

Immigration 101: Refugees



Definition of a Refugee

“A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

- 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

Refugees help build a strong Canada

Canada is a leader in supporting those fleeing violence, persecution, and threat of death. As a nation, we are a beacon of hope in often dark and turbulent times for some of the world's most vulnerable



Once in Canada, refugees:

- build a society with unique perspectives, voices and lived experiences, that foster a more resilient and tolerant Canada and leader throughout the world.
- Volunteer and participate in community activities
- Start businesses and become employed in a wide range of professions reflecting their unique skills and backgrounds
- Take up citizenship at high rates

Key Messages

Canada is a multicultural, diverse, open and safe country. Immigration, including refugee programs, foster and build our multicultural society. Canadians gain access to unique perspectives, voices, and lived experiences.

Canadians are helpful, compassionate and caring citizens. Canadians have a global responsibility to respond to those around the world who are seeking refuge from violence, threats, wars and persecution.

We can do more.

Refugees help build a strong Canada through filling Canada's employment gaps, starting businesses, volunteering and taking up citizenship.

Forcibly Displaced People Worldwide, 2016

Source: UNHCR and 2016 Census, Statistics Canada



Sources

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