and the limitations of refugee rights in host countries.

Legal protection for refugees does not start when they acquire the formal status of a refugee; they begin the moment they cross the borders into a potential country of asylum. This marks the application of the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits the return of any potential asylum-seeker to their nation of origin or to any other territory where their safety may be compromised, affirming the right of all individuals to seek asylum.

It is imperative that it is ensured that they have a fair chance to seek asylum and avoid persecution. This not only fulfills our international obligations but recognizes the inherent human right to seek safety.



Family Reunification:

While international law provides for family reunification, in practice, many countries impose significant barriers and bureaucratic hurdles that can delay or prevent refugees from being reunited with their families.

Right to Work:

Refugees often face significant barriers to employment in their host countries. While international law supports them many nations place restrictions on the types of jobs they can hold. Refugees may be forced into informal or precarious employment, limiting their economic opportunities and overall stability.

LIMITATIONS

HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN RIGHTS THAT REFUGEES GENERALLY DO NOT POSSESS, OR THAT ARE RESTRICTED

Freedom of Movement:

In many countries, refugees may face restrictions on their freedom of movement. They might be required to live in specific areas or camps, or they may need special permits to travel outside designated areas.

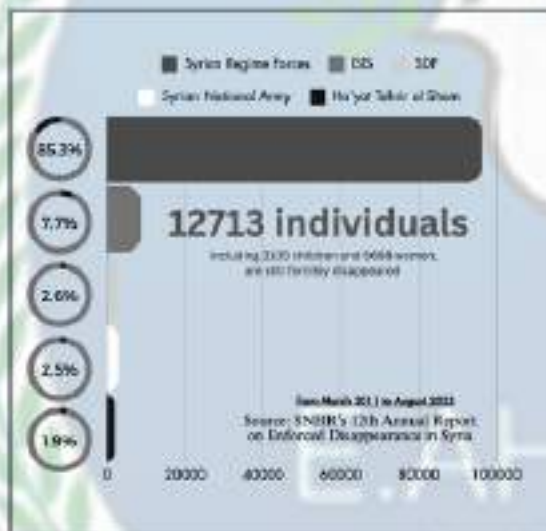
Social Services and Benefits:

Access to social services and benefits such as healthcare, education, and social security can be limited for refugees. They might not be entitled to the same level of benefits as citizens or legal permanent



Enforced Disappearance

Forced disappearance is a situation where people are abducted, arrested or kidnapped by authorities or those acting on behalf of the state without any subsequent recognition being made about their status. This is a clear violation of human rights as highlighted and preserved in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons of Right to Enforced Disappearance and Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.



The effects of enforced disappearances are more significant than torture inflicted on the individuals who have been disappeared, the psychological trauma that the victims go through, the uncertainty and hope of a relative change that comes with constant fear of losing their dues. This element of enforced disappearance is used as a mechanism to spread a culture of intolerance of the opposed society.

International legal instruments for protection

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 2010

The United Nations Declaration on the Protection of all Persons From Enforced Disappearance adopted in 1992

The Inter-American Convention against Forced Disappearance of Persons approved in 1994

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

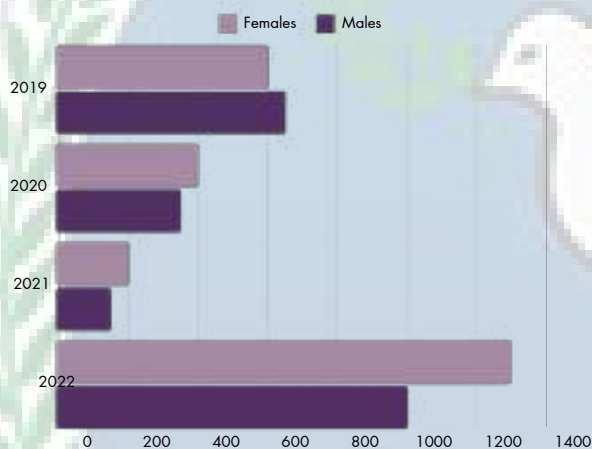
The Geneva Conventions of 1949

Gender-Based Violence and Protection - Refugees

Gender violence is a situation whereby a person uses physical force, threat, or coercion to harm, control or intimidate a person of the opposite gender or any gender not in compliance with interactive sex roles prescribed by the society. It can take many different forms, including intimate partner abuse, sexual assault, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and so-called "honour crimes."



Number of Hospitalisations VS Years



GBV is more prevalent in stateless people, internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers. According to studies, up to one-third of women may encounter physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives. There are more than 57.6 million stateless or forcibly displaced women and girls. GBV is not caused by migration. However, migrants may encounter circumstances that may make them more vulnerable to GBV while traveling. GBV Victims often live with long-lasting consequences that are worsened by their fear of disclosure and stigmatization.

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence



VOICES FROM A GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

PROMOTE SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY

The interviewee, a 57-year-old man, with hair prematurely gray, and eyes filled with a yearning that speaks volumes. A skilled engineer, forced to flee his homeland and separated from his wife and five children. Years in limbo unable to acquire a temporary visa - a cruel reminder of the life he longs for – a simple one, surrounded by loved ones ***“Though I am 57, I look like a 70-year-old man. I am not relaxed...time passes very slowly...every day I think of them...every small problem seems big for me because of the situation...I am becoming weak...I need someone to look after me.”***

Across the globe, another interviewee - a 20-year-old young man, barely an adult, carries the weight of ‘family’ on his shoulders. The eldest son fled war alone, and a single letter from the Red Cross remains as a lifeline, a signal of hope that he can meet his family again, and provide and protect his family again. The silence is deafening, the worry a constant ache. He longs for a phone call, a familiar voice, anything to bridge the agonizing gap. ***“It would be lovely to hear their voices even on the phone...I always think about them. But there’s nothing really I could do”***



These are just two faces of a global crisis – the heartbreak of refugee families torn apart by conflict. The human cost of family separation ends up spending the psychological stature of a person - the separation isn't just a physical distance. A New South Wales observation study found refugees on temporary visas experienced guilt knowing their families remained in danger, while they were relatively safe.

“Is this fair? What is the use of living here while our families are burning in Afghanistan?” I cannot sleep till 4 am because of my anxiety. Thoughts of my children are driving me insane. To add to this I share my room with 12 people”
[Fernandes, 2002]



Legal Frameworks

Family Reunification

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child builds on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), outlining State obligations to protect children's rights. Article 19 of the Charter ensures every child's entitlement to parental care and protection and, whenever possible, the right to reside with their parents.

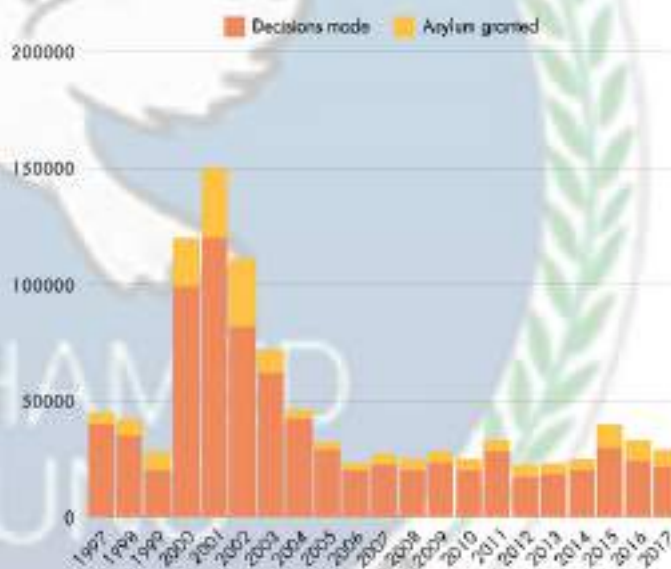


The same is echoed in various regional conventions that is The Article 17(1) of the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR) , The Article 16 of both the 1961 European Social Charter and the 1996 Revised European Social Charter and the Article 18 of the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights affirms that the family is "the natural unit and basis of society" and obligates States Parties to protect and assist the family

Under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the States Parties are obliged to afford protection to the refugees, along with their basic right to family.

The Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, which adopted the 1951 Refugee Convention, states that "the unity of the family, the natural and fundamental group unit of society, is an essential right of the refugee" and recommends that governments

"take the necessary measures for the protection of the refugee's family, especially with a view to ensuring that the unity of the family is maintained."



91,000

resettled globally
through family
reunification programs

1.4M

family permits were
issued in EU
countries

26 M

refugees globally who
have been separated
from their families.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION



WHY AND HOW

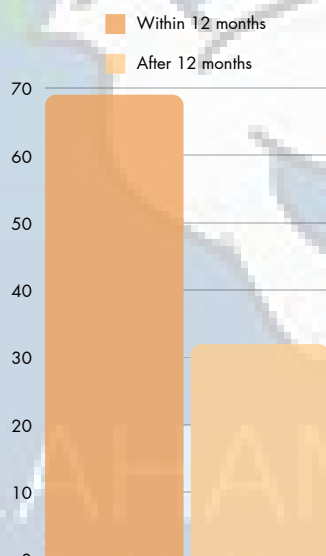
Well-designed refugee family reunification procedures should try to prevent refugees from taking dangerous journeys and deterring smuggling networks from exploiting their need to join their families

United families settle better and offer safety to the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and elderly people.

In addition, they contribute to economic self-reliance. **Family support goes beyond the conventional definition to all who depend on each other for security and protection.**

Despite such a comprehensive set of legal provisions aimed at protecting families, many people still find it very hard to reunite with their loved ones. Instead of new laws, concrete measures should be sought in order to ensure that contacts and relations between the members of a family separated from each other are maintained on a continuous basis. This would lessen the difficulties arising from the separation and give due respect to the basic right to family life enshrined in international law.

“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”
– Article 16, paragraph 3, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



As a young Hazara woman whose father fled Afghanistan and brought his family to Australia after five years stated: “That’s the thing that my father always emphasizes – to be together you are stronger. ... That’s why, I reckon I wouldn’t be doing as well if I didn’t have the support of my family.”

As we refocus on the rich tapestry of cultural legends passed down by ancestors all over the world through ballads, we find tales that illuminate the value of family and how tragic it is to be a refugee. From **The Epic of Gilgamesh in ancient Mesopotamia** to The Legend of the **Hmong People in China** and **The Story of the Garifuna People in the Caribbean**, these stories reveal the pain of being displaced and not knowing where you are going or how to survive there. Isolation from family in such dire circumstances is like trying to bring a knife to a gunfight while having no army to fall back upon



WHEN THE SYSTEM FAILS

A refugee family in the United Kingdom suffered through a nightmare after its application for reunion was rejected due to incomplete documents. Marooned in Tunisia, the family had no passports and barely managed to survive since the spouse was not allowed to work. The most tragic of incidents befell an Australian refugee whose brother was kidnapped and killed in Iraq after his several visa applications failed to materialize.



*"For the state I
am just a case,"
says Father
Solomon, sadly.
"They don't
know my face,
my person, they
don't care."*

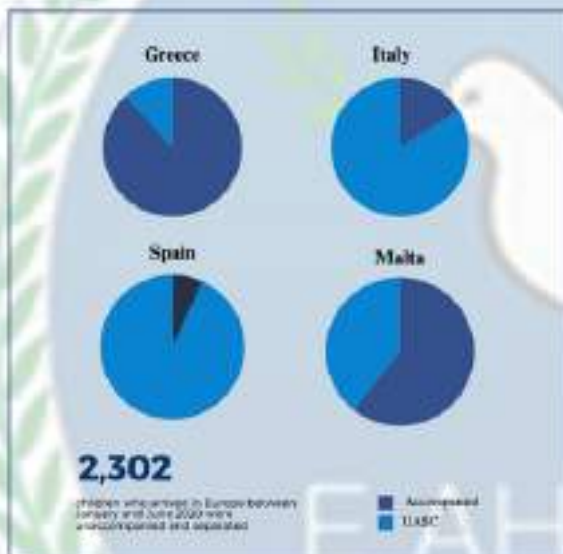
Walking through the streets of Athens, there is a calm about Solomon Haile Mesein that belies the suffering and pain of separation that he has endured for the past nine years. An Eritrean priest of the Orthodox Church, Father Solomon fled his homeland in 2007, leaving behind his elderly parents

A Pakistani refugee waited seven long years for his wife and disabled daughter to reach him in Australia. These stories reflect the deep pain of separation that refugees have to endure. Another story is that of Solomon Haile Mesein's silent resilience. Separated from his family for seven agonizing years, his attempts at reunification were foiled by red tape. Unable to obtain the necessary documents from Eritrea, Solomon clings to a thread of hope. There are many other Solomon's deaths due to the enduring power of familial bonds in the face of adversity. Sadly, he joins the ranks of thousands who keep going, by threadbare strength in the family bond.

Separated Children



The cruelty of the separation of refugee children during displacement is a searing new reality; one from which few can look away and against which none should remain voiceless. Defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier Making it a universal norm means that territories cannot deviate from the locally reasonably (Zola et al 1998) valid norms for what is childhood.

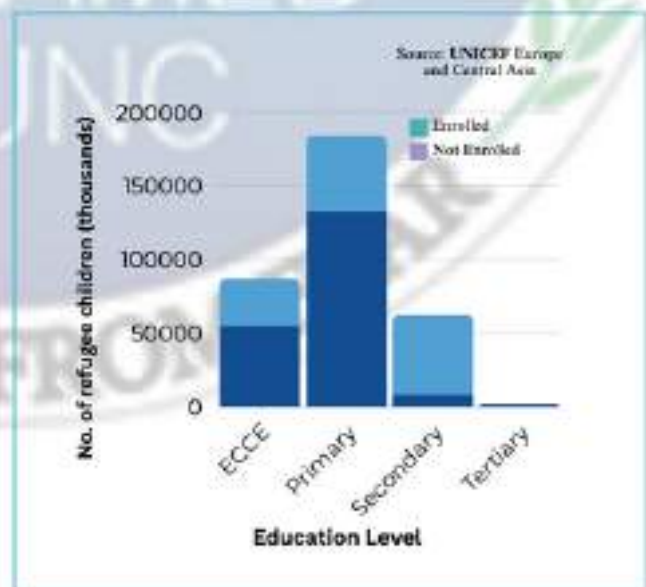


Cycle of Suffering

The hardships they have to go through not only reduce their quality of life but also subject them and their offspring to poverty and traumatized environment cycle. Yet, those legal shields provided by international conventions remain a pipe dream in the lives of these vulnerable children

Standardized Definition

as defined in Article 1 of the CRC, are children who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.

