

Terminology and Facts

Refugee, recognised refugee, immigrant... How am I meant to make head or tail of these terms?

 **Refugee** – a person recognised as a refugee according to the criteria set out in the 1951 *Geneva Convention*. Refugees are persons who, owing to legitimate fear of persecution due to **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or holding a political opinion**, are outside the country of their nationality. Asylum seekers and recognised refugees are not protected by their own country.

What is special about refugees? Refugees are a category of persons specifically defined and protected by **international law**. They are people outside the country of their nationality and, due to fear of persecution, they need “international protection”. Their situation is often so dangerous and unbearable that they cross borders and seek safety in neighbouring countries, thereby becoming internationally recognised “refugees”, and as such they have access to assistance from states, UNHCR and relevant organisations. They are recognised as refugees specifically because returning home is too dangerous for them, and so they need to find refuge elsewhere. They are people for whom denying asylum could have fatal consequences.

 **International protection** - the specific legal framework protecting refugee rights is referred to as “international refugee protection”. The reason for its existence is that refugees are people in a specific difficult situation that calls for special guarantees. Asylum seekers and refugees cannot avail themselves of their own country’s protection.

 **Recognised refugee** – a foreign national who has been granted asylum, a form of international protection. Asylum is granted to people who have been persecuted according to the criteria of the Geneva Convention for as long as the decision under which asylum was granted remains valid. It is often confused with the term ‘migrant’.



 **Subsidiary protection** - in addition to asylum, there is another (lesser) form of international protection which can be granted to foreigners who do not meet the criteria for asylum, but would face serious harm (death penalty, torture, inhumane or humiliating treatment) if they were returned to their homeland.

 **Are the terms ‘refugee’ and ‘migrant’ interchangeable?** They are not. Although the terms ‘refugee’ and ‘migrant’ are often *used* interchangeably in the media and public discussions, there is a fundamental difference in their actual *meaning*. Confusing these terms can cause problems for refugees and asylum seekers and lead to misunderstandings in discussions on asylum and migration.

🇺🇦 **Immigrant** – a foreign national who comes to a country with the intention of residing there for an extended period (more than 1 year). Immigrants leave their homeland because of economic, climate, health, family, or similar concerns.

🇺🇦 **Illegal immigrant** – someone who doesn't hold legal documents, but unlawfully arrives in or stays in another country.

🇺🇦 **UNHCR** – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a specialised international institution as part of the UN that focuses on protecting and assisting refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons all around the world.



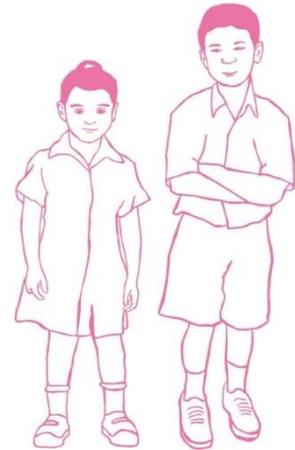
Child refugees

🇺🇦 More than half of all refugees worldwide are children, i.e. persons under 18 years of age.

🇺🇦 91% of children around the world attend primary school.

🇺🇦 61% of child refugees attend primary school.

🇺🇦 In the Czech Republic, there are very few child refugees living completely alone, without the support of their family – literally only a few individuals, perhaps a few dozen at most. These children are placed in a specialised facility where experts try to help them navigate their way around their new environment, learn our language and integrate into life in the Czech Republic and the mainstream education system as quickly as possible.



Stateless persons

Citizenship is a legal bond between the state and an individual. Stateless persons do not have that bond, which can have terrible repercussions in their lives. Being a citizen of a state is a prerequisite for engagement with society and access to all human rights. Statelessness may arise for numerous reasons, e.g. as a result of the discrimination of a minority in national legislation, the non-inclusion of the entire population in a newly formed or independent state, or in the wake of legal conflicts between countries. It is estimated that there are some 12 million stateless persons around the world.



Selected facts and figures worldwide

- 🇺🇸 **More than 68.5 million people worldwide have been forced to leave their homes (2018)** – the highest number since the end of the Second World War.
- 🇺🇸 **The countries from which people most often flee:** 57% of refugees come from three countries: South Sudan (2.4 million), Afghanistan (2.6 million), and Syria (6.3 million).
- 🇺🇸 **The countries hosting most refugees:** Turkey (3.5 million), Uganda (1.4 million), Pakistan (1.4 million), and Lebanon (1 million).

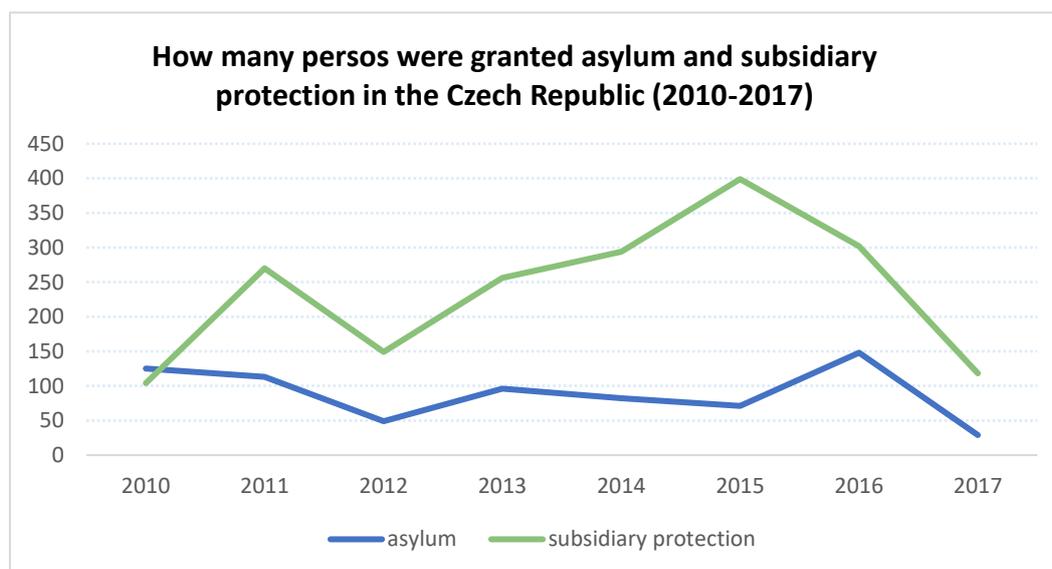
Selected facts and figures in the Czech Republic

- 🇺🇸 **Origins of the majority of applicants for international protection in the Czech Republic (2017):** traditionally these are people from the former Soviet Union, in particular Ukraine (294), and also Azerbaijan (80), Georgia (61), Armenia (58), and Syria (54).

Number of asylum applications in the Czech Republic (1990-2017)

Year	Applications
1990	1602
2000	8794
2010	833
2011	756
2012	753
2013	707
2014	1156
2015	1525
2016	1478
2017	1450

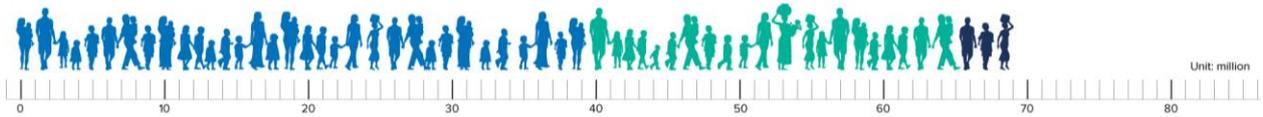
No of persons with valid international protection in the Czech Republic



Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Department for Asylum and Migration Policy

UNHCR Figures at a glance

68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide



Internally Displaced People
40 million

Refugees
25.4 million

19.9 million under UNHCR mandate
5.4 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA

Asylum-seekers
3.1 million

Where the world's displaced people are being hosted

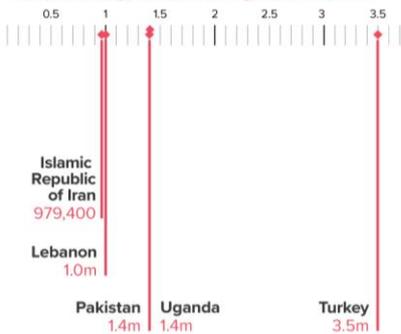


85 per cent of the world's displaced people are in developing countries

57% of refugees worldwide came from three countries



Top refugee-hosting countries



10 million stateless people



102,800 Refugees resettled

44,400 people a day forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution

11,517 staff
UNHCR employs 11,517 staff (as of 31 May 2018)

128 countries
We work in 128 countries (as of 31 May 2018)

We are funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, with 87 per cent from governments and the European Union and 10 per cent from private donors