

BIGMUN 2023  
United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR)

# Research Report

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Topic 1: Creating a legal framework on how to handle conflicts and refugees



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## Introduction:

Currently, an estimated 281 million people, or 3.6% of the world's population, reside outside of their place of birth. Many of these migrants experience varied degrees of forced migration. For a variety of intricately interrelated factors, a rising number of migrants are compelled to leave their homeland. The denial of economic, social, and cultural rights, such as the right to health, housing, or education, as well as the denial of civil and political rights, such as arbitrary arrest, torture, or a lack of due process, can all constitute human rights abuses against migrants. The denial of rights to migrants is frequently strongly related to discriminatory laws and ingrained xenophobic or prejudiced sentiments.

## Definition of Key Terms:

### Refugee

- Refers to *“A person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”*<sup>1</sup>

### Xenophobic

- Refers to the dislike or extreme prejudice against different countries, cultures, and people who are considered strange, unknown or foreign.
- *“Someone who is xenophobic might distrust a neighbor he's never met, or a sheikh who lives halfway around the world. Xenophobia is like racism, but instead of fearing or distrusting people because of the color of their skin, you fear or distrust them because of their nationality, or because they are — or seem — foreign to you”*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Refugees and Asylees | Homeland Security.” *Dhs.gov*, 2022

<sup>2</sup> Vocabulary. (2023). *Xenophobia - definition, meaning & synonyms*. Vocabulary.com. Retrieved January 18, 2023, from <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/xenophobia>

## Background Information:

Regardless of their status, UNHCR works to advance, defend, and uphold the human rights of all migrants, with an emphasis on those who are most at risk of human rights violations and those who are in vulnerable situations. In order to ensure that migrants are included in all pertinent national action plans and strategies, such as plans for the provision of public housing or national strategies to combat racism and xenophobia, UNHCR promotes a human rights-based approach to migration that places the migrant at the center of migration policies and governance.

The greatest network of volunteer-based humanitarian organizations in the world is called the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). With 190 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide, they are present in every neighborhood and yearly provide long-term assistance and development programs for 160.7 million people, as well as disaster relief and early recovery programs for 110 million people. To address the needs and enhance the lives of those who are most vulnerable, they take action before, during, and after catastrophes and health emergencies. They act in this manner without regard to nationality, color, gender, religious convictions, social class, or political viewpoints.

Section II of The Refugee Law Reader presents the international framework for refugee protection. This section focuses exclusively on universal norms. Although both universal and regional laws and practices may be important in any single case, the legal norms developed at the regional level differ significantly from one area of the globe to another. Therefore, The Refugee Law Reader has elected to address world-wide legal obligations in Section II and to examine regional norms in the separate sections concerning Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

## Major Countries and Organisations Involved:

### Countries that Host the Greatest Amount of Refugees

- The Republic of **Turkey** hosts the greatest number of refugees at 3.7 million
- The Republic of **Colombia** hosts 2.5 million refugees
- The Federal Republic of **Germany** hosts 2.2. million refugees
- The Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** hosts 1.5 million refugees
- The Republic of **Uganda** hosts 1.5 million refugees

### Countries of Refugees' Origin

- Syrian Arab Republic
- Venezuela

- Ukraine
- Afghanistan
- South Sudan

#### Organizations

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided life-saving humanitarian supplies for territories and countries that have experienced conflict. The organization also supports national and local governments to implement laws to better the response to refugee crises <sup>3</sup>(“Migrant and Displaced Children.”).
- World Food Program (WFP) is an international organization within the United Nations that supplies food assistance around the world in an effort to bring “peace and stability” to struggling nations<sup>4</sup> (“Who We Are | World Food Programme.”).

#### Relevant UN Resolutions:

##### **Resolution adopted by General Assembly 2016**

[https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_71\\_172.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_71_172.pdf)

##### **1950 Refugee Address**

<https://www.unhcr.org/3b66c39e1.pdf>

#### **Info Sheets:**

“United Nations and Palestinian Refugees”

<https://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2010011791015.pdf>

Current Emergencies relevant to the UNHCR

<https://www.unhcr.org/emergencies.html>

Ukraine Conflict Contribution to the Refugee Crisis

<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/how-the-war-in-ukraine-is-contributing-to-the-refugee-crisis/>

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<sup>3</sup>“Migrant and Displaced Children.” *Unicef.org*, 2021

<sup>4</sup> “Who We Are | World Food Programme.” *Wfp.org*, 2020

### Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

- 1) Provide refugees with secure paths to safety. In order to avoid having to spend their life savings and run the risk of drowning to reach safety, this entails allowing them to rejoin with their family members and granting refugees permits.
- 2) The most vulnerable refugees, such as those who have experienced torture and those who are suffering from major medical conditions, must be resettled.
- 3) People escaping persecution or war should be allowed to cross borders, with or without travel documents, whether they do so by land or by sea.

### Possible Solutions:

- 1.) "Opening up safe routes to sanctuary for" which allows for family to reunite <sup>5</sup>
- 2.) "Wealthy nations must also increase the support and funding they provide to people in conflict-stricken countries."<sup>6</sup>
- 3.) International funding humanitarian relief in order to tackle the cause of the displacement and conflict (ibid.)

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<sup>5</sup> "8 Ways to Solve the World Refugee Crisis." *Amnesty International*, 12 Oct. 2015,

<sup>6</sup> "Four Steps towards Ending the Refugee Crisis." *NRC*, 2021

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- UNHCR. (2022). *Solutions for refugees - unhcr.org*. Solutions for refugees. Retrieved January 18, 2023, from <https://www.unhcr.org/50a4c17f9.pdf>