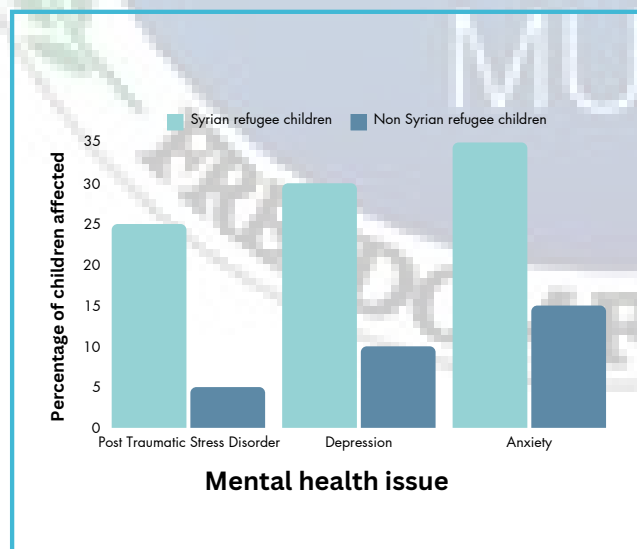


Development of Displaced Children: A Case Study of Syrian Refugees



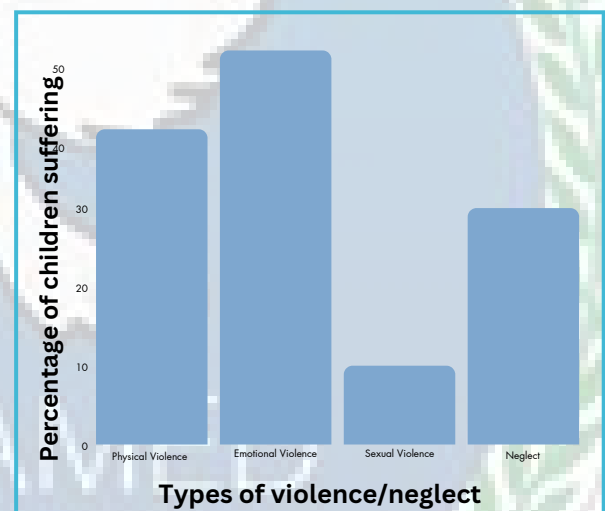
Adverse Childhood Experiences

The living standards of children in Syrian refugee camps present many of those children with unpleasant situations or contacts that qualifies as ACEs. These consequences cause long-term effects including diabetes, heart disease, depression, anxiety, and even PTSD.



Disruption in Development

Physical, emotional, spiritual, and social development of Syrian refugee children is severely effected by disruptions experienced during their experiences. Lack of food, illiteracy, and poor healthcare are some of the problems, which the youths faced and their ACEs were worsened by them.



Long-term Consequences

The combined impact of ACEs among displaced Syrian children leads to long-time psychological disorders, including depression and anxiety disorders and physical illness. These challenges lead them to engage in risky behaviors, poorly perform in school, and record negative economic impact later in their lives.

Physical and Mental Health

Lack of Support

Limited availability of food, sanitation, immunization services, and a dearth of mental health support for Syrian refugee children make them more vulnerable to infectious diseases and mental health problems. Over 80% of Syrian refugee children suffer from moderate to severe PTSD symptoms caused by exposure to conflict-related violence and displacement (UNICEF, 2021).

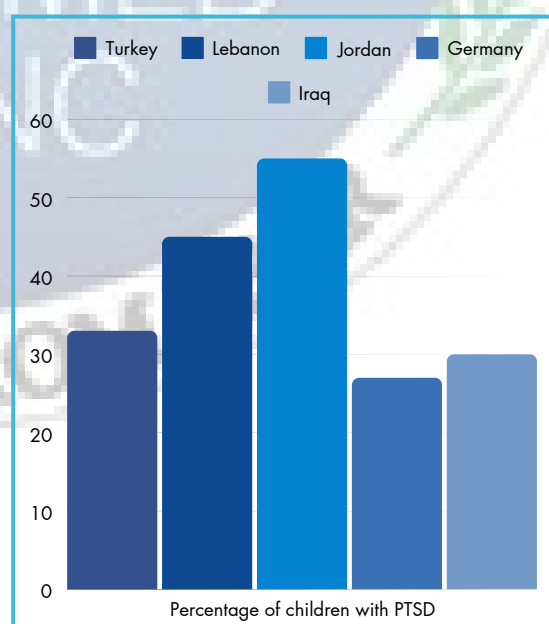
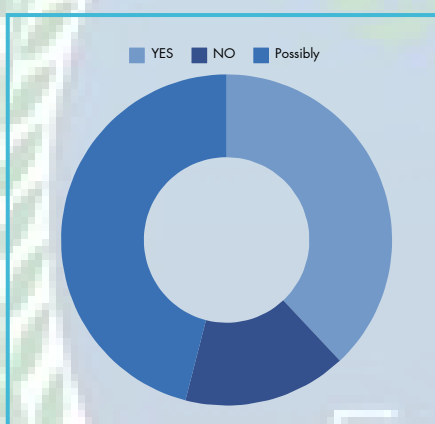


Impact Caused by Violence

Rather, the traumas they suffer, be it by witnessing bombardments or losing loved ones, and the more emotional damage they also add, prevent them from growing up in a healthy way and following their development routes (Save the Children, 2020). Many of them endure separation from their caregivers, which the UNHCR (2019) report argues complicates their long-term challenges by interfering with brain development and increasing vulnerability to mental health problems.

Long-Term Challenges from Separation

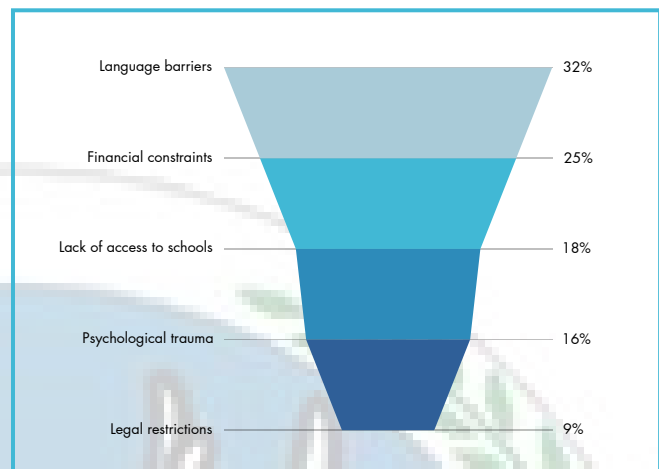
Custodial loss poses considerable difficulties for the long-term development of Syrian refugee children farther from caregivers. This separation averts the developmental progression of the brain apart from making them susceptible to mental health issues (UNHCR, 2019). The social and psychological impact entail that these children cannot have normal lives and grow through the normal developmental stages healthily (Save the Children, 2020).



Education and Acculturation

Education

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PROMOTE SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY

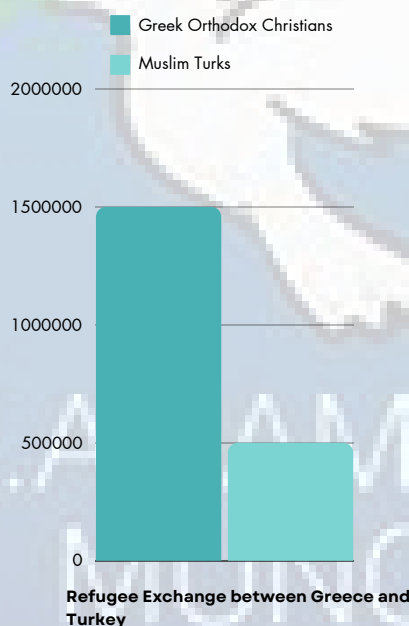


CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A study discovered that densities of Venezuelans lowered crimes and restored neighbors' trust in one another. Similarly, one study showed that people in countries that have more liberal policies regarding refugees in the labor market as well as residence are not more prejudiced towards immigrants as compared to people in countries that have a more restricted regime.

Rights To Work And Education

Approximately 100 million persons have been displaced from their original country of origin and are being displaced as of June 2022 issue putting forced displacement as a key on the agenda of many governments. However, natural forces are the leading source of conflict, which has made climate refugees a new factor in human displacement, and socio-political conflict between the displaced population and the receiving societies. The case herein demonstrated that when political leaders formulate sensitive policies, then the viable social and economic prospects of displaced persons and hosting communities would be achieved in the right perspective.



The common effort provides understanding of the lessons learnt within forced displacement response as well as comprehending the impact of pro-inclusion policies aimed at supporting migrants and refugees, their host communities, governments, and society in general.

Cultural Integration

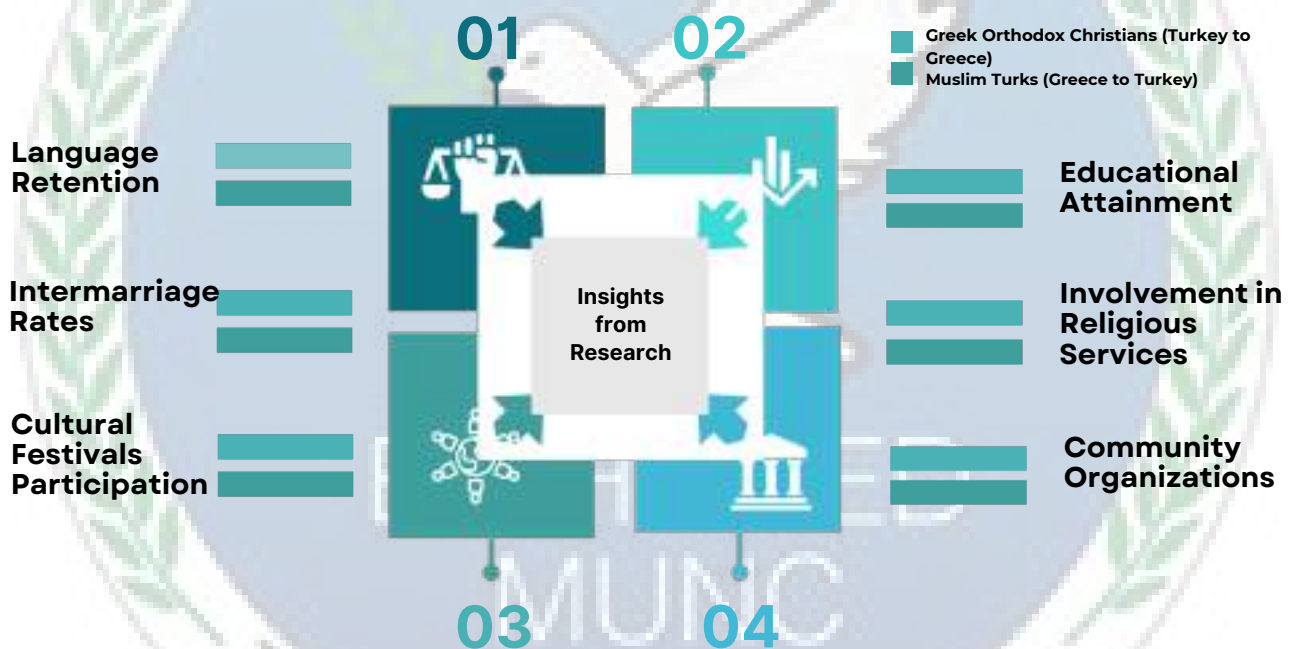
Two million were forced to flee Turkey: The League of Nations intervened, and with the integration policy of Greece, their major concern was solved; offering refugees farmlands, homes, and even citizenship turned this challenge into an opportunity. Likewise, overall, this policy had long-term societal benefits due to socially liberal political aspects, and cultural assimilation into Greek society, including closing the literacy gap and high rates of intermarriage between immigrants and Greeks by 2000.



PROMOTE SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY

Social inclusion is an important tool used in the creation of policies. Opening doors to refugees' workforce, mobility, and essential services protection – the right to work, Just like any citizen in a country, refugees desire to work and fend for their households.

Comprehensive policies which strengthen the labor market and the economy without generating ripostes. Studies reveal that enabling refugees to secure employment can positively impact the labor market, and does not harm the perception that members of the host community have towards them.



Researches made in the context of implementing refugee's rights in Greece declaring that the Greek Orthodox refugees who has got the rights, lands in Greece had enjoyed more opportunities for social and cultural assimilation and achieved better level of educational equalization to the native-born Greek population.

50% of the female refugees who resettled in Greece by the 2000s said that they were married to a Greek-born partner; refugees had the same level of generalized trust in the institutions. The study revealed that refugees had higher tendencies in their involvement in voluntary organizations than native born Greeks.

ENHANCING RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES

1. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Students' rights, or more specifically refugees', are protected by international conventions and treaties including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child all of which encompass education as a universal human right for all.



4. INTEGRATION INTO HOST COUNTRY EDUCATION SYSTEMS

The governments of most host countries do not let refugee children remain unschooled and have provision by which they can access education. This may include such liaison services language assistance, acclimatization to aid their transition to school.

2. UNHCR GUIDELINES

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has put measures and policies to help provide education to refugees. These guidelines cover the standards and measures that government/ non-governmental organizations or any other actors and actors can adopt on behalf of refugees regarding their right to education



5. COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Where opportunities for formal education are limited, community organizations take the initiative, education is an important provider for refugees. Examples include informal schools, community-based learning centers, and mobile education.

3. CAMP EDUCATION PROGRAM

Governments provide information and education centers, the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations, as a way of offering basic education for children categorized as refugees. These may be education, including formal education, vocational training, and Basic Education EFA, as well as other interventions like psychosocial support.



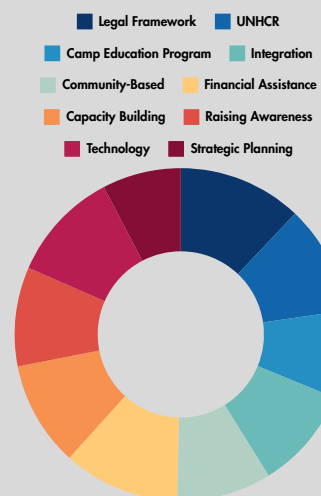
6. SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Governments, NGOs, and private companies provide scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial support to enable refugees to access higher education programs. The aim is to unblock the financial barriers that hinder refugees from further studies and professional development.



From integration into host country education systems to community-based learning and financial support, these efforts aim to provide refugees with the education and skills they need for a brighter future.

Success Rates of Refugee
Education Programs



Cultural Preservation And Integration

Cultural adjustment is complicated for refugees. Adjusting to a new culture can be a difficult challenge for refugees to accept. If they do accept this new culture and begin to re-establish and find an identity it becomes challenging to keep everyone in both cultures happy.

01 Ease the pressures on host countries by fostering peaceful coexistence and social integration, the project helps reduce tensions and conflicts. The cooperative efforts to share resources create a situation of cooperation and support for each other, which minimizes the strain on resources and infrastructure of the community.

02 Organized development sessions in which participants get to enhance their skills while gaining more knowledge on sustainable livelihood; use of farming equipment and machinery, budgeting and financial management, climate smart agriculture. Which is reinforced by thorough follow up mentorship and special courses

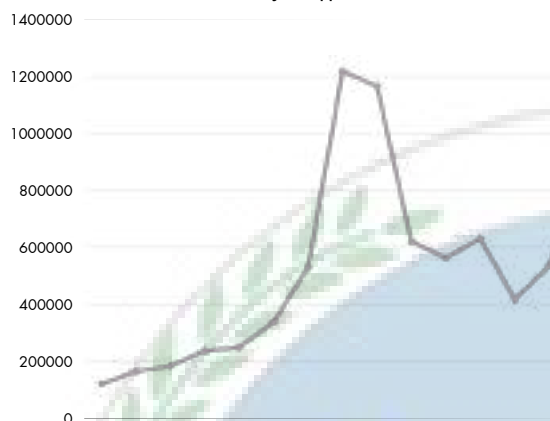
03 Social integration initiatives It also plays a role in advancing one of the main goals of the project— which is to enhance relations between refugees and the communities that host them. These include cultural fairs, exchanging celebrations, events that can be conducted in order to reach out to people and feel that they are in a single nation.

04 Enhance refugee self-reliance with the initiatives that provides refugees and host population with sustainable opportunities like farming, micro finance schemes like Village Savings, and Loans. It can also reflect the ability of both groups to derive income to support themselves.



Asylum Policies and Refugee Rights

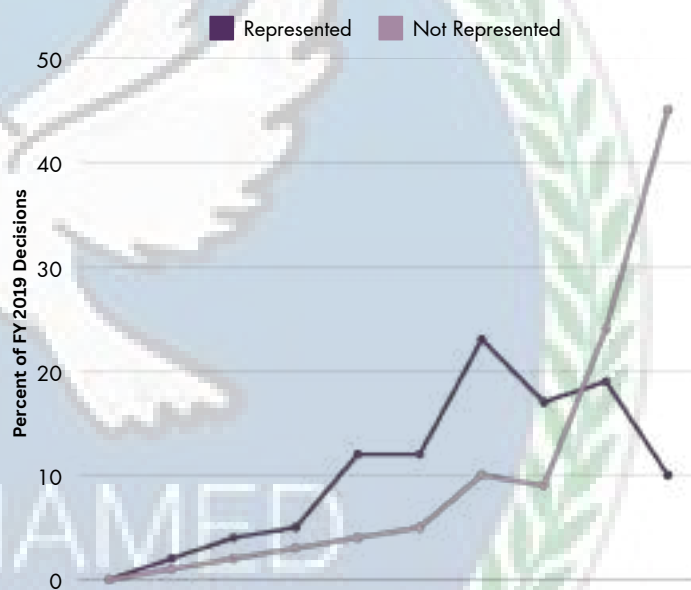
First Time Asylum Applicants in EU Countries



Any human who may have been forced to flee persecution or conflict has the human right to seek asylum. Someone who has been forced to evacuate their country and will not be able to return because of a serious threat to their physical integrity, life, or freedom as a result of armed conflict, persecution, violence, or serious public disorder is a refugee. It is a legal status that gives an individual certain rights and protections. An asylum-seeker is somebody serious about applying to be recognized as an outcast, but their application has however to be prepared. Governments will as a rule survey refuge applications to decide if an individual's circumstances make them an outcast

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, states the rights of refugees and the standards for their treatment in a foreign country. Article 14, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that 'Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.'

An asylum-seeker is somebody who is looking for worldwide security. Their ask for outcast status, or complementary assurance status, has to be handled, or they may not have asked for refuge but expected to do so. Whereas they look for shelter and anticipate the result of their application, they are alluded to as asylum-seekers and ought to be ensured. All asylum-seekers may not have been refugees. But all refugees were once asylum-seekers.



4.4M

individuals seeking
asylum globally

34%

overall recognition/
approval rate for asylum
seekers

32%

of the global refugee and
asylum-seeker population are
children (under 18 years old)

Asylum is a fundamental right and an international obligation for countries

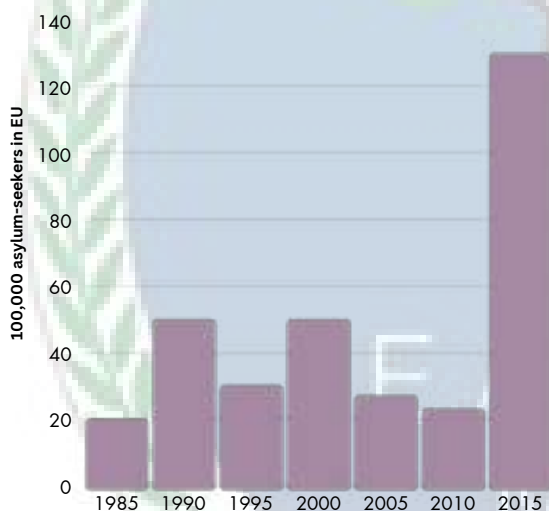
What are refugee rights?

Rights that refugees and asylum seekers have as they have been granted refugee protection or are seeking asylum for which their host countries are responsible to guarantee. These rights involve being able to live in the host countries safely without being returned to the country of origin

Refoulement by definition the forcible return of asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution.

The idea of non-refoulement urges state members not to expel or return any asylum seeker in any manner whatsoever to areas where his/her life or freedom could be threatened or where there is a risk of persecution or any other form of damage.

According to international human rights legislation, the principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no one shall ever be sent back to a country where there is a risk that they might be tortured, or subjected to cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment, punishment, or any type of irreparable harm.



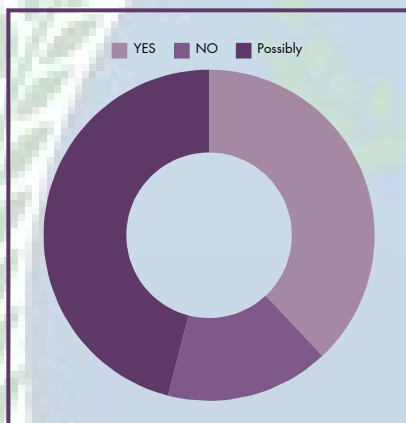
Safe havens for asylum seekers and refugees must be created. Numerous NGOs work towards this goal. Awareness should be made about the dire situation of such people and methods of helping them. Such powerless individuals struggle to progress and maintain their way of life without outside aid. If such help is not given, many refugee children will grow up unable to read and write, which will severely hamper them for the rest of their lives



Prevent Refoulement and Building a Safe Haven

The principle of non-refoulement ensures that no one should be sent to a country where they will be tortured, brutally treated in a degrading, cruel manner, disciplined, or otherwise irreparably harmed under universal human rights law.

The 1951 Convention and other international texts prohibit the expulsion or refoulement of refugees.



In any event, the State is under no duty to grant asylum or permit entry into its territory. However, this does not imply that the nations have unrestricted authority to repatriate citizens. The PNR is the foundation of international protection for people fleeing from dangerous situations. To protect the rights, safety, and dignity of the individual being returned, the process should be done in executing the formal return order.

Article 33 of the Refugee Convention states that the only acceptable exception is in the case of individuals who are a danger to the security of the nation or those who have been convicted of a serious crime in that country. As a result, the decision to expel such a refugee can only be made after a proper process has been followed. The refugee can appear in person before the appropriate authority and has the right to provide evidence to prove his innocence.

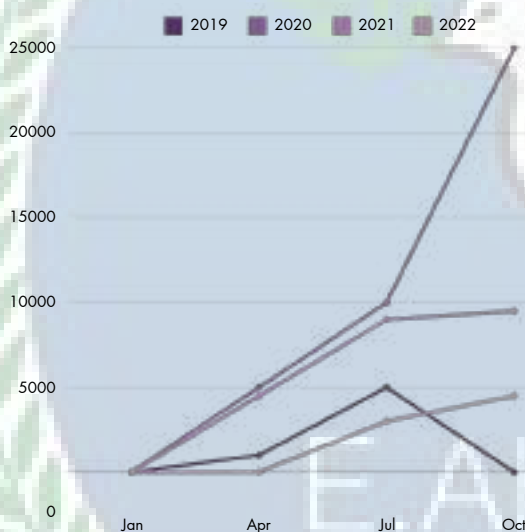
However, if he or she is banned from the nation nonetheless, a fair amount of time must be given to the refugee to apply for admittance into another nation. Any choice to return a specific migrant must be made inside the parameters set forward by domestic or international law, particularly the PNR.



