



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

This is the process of becoming a refugee in Ireland, managed by the International Protection Office.



ASYLUM SEEKER

This term is the same as International Protection Applicant. Asