

Glossary of Terms

Accession

A process by which a country accepts to be bound by a treaty (such as the *1951 Refugee Convention*). Accession may occur before or after a treaty has entered into force. It has the same legal effect as ratification.

See also **Ratification** and **Signatory**

Acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN

Acts that are contrary to the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Charter. They relate to the fundamental principles that should govern the conduct of countries in relation to each other and in relation to the international community in general.

See also **Exclusion Clauses**, **Crimes against peace**, **War Crimes** and **Crimes against humanity**.

Age

Refers to the different states in one's life cycle. It is important to be aware of where people are in their life cycle as their needs may change over time. Age influences and can enhance or diminish capacity to exercise rights.

See also **Gender**, **Diversity** and **Mainstreaming age, gender and diversity**

Assistance

Aid provided for humanitarian purposes (non-political, non-commercial, non-military purposes), such as food items, medical supplies, clothing, shelter, and infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads. UNHCR provides assistance with the aim of ensuring that persons of concern are properly protected.

Asylum

The grant of protection by a country to people fleeing persecution or serious danger in their own country. Asylum includes a variety of elements such as the principle of *non-refoulement* and ensuring humane standards of treatment.

Asylum-seeker

A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than her/his own. Not every asylum-seeker is a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum-seeker.

Cessation clauses

Legal provisions in the refugee definition that set out the conditions under which refugee status comes to an end because it is no longer needed. Cessation clauses are found in Article 1(C) of the *1951 Refugee Convention*, and in Article I (4) of the 1969 OAU Convention.

See also **Inclusion clauses** and **Exclusion clauses**

Charter-based mechanisms

Mechanisms constituted under the UN Charter, such as the Commission on Human Rights, to prevent and respond to human rights violations.

See also **Human rights** and **Treaty-based mechanisms**

Child

A person below the age of eighteen unless, under the national law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier (Article 1 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*).

See also **Unaccompanied children** and **Separated children**

Child sexual abuse

Any act in which a child is used for sexual gratification. Any sexual relations/interaction with a child.

Community-based approach

The process of involving the community, represented by all groups (including women, men, children, older persons, minorities, etc.) in assessing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programmes that are designed for their benefit.

It requires both an understanding and consideration of their protection risks, concerns and priorities, engaging them in the various stages of protection and programme decision-making, and empowering them to enhance their own and their community members' protection.

See also **Mainstreaming age, gender and diversity** and **Situational analysis**

Complementary forms of protection

Protection offered to persons who are fleeing situations of generalised violence or events seriously disrupting public order by countries that are not bound by broader refugee definitions contained in regional instruments, or when return would expose those persons to a risk of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, or other serious human rights violations.

Convention grounds

Reasons established in the *1951 Refugee Convention* as one of the elements of the refugee definition. It requires that a person's fear of persecution be linked to one or more of the following five grounds: **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion**. These five grounds are known as the Convention grounds.

See also **Well-founded fear of persecution**

Convention refugee

A person who meets the refugee definition provided in the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*.

See also **Refugee** and **Mandate refugee**

Crimes against humanity

It includes inhumane acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population. They include, but are not limited to, murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence.

See also **Exclusion clauses, War crimes, Crimes against peace, and Acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN**

Crimes against peace

It includes the planning, preparing, initiating, or waging of a war of aggression or a war that is in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances.

Also see **Exclusion clauses, War crimes, Crimes against humanity, and Acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN**

Customary international law

International law that derives its authority from the consistent practice of countries out of a sense of legal obligation rather than from formal expression in a treaty or legal text.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

DPKO assists the Member States and the Secretary-General of the UN in their efforts to maintain international peace and security. The Department's mission is to plan, prepare, manage and direct UN peacekeeping operations, so that they can effectively fulfil their mandates under the overall authority of the Security Council and General Assembly, and under the command vested in the Secretary-General.

Diversity

Within each group of people there are differences of age, gender, culture, different levels of mental and physical ability/disability, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity and other backgrounds. These differences must be recognised, understood and valued by UNHCR if we are to ensure that all groups of people access protection equally and that we do not add to the discrimination already experienced by certain groups.

See also **Age, Gender and Mainstreaming age, gender and diversity**.

Domestic violence

Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the household, including battering, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women and non-spousal violence, and violence related to exploitation.

Durable solution

A permanent solution to the problems of refugees, allowing them long-term resolution to the situation of displacement. The three durable solutions are **voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement**.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

A principal organ to co-ordinate the economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialised agencies, 10 functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from 11 UN funds and programmes. The Council serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. It is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational co-operation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Exclusion clauses

Article 1 D, E and F of the *1951 Refugee Convention*.

They refer to situations in which a person is not in need of, or does not deserve the protection offered by the *1951 Refugee Convention*.

See also **Inclusion clauses** and **Cessation clauses**

Executive Committee Conclusion on International Protection

The consensus reached by UNHCR's Executive Committee on protection issues in the course of its annual discussions is expressed in the form of Conclusions on International Protection (ExCom Conclusions). They contribute to the elaboration of principles and standards for the protection of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.

See also **Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme**

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom)

The body mandated with advising the High Commissioner on the exercise of his functions. ExCom also approves UNHCR's annual budget. ExCom is composed of a number of countries selected by the ECOSOC. Countries that are not members of ExCom also attend these meetings as observers, along with NGOs. As of 1 January 2006, 68 countries were members of ExCom.

See also **Executive Committee Conclusion on International Protection**

Family reunification

A process through which the family unit is restored, particularly after families have been separated when fleeing persecution. This is especially important when a durable solution is being sought for them.

See also **Family unity**

Family unity

A principle based on the premise that the family is a natural and fundamental group of society. According to this principle, the members of a refugee's family may also be recognised as refugees.

See also **Family reunification**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Cutting of genital organs for non-medical reasons, usually done at a young age. It can include partial or total cutting, removal of genitals and stitching for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.

Forced marriage

Arranged marriage against a person's wishes. Often a dowry is paid to the family; when refused, there are violent and/or abusive consequences.

Gender

Gender refers to the social differences between women and men that are learned, changeable over time and can vary within and between cultures. Gender often defines the roles, responsibilities, constraints, opportunities, and privileges of women and men in any context.

See also **Age, Diversity and Mainstreaming age, gender and diversity**

General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all member states, each of which has one vote.

Human rights

Freedoms that all human beings are entitled to by virtue of being a human being. Human rights are set out in universal and regional human rights instruments. In some cases, there are mechanisms in place to monitor the implementation of these human rights by countries.

See also **Charter-based mechanisms** and **Treaty-based mechanisms**

Inclusion clauses

Legal provisions in the refugee definition that set out the criteria that a person must fulfil in order to be recognised as a refugee. The inclusion clauses are found in Article 1(A) of the *1951 Refugee Convention*, in Article I (1) and (2) of the 1969 OAU Convention and Conclusion III of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

See also **Cessation clauses** and **Exclusion clauses**

Inter-governmental organisation (IGO)

An organisation made up of member States. The United Nations, the African Union, the Organisation of American States are all IGOs.

See also **Non-governmental organisation (NGO)**

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

People who are forced or obliged to flee from their homes, "... in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border" (the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*).

See also **Persons of concern**

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

An impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and co-ordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

International human rights law

A body of customary international law and human rights instruments that recognises and protects human rights. **Refugee law, international humanitarian law and human rights law** complement each other.

International humanitarian law

A body of law, regulations, and principles that govern the behaviour of parties in international and non-international armed conflicts. The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977 are the main sources of international humanitarian law. **Refugee law, international humanitarian law, and human rights law** complement each other.

International or Regional Instrument

In the humanitarian context, a legal agreement that is binding upon countries, and that defines various rights and obligations of individuals in a country and/or the country itself.

International protection

International protection encompasses all actions aimed at ensuring the equal access to and enjoyment of the rights of women, men, girls and boys of concern to UNHCR, in accordance with the relevant bodies of law, including international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law.

It includes interventions by countries or UNHCR on behalf of persons of concern to UNHCR to ensure that their rights, security, and welfare are recognised and safeguarded in accordance with international standards. These interventions ensure, for instance, respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*; access to safety; access to fair procedures for the determination of refugee status; humane standards of treatment; and the implementation of durable solutions. Providing international protection is UNHCR's core mandate.

Local integration

One of the three durable solutions to address the plight of refugees. It involves their permanent settlement or assimilation in the country in which they sought asylum.

See also **Durable solution, Resettlement, and Voluntary repatriation**

Mainstreaming age, gender and diversity

A process to ensure that the meaningful participation of refugee girls, boys, women and men of all ages and backgrounds is integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all UNHCR policies and operations so that these impact equitably on people of concern. The overall goals are gender quality and the enjoyment of the rights of all refugees of all ages and backgrounds.

See also **Age** and **Gender**

Mandate (UNHCR mandate)

It refers to the role and functions entrusted to UNHCR as set forth in its Statute and subsequent resolutions of the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC.

Mandate refugee

Under UNHCR's mandate, two categories of persons may qualify for refugee status:

- (1) Those who meet the criteria of the refugee definition contained in the *1951 Refugee Convention* and
- (2) persons outside their country and unable to return owing to serious and indiscriminate threats to life, physical integrity or freedom resulting from generalised violence or events seriously disturbing public order.

See also **Refugee** and **Convention refugee**

Membership of a particular social group

One of the 'Convention grounds' of the refugee definition provided in the *1951 Refugee Convention*. It refers to a group that is composed of persons who share a common characteristic other than their risk of being persecuted, or who are perceived as a group by society. The characteristic will often be one which is innate, unchangeable, or which is otherwise fundamental to identity or conscience.

See also **Convention grounds**, **Persecution**, **Race**, **Religion**, **Nationality**, and **Political opinion**

Migrant (Economic)

A person who voluntarily leaves his/her country of origin in search of better economic opportunities.

Migrant worker

A person who is engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a country that s/he is not a national of.

National

A person recognised as having a legal bond with a country as provided for under the law of the country. Some countries use the word 'nationality' to refer to this legal bond, while other countries use the word 'citizenship'.

Nationality

- (1) The status of being a national or citizen of a particular country.
 - (2) One of the 'Convention grounds' of the refugee definition provided in the *1951 Refugee Convention*. Nationality as a ground for persecution not only refers to citizenship, but also to membership of an ethnic or linguistic group. Occasionally, it may overlap with the term 'race'.
- See also **Convention grounds**, **Persecution**, **Race**, **Religion**, **Membership of a particular social group** and **Political opinion**

Non-governmental organisation (NGO)

In the humanitarian and human rights field, a non-profit organisation that does not represent a government or a country. Many of them advocate for refugee protection or work to protect refugees in partnership with UNHCR.

See also **Inter-governmental organisation (IGO)**

Non-refoulement (Principle of)

The core principle of international refugee law that prohibits the forcible return of refugees in any manner whatsoever to countries or territories where their lives or freedom would be at risk for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

The principle of *non-refoulement* is part of customary international law and is therefore binding on all countries, whether or not they have signed on to the *1951 Refugee Convention* or its *1967 Protocol*. The principle also features in International Human Rights law and International Humanitarian Law.

Orphans

Children both of whose parents are known to be dead. In some countries, a child who has lost one parent is called an orphan.

Participatory assessment

Participatory assessment is a continuous process where the women, men, girls and boys of concern to UNHCR are active participants in assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating UNHCR programmes to ensure that they all realise and enjoy their rights.

Persecution

One of the elements of the refugee definition established in the *1951 Refugee Convention*. There is no universally accepted definition of 'persecution' within the meaning of the *1951 Refugee Convention*. Persecution comprises human rights abuses or other serious harm often, but not always, perpetrated in a systematic or repetitive way. Discrimination does not always amount to persecution, although it may do so if it affects a fundamental right of the person concerned, or if the effect of several discriminatory measures cumulatively causes serious harm.

See also **Well-founded fear of persecution**

Persons of concern to UNHCR

A generic term used to describe all persons who are protected under the mandate of UNHCR. These generally include refugees, returnees, stateless persons and, in some situations, internally displaced persons and persons threatened with displacement.

See also **Internally displaced persons, Refugees and Stateless person**

Political opinion

One of the 'Convention grounds' of the refugee definition provided in the *1951 Refugee Convention*. Political opinion as a ground for persecution implies that a person holds and/or is attributed an opinion that either has been expressed or imputed, and has come to the attention of the authorities. This ground is relevant even on the assumption that an opinion, although not yet expressed, will be expressed and will not be tolerated by the authorities when it is expressed.

See also **Convention grounds, Persecution, Race, Religion, Nationality, and Membership of a particular social group**

Prima facie recognition (of refugees)

Persons recognised on a group basis as refugees by countries under the *1951 Refugee Convention*, regional refugee instruments or by UNHCR under its mandate. This occurs normally during a large-scale influx, on the presumption that every individual among the group is a refugee. In this case, the process to recognise a refugee is not lengthy or detailed.

See also **Refugee**, **Convention refugee** and **Mandate refugee**

Protection

See **International Protection**

Purposes and principles of the United Nations

Set out in the Preamble and Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Charter. They relate to the fundamental principles that should govern the conduct of countries in relation to each other and in relation to the international community in general.

See also **Exclusion clauses**, **War crimes**, **Crimes against peace**, and **Crimes against humanity**

Race

One of the 'Convention grounds' of the refugee definition provided in the *1951 Refugee Convention*. Race is understood in its widest sense to include all kinds of ethnic groups that are referred to as 'races' in common usage.

See also **Convention grounds**, **Persecution**, **Religion**, **Nationality**, **Membership of a particular social group** and **Political opinion**

Rape / attempted rape / marital rape

The invasion of any part of the body of a victim or of the perpetrator with a sexual organ, or of the anal or genital opening of the victim with any object or any other part of the body by force, threat of force, coercion, taking advantage of a coercive environment, or against a person incapable of giving genuine consent. Efforts to rape someone which does not result in penetration is considered 'attempted rape'. Rape occurring within a marriage is considered 'marital rape'

Ratification

A process by which a country indicates its consent to be bound by a treaty (such as the *1951 Refugee Convention*). To ratify a treaty a country must deposit an Instrument of Ratification with the appropriate authorities. Ratification grants countries the necessary time-frame to seek the required approval for the treaty at the domestic level and to enact the necessary legislation to give effect to it in their country.

See also **Accession** and **Signatory**

Refolement

See **Non-refoulement (principle of)**

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/her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country (Article 1 A (2) of the *1951 Refugee Convention*).

In addition to the refugee definition found in the *1951 Refugee Convention*, the 1969 OAU Convention also covers any persons compelled to leave their country 'owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part of the whole of his country of origin or nationality.'

In addition to reiterating the refugee definition found in the *1951 Refugee Convention*, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration states that refugees also include persons who flee their country *'because their lives, security or freedom have been threatened by generalised violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order.'*

See also **Persons of concern**

Refugee law

A body of customary international law, international and regional instruments, and national laws that establishes standards for refugee protection. The *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* together with its *1967 Protocol* are the cornerstones of international refugee law.

Refugee status determination

Legal and administrative procedures undertaken by countries or UNHCR to determine whether an asylum-seeker should be recognised as a refugee under the relevant legal instruments.

Registration

Identifying, recording, verifying, and continuously updating information about persons of concern to UNHCR with the aim of protecting, assisting, and finding durable solutions for their problems.

Reintegration

A process which enables returnees to regain the legal, physical, and material security needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity as a citizen of the country of origin or habitual residence.

Religion

One of the 'Convention grounds' of the refugee definition provided in the *1951 Refugee Convention*. Persecution for reasons of religion may assume various forms, including prohibition of membership in a religious community, of worship in private or public, or of religious instruction, or serious discriminatory measures imposed on persons because they practice their religion or belong to a particular religious community.

See also **Convention grounds, Persecution, Race, Nationality, Membership of a particular social group and Political opinion**

Repatriation

See **Voluntary repatriation**

Resettlement

One of the three durable solutions to address the plight of refugees. It involves the transfer of refugees from the country where they were granted refugee status to another country that has agreed to admit them and offer them long-term resident rights and/or citizenship. Resettlement is also a protection tool and a practical example of international responsibility-sharing.

See also **Durable solution, Local integration and Voluntary repatriation**

Returnee

A refugee or internally displaced person who returns home with the intention of remaining there permanently.

See also **Persons of concern**

Self-reliance

In the refugee context, the ability of an asylum-seeker or refugee to meet his/her own basic needs and those of his/her dependants.

Separated children

Children who are separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other family members

(as defined in the *Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*).