Prevent Refoulement and Building a Safe Haven

CASE STUDY: Refugees in UK

The plight of refugees who are forced to leave their homes is a constant reminder of those who are faced with challenges such as persecution, hardships, etc. These people are forced to leave their homes and go to new countries to be rebuild their lives and live a better life. Our attention here shifts to refugees entering the UK illegally to seek asylum which is sparking controversies around the UK's stance on entry of illegal refugees.



UK's Stance

According to UK's policies and laws(after 2022) any refugee entering illegally into the UK and seeking asylum would not be allowed to stay and would be sent back to their countries or Rwanda. However, this topic has been a topic of debate. The UK has implemented strict border measures to prevent the illegal entry of refugees, UK may also detain and remove refugees who have entered illegally and the ones without proper documentation and may face more challenges in the process of seeking asylum.

UK's Asylum Seekers plan

According to this recently enacted measure, if this is approved and they are awarded refugee status, they may be permitted to remain in Rwanda or they may apply for asylum in another secure third-nation country in the East African region. No asylum could be applied to return which would slowly stop people from coming into the UK illegally. This agreement has received criticism from all the human rights advocates, immigration lawyers, UN refugee agency and is in violation of the refugee convention and violates international law has raised concerns about the UK's commitment to refugee protection and human rights obligations.



CASE STUDY 1

Strengthening Post-COVID-19 Measures for Refugees in India

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on refugees. One percent of humanity had been forcibly displaced, and the pandemic had worsened their circumstances. In India, 244,094 refugees and asylum seekers faced complications. While the virus was indifferent, its socioeconomic effects had been especially dire for some groups. The lockdown and ensuing economic setbacks further isolated them, depriving them of their limited sources of income and aggravating their situation. Rigorous lockdown and social distancing measures led to the widespread unemployment of refugees. The unavailability of savings or social safety nets made refugees unable to meet their basic survival needs.

The UNHCR launched various relief measures. In May 2022, food packages were distributed to 2,368 vulnerable refugee families across seven locations. Hygiene materials were provided to 959 families between April and May. Cumulatively, 7,674 families received hygiene supplies. Among them, the UNHCR initiated several relief operations.

Pursuing high adherence to wearing masks and maintaining social distances, the refugees' knowledge of COVID-19 was translated into their native language and shared extensively. This was very important in establishing an embraced no excuse to public health and making sure that the refugee population was not exempted from major health alerts.

COVID-19 AWARENESS



COVID-19 EMPLOYMENT



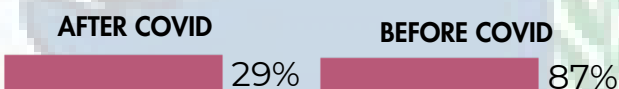
ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS



SOURCE:

UNHCR Operational Data Portal
SURVEY: Phone based survey using Kobo data collection software

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



1. The Disha Foundation collaborated with WHO India and carried out a project to improve health literacy among refugees and enable them to access government health services

2.

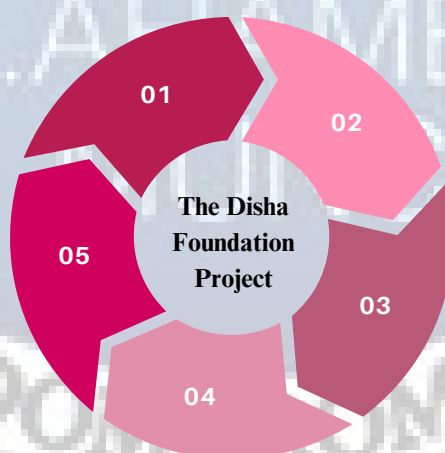
Social Factors Management:

A broader set of factors related to housing, legal support, food security, and finance was handled

3.

Dissemination of Information:

The refugees received relevant and recent COVID-19 information



4.

Access to Healthcare: The initiative ensured access to essential healthcare for internal migrant workers through partnerships with community health centers.

5.

Vaccination: Contributed to the vaccination of 12,000 refugees by facilitating registration and increasing vaccination sites to their households.

“ Together these departments not only supported migrants but also ensured that issues were addressed in a timely manner and services were available; this helped over 48 000 migrants ”

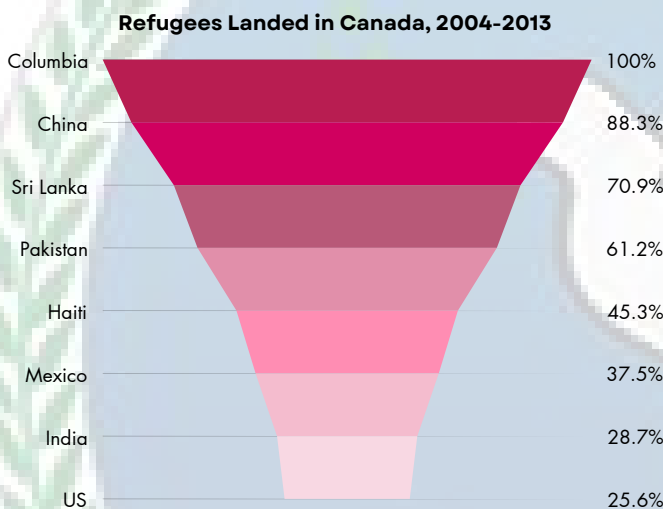
Case Study 2

Canada's Refugee Policies

Introduction

Canada is among the leaders in providing some of the best standards in its refugee laws, particularly concerning asylum seekers. Canada continues to abide by the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which commit to shielding legitimate refugees from acts of terror, conflict, and other mistreatment.

Refugee Arrivals In Canada, 1980-2017



Historical Context

After the Second World War, policies regarding immigration and refugees in Canada became more formal and organized. As a result, the concept of refugees has been distinguished in Canada. Specifically, this Act remains perhaps the most significant event in Canadian refugee policy since it became the official legal manifestation of Canada's conventional commitments under the UN Refugee Convention of 1951. This Act formed the basis of the modern Canadian refugee system, outlining how refugees are screened, protected, and accorded residency.

Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program: This program is aimed at refugees who are still in other countries and seeking protection from Canada. This comprises the GAR program in which refugees are resettled in Canada via assistance from the government and with a referral from (UNHCR) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the PSR program through which private groups or persons may sponsor refugees.

In-Canada Asylum Program: This program applies for people physically in the territory of Canada and requesting for protection as refugees. The former can start the application process at the port of entry while the latter has to apply for protection inside Canada. A key process involves their claims, which are reviewed by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), which in turn decides on whether the claimant qualifies for protection as a refugee.

THE SAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENT (STCA)

One of the key features of Canadian asylum policy is the cooperation with the United States under the so-called Safe Third Country Rule which started in 2004. Under this agreement, when a person claims refugee status, they are required to seek refuge in the first country they arrive at that is safe. If an asylum seeker first arrives in one state, they have to process the asylum in that state and not the other one.

KEY FEATURES OF THE STCA:

- **Designated Safe Country:** This agreement presupposes that both Canada and the US are safe countries that will not harm individuals seeking asylum.
- **Official Border Crossings:** Officially, the STCA only applies at the land border posts but its provisions can be extended at other approved entry points of the respective member states. While asylum seekers entering the country through the official ports of entry are limited in their access to the labor market, those arriving through the unauthorized routes in the US-Canada border, particularly through land crossings, are not restricted in the same way, thus resulting in an influx of irregular border crossing.
- **Exceptions:** However, in some circumstances more than two domestic animals can own a single gun and there are exceptions to the STCA. For instance, if an asylum seeker has a relative either a parent, spouse, or child residing in Canada then they have a chance of being granted asylum in Canada despite arriving in the country through the United States.



CASE STUDY 3

ASSESSING HUMAN RIGHTS IN UKRAINE'S OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

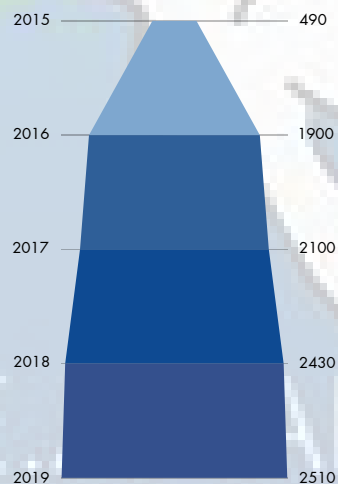


UKRAINE

Ukraine, situated in eastern Europe, is the second largest country in the continent after Russia. Its capital is Kyiv, which together with other cities, houses a total population of 38 million. The country though has made significant developments in IT and agriculture, for the past 20 years it has been known for severe social and political unrest and the potential implications that could have on human rights. Ukraine's track record in handling human rights violations has not always been striking, in the case of Ukraine, deteriorating quality of human rights are a function of corruption, external and ongoing invasions.

Human rights abuses in annexed Crimea and the city of Sevastopol Forced Conscription

International humanitarian law, however, clearly prohibits Russia from forcing citizens of Crimea to enlist in its armed services, and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has consistently denounced the illegal recruitment of Crimean civilians by Russian authorities. Additionally, forced enrollment "adversely affects potential conscripts' enjoyment of human rights, restricting their free movement and access to education and employment," according to the mission. Male residents of Crimea who had been taken by Russia were still required to enlist in the Russian military.



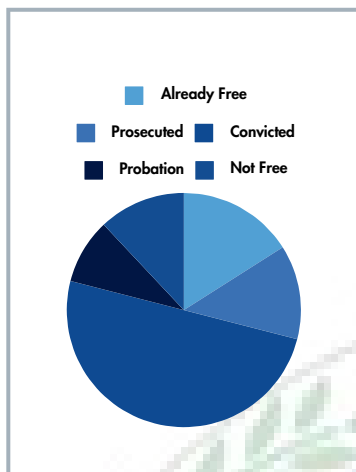
PEOPLE CONSCRIPTED FROM CRIMEA TO RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES

Human Rights Violations against the ethnic Crimean Tatars

The native Crimean Tatar population lives on the Crimean Peninsula and in southern Ukraine. As soon as Crimea was invaded, human rights groups began documenting numerous instances of kidnappings, arbitrary detentions, torture, forced disappearances, and extrajudicial executions of Crimean Tatar representatives. The new regime denied the Crimean Tatars the freedom to openly practice their faith and attacked their distinctive culture and identity. It was forbidden for prominent members of the Tatar community in Crimea to go in or out of the country.

This concerned the exiled Mustafa Jemilev and the disbanded and illegal Mejlis, the Crimean Tatar self-government group he headed. Due to the forced closure of the regional office of the ombudsman, the prohibition of foreign non-governmental organizations, and the reluctance of the newly appointed Russian police to investigate any allegations of verbal and physical abuse by the Russian government, people had few opportunities to seek assistance. Fear of repression, and systematic suppression of the tartar language & culture, alongside harassment, violence, and intimidation drove more than 10,000 out of their homes as refugees.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR AND TEMPORARY RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF UKRAINIAN TERRITORIES



Status of refugees in Russian occupied Territories

The roots of the Russia-Ukraine war lie in Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014. The Russian-Ukraine war officially began with the annexation of Crimea on February 20, 2014, and resulted in the Russian military invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022, which to this day continues to escalate.

Russian forces continued indiscriminate attacks resulting in thousands of civilian casualties, and destruction of civilian infrastructure, amid evidence of other crimes under international humanitarian law.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CRIMEA



The volume of reported cases of domestic abuse increased dramatically. The horrible consequences of the war on social and economic rights lingered, particularly for the young and the old. By the end of May 2022, it was estimated that eight million people would have been internally displaced while more than six million migrants had left Ukraine and scattered across Europe.

Media organizations in Crimea that identified as pro-Ukrainian faced threats following Russia's seizure of the region. Prominent journalists and bloggers received warnings from authorities, who also conducted home searches and placed several of them under arrest. Furthermore, it was made illegal to contest the fact that "**Crimea is Russian.**"

Human rights organizations have documented the beatings of participants of peaceful assemblies, falsifying administrative and criminal cases against participants.

CASE STUDY 4

UK VISA POLICY AND SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The UK government had put in place three fee-free schemes for those impacted badly in Ukraine. In total, around **Six Million Ukrainian Refugees** were listed across Europe and 6.5 million of them around the world as of February 2024. The high rates of refugee acceptance, particularly in Europe have been encouraged by measures taken by the European Union

Temporary Protection Directive

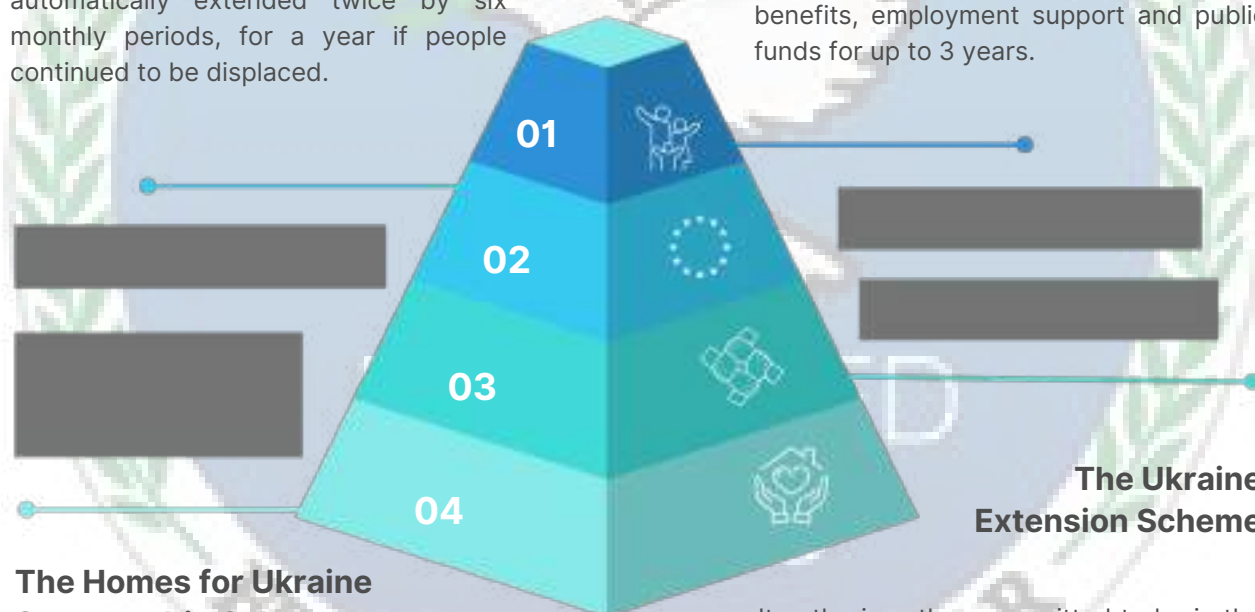
The European Union (EU) members enforced the it guaranteeing access to accommodation, welfare and healthcare to refugees from Ukraine. People fleeing had a right to a residence permit in the EU, enter the labor market, and enroll their children in educational institutions. The protection was granted for one year in February 2022 and was to be automatically extended twice by six monthly periods, for a year if people continued to be displaced.

Source:
Migration
Observatory
(GOV.UK)

House of
Commons
Library

The Ukraine Family Scheme

It was launched on 4 March 2022 and closed on 19 February 2024, was free, did not include any salary or language barriers and allowed UK citizens and certain immigrants to sponsor family members to join them in the UK if those family members were ordinarily resident in Ukraine, on or immediately before 1 January 2022. Those who were granted permission under the Ukraine Family Scheme were able to live, work and study in the UK as well as access healthcare, benefits, employment support and public funds for up to 3 years.



The Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

It allowed Ukrainian nationals without familial or other support networks to seek refuge in the UK. The scheme allowed them to be sponsored by a UK household for six months, including accommodation and additional support to help the refugees settle and integrate into a community. This arrangement was particularly useful for those who did not have the means to secure

Number of
refugees given
access under
each scheme

10,000
Refugees

The Ukraine Extension Scheme

It authorizes those permitted to be in the UK under any of the Ukraine Schemes, to apply for a further 18 months extension to stay in the UK 3 months before the expiration of their existing visas. Ukrainians who had been unlawfully present in the UK since before 1 January 2022 were excluded from this Scheme but were free to apply for asylum. Though the scheme closed for most new applications on 16 May 2024, it was kept open for children born in the UK to apply for permission to stay.

CLIMATE REFUGEES

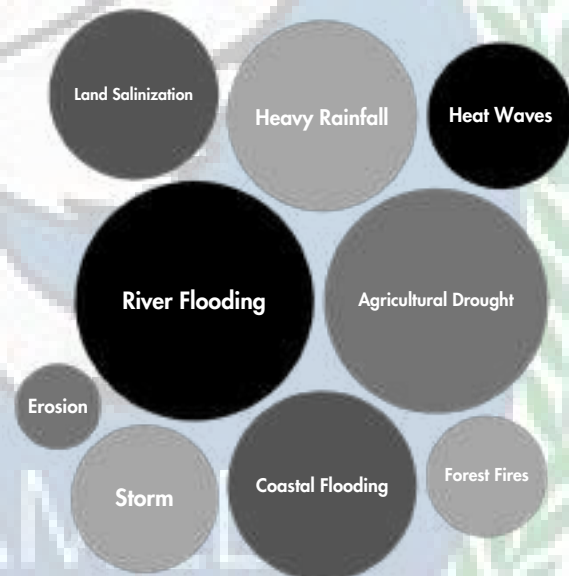
EES , which is all about human rights, is passionate about standing up for people who've been forced to leave their homes because of climate change. Climate refugees, have to uproot their lives because of global warming, heavy floods, droughts. For example, in 2022, there was a terrible drought in the Horn of Africa, and Somalia got hit hard, with around 1.1 million people out of 2.1 million getting displaced because of the drought. That is equivalent to half of Somalia's population

'The river took my home. My land is gone, and with it my means to live' - Bangladeshi Climate Refugee

'Rising sea levels have swallowed our ancestral lands' - Pacific Islander

'The drought destroyed our crops, leaving us with nothing' - Syrian Farmer

'The rains have stopped coming. Our livestock are dead, and we cannot survive here anymore' - Somali Nomad



But when it comes to the law, being called a 'climate refugee' doesn't mean much. They don't always fit the legal definition of a refugee, so they don't always get the help they need. And to make things worse, some people still don't believe that climate change is causing all this upheaval. Some argue that we need to change how we define refugees, **so that it's not just about being persecuted for who you are, but also about needing help, no matter why you need it.**

We need to step up humanitarian aid, strengthen laws to protect the rights of climate refugees, and come up with ideas to deal with the effects of climate change.

CONCLUSION

It is our objective to create an environment where refugees can thrive and lead better lives to ensure a stronger and more harmonious relationship between the members of a community. Reforming asylum policies for transparency, raising public awareness, and advocating for better facilities through policy collaboration are essential steps to work towards the well-being of refugees. These measures not only help refugees rebuild their lives but also contribute to the socio-economic development of the host countries by harnessing the potential and talents of the refugee populations. Protection of refugees helps enrich local communities, create a cultural diversity within the local population and help nurture understanding and appreciation for social diversity.

Just like us, they seek a life of dignity, freedom and security. Therefore, through collaboration and systematic, structured and comprehensive approaches, we can improve the conditions of thousands of refugees worldwide.

"Refugees have been deprived of their homes, but they must not be deprived of their futures."

-Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations



QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What provisions will be made to ensure adequate and timely humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education?
2. What initiatives will be undertaken to raise public awareness about the plight of refugees and counteract xenophobia and discrimination?
3. How can the asylum process be improved to be fair, efficient, and accessible to all refugees?
4. How will the safety and security of refugees be ensured, both in camps and urban settings?
5. What measures will be taken to ensure refugees have access to comprehensive healthcare services, including mental health support and care for chronic conditions?
6. How will countries be supported in preparing for and responding to the displacement of populations due to climate change and environmental disasters?
7. What strategies will be implemented to address the vulnerabilities faced by refugee women and girls?
8. How will educational opportunities for refugee children and adults be expanded? What initiatives will be developed to support the cultural integration of refugees?
9. What measures will be taken to improve the collection and use of data on refugees to inform policy decisions and ensure effective resource allocation?

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
2. UNHCR: Access to Healthcare
3. UNHCR: Gender-Based Violence
4. (MHPSS) Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
5. Asylum and Refugee Policy in Germany
6. Bi-Annual Fact Sheet 2023: Germany
7. Help UNHCR Canada
8. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Format:

Font: Times New Roman Font

Size: 12

Position Paper Page Limit: One page (excluding bibliography)

Page One

Delegate Name: _____

Country: _____

Institution: _____

Topic: _____

‘A quote is preferred, not compulsory’

Paragraph one:

Introduction to the topic and steps taken by the UN on the topic at hand.

Paragraph two:

Elaboration on the country's laws and policies regarding the topic, how it is affected by the topic at hand, and measures incorporated by the country to combat the problem. Statistical Data is preferred.

Paragraph three:

Unique solutions suggested by the delegate to combat the problem.

Page Two

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- 1951 Refugee Convention - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Non-Refoulement - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Gender-Based Violence - Global Protection Cluster
- Gender-Based Violence - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Best Practice Guidelines - World Health Organization (WHO)
- Health of Refugees - World Health Organization (WHO)
- Asylum Statistics - European Union
- Cultural Integration - European Union
- Family Reunification - European Union
- Asylum Applicants' Rights and Responsibilities - United Kingdom
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - Government of Canada
- Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrants - Amnesty International
- World Reports on Ukraine - Human Rights Watch
- Gender-Based Violence - UNHCR

BACKGROUND GUIDE PREPARED BY

Cover Page Hand-Painted by Seethalekshmi Kishore

Aanya Goyal

Behag Iyer

Brinda Nimavat

Kashish Rathod

Mark Mathews

Minha Shameer

Mridul Sancheti

Renu Achu Philip

Sakina Kantawala

Saranya Bhat

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