

We protect refugees. Worldwide.



© UNHCR/Hannah Waule-Ffinch

Which forms of refugee or international protection exist and why?

People receive protection in other countries because they are threatened in their country of origin and therefore cannot return. They often leave at a moment's notice, which is why the 1951 Refugee Convention ensures people are not penalised for entering a country without a visa or identity papers.

Refugees under the Geneva Convention... are people who cannot return to their country of origin because of a fear of persecution due to their

- race
- religion
- nationality
- membership of a particular social group, or
- political opinion.

When someone receives asylum in Ireland/refugee status, their claim has satisfied one of these grounds. Life as a refugee can be difficult to imagine. But for 27.1 million people around the world, it is a terrifying reality.

Internally Displaced Persons... are people who are forced to flee, but do not leave their country of origin. At the end of 2021, some 53.2 million people were internally displaced due to armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations. Their own country remains responsible for their protection.

Temporary protection... is an extraordinary measure that provides urgent and temporary protection to refugees. It was introduced in the European Union for the first time to deal with the unprecedented numbers of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Migrants... leave their country for different reasons, for example to work or seek better living conditions. They can usually return to their country of origin at any time without facing risks or dangers. They are therefore not exposed to any specific dangers in their country of origin, especially to life, which would oblige other states under international law to grant them protection. Therefore, in such cases, each state can decide according to its rules who it wants to grant permission to stay.



Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution: *Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

Refugees flee from ...



conflicts



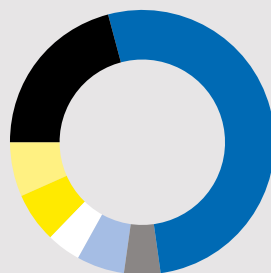
persecution



violence

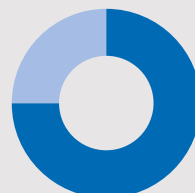


human rights abuses



100+ Million people forcibly displaced worldwide

- 21.3 million are refugees under UNHCR's mandate
- 53.2 million are displaced in their own country (internally displaced persons)
- 4.6 million are asylum seekers
- 5.8 million are Palestinians under UNRWA's mandate
- 4.4 million are displaced people from Venezuela
- In addition, some 7.8 million refugees and 6.6 million internally displaced persons from Ukraine since February 2022 (as of 8 August 2022)



75 Percent

of refugees around the world come from only five countries: Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.

Popular misconceptions about refugees in Ireland

1 Most refugees come to Europe.
Low- and middle- income countries host 74 per cent of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection. The least developed countries provide asylum to 22 per cent of the total.

2 Only young men come.
There are as many women as men around the world fleeing in search of safety. Given the dangerous journeys many refugees must take to seek asylum in Europe, some men initially travel by themselves. Once granted status, refugees can apply for family reunification so that their family can join them safely and legally rather than paying smugglers.

3 Refugees use false papers.
Many refugees have no choice but to use false papers when fleeing their home country. Visa requirements and the liability faced by airlines make it almost impossible for refugees to travel to safe countries without using the services of a smuggler, who will often provide the required documentation.

4 Refugees commit more crimes than others.
There is no evidence that nationality, religion or refugee status have any impact on crime rates.

5 Increasing numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees from Ukraine are exacerbating competition for housing.

Refugees from Ukraine and asylum-seekers all over Ireland are mostly housed in congregated settings. Although previously they were housed in direct provision centres, increasingly they live in emergency style settings that are only designed for short stays. Residents do not go on the social housing list. Those granted refugee status may apply for housing support on the same basis as Irish citizens but are not prioritised in any way because of their status.

6 Refugees must apply for asylum in the first country they arrive in.
This is not correct. Refugees are not required to have come directly from the country they fled. As reflected in the Refugee Convention, there may be 'good cause' for them to move to another country. This is also reflected in European law in the so called 'Dublin Regulation', which sets out a sliding scale of criteria that determines which country an asylum-seeker should have their application determined.

7 Ireland receives more refugees than other countries.
Ireland has traditionally received far fewer refugees and asylum-seekers than other EU countries. 70,000 Ukrainians have been welcomed in 2022. This represents some 1.4% of all applications for temporary protection or similar schemes in Europe. Similarly sized countries such as the Czech Republic have welcomed multiples of this number. Recent research by the ERSI showed that is highly unlikely that specific integration or reception policies in Ireland influence an increase in applications.

8 Asylum-seekers are unvetted.
All people claiming asylum in Ireland are fingerprinted by the authorities, with the data stored on Eurodac. This is a European Union (EU)-wide biometric database containing fingerprints of asylum applicants and non-EU / European Economic Area (EEA) nationals. If the authorities find that people who have been fingerprinted are linked to any serious crimes, they may be subject to the 'exclusionary clauses' of the Refugee Convention. These deny the rights and benefits attached to the possession of refugee status to persons who have committed grave rights violations or other serious crimes.

9 Refugees are really economic migrants.
Refugees have special protection under the law because it is too dangerous for them to return home, and they need sanctuary elsewhere. These are people for whom denial of asylum has potentially deadly consequences. Whether a person is a migrant or a refugee must be decided by a legal examination. The refugees among them need international protection.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR



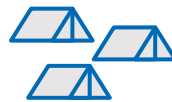
active in
137 countries



more than 18,800
employees



91% are based in
the field



> 640,000 people
in the world's largest
refugee camp
in Bangladesh



UNHCR required
\$9.2 billion in 2021
to address needs



UNHCR actually
received \$4.6 billion

UNHCR employs more than 18,800 people worldwide. Filippo Grandi has been the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since 2016.

UNHCR is active in 137 countries worldwide. We help refugees to receive protection and access shelter, food, healthcare and education every day.

Wherever there are refugees in the world, UNHCR wants to be at their side. We are committed to protecting people who have had to flee their homes. For this, UNHCR was twice awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.