See also **Child** and **Unaccompanied children**

Serious non-political crime

A **serious non-political crime** is a crime which is considered serious in most jurisdictions, and which is predominantly motivated by non-political reasons (such as personal gain). Crimes which have been committed out of a political motive, but which cause indiscriminate harm to civilians and/or are disproportionate to the alleged political purpose may also be considered non-political for the purposes of the exclusion clause.

See also **Exclusion clause**

Sexual abuse

Actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature including inappropriate touching, by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

Violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. While women, men, boys and girls can be victims of SGBV, women and girls are more often the victims.

Sexual exploitation

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Signatory

A country that is signatory to a treaty (such as the *1951 Refugee Convention*) indicates its intention to "ratify" (become a "party") it at a later date. Signing a treaty does not bind the country to it. However it assumes an obligation of good faith to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the treaty.

See also **Accession** and **Ratification**

Situation analysis

A fact and information-gathering process where a situation or problem is examined from all possible angles (statistical, social, economic, political, legal, etc) by the people who are concerned by the problem or situation. For UNHCR, situation analysis includes profiling, sex and age disaggregated data, standards and indicators, participatory assessment, and participatory planning.

See also **Community development approach** and **Mainstreaming age, gender and diversity**

Standards of treatment

Parameters derived from the *1951 Refugee Convention* and other international and regional human rights instruments that set the parameters for the treatment of persons of concern to UNHCR.

Stateless person

A person who is not considered a national by any country under the operation of its law (Article 1 of the 1954 *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*).

See also **Persons of concern**

Statelessness

The condition of not being considered a national by any country under the operation of its law.

Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR Statute)

The annex to General Assembly Resolution 428 (V) of 1950 that establishes UNHCR's mandate, functions and structure, and defines a refugee for the purposes of UNHCR's work. UNHCR's mandate has been subsequently expanded by numerous UN General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions.

See also **UNHCR mandate**

Temporary protection

Protection that is offered to people who are fleeing conflict and persecution in large enough numbers to overwhelm asylum procedures, or where there are no asylum procedures, as a short-term, emergency response. A determination of eligibility for refugee status needs to be carried out after this initial response. Temporary protection should be used on an exceptional basis by countries.

Treaty-based mechanisms

UN human rights treaty bodies (committees) constituted to monitor the implementation of the core international human rights treaties. They are created in accordance with the provisions of the treaties concerned. Currently there are seven treaty monitoring bodies.

See also **Human rights** and **Charter-based mechanisms**

Unaccompanied children

Children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so (as defined in the *Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*).

See also **Child** and **Separated children**

UNHCR partner

Normally refers to government agencies, UN bodies, NGOs and other parts of civil society that work with UNHCR in protecting persons of concern to the agency. Refugees and other persons of concern to the agency are also important partners.

United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)

The United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF's mission is to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. UNICEF is guided in doing this by the provisions and principles of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UN agency mandated by the international community to, *inter alia*, protect refugees and find durable solutions for them in co-ordination with governments and other partners. The ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly have mandated UNHCR with other related tasks.

Violence against women

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

(b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

(c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

(cited from the 1993 UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women)

Voluntary repatriation

One of the three durable solutions to address the plight of refugees. It involves refugees voluntarily returning to their country of origin and/or country of habitual residence in safety and with dignity. Refugees may repatriate spontaneously or with the assistance of UNHCR and its partners.

See also **Durable solution**, **Local integration**, and **Resettlement**

War crimes

War crimes are violations of the laws or customs of war. These crimes include, but are not limited to, grave breaches of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, including the wilful killing, torture, inhuman treatment, unlawful detention or deportation of persons who are no longer taking part in hostilities, and the destruction or appropriation of property protected by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. Civilian or military personnel can commit war crimes.

See also **Exclusion clauses**, **Crimes against peace**, **Crimes against humanity**, and **Acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN**

Well-founded fear (of persecution)

The key distinctive element of the *1951 Refugee Convention* definition of a refugee. According to the *1951 Refugee Convention*, this fear of persecution must be linked to one or more of the five Convention grounds: race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

See also **Convention grounds** and **Persecution**

World Food Programme (WFP)

As the food aid arm of the UN, WFP provides food to meet emergency needs and to support economic & social development. The Agency also provides the logistics support necessary to get food aid to the right people at the right time and in the right place. It promotes policies, strategies and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry.

Credits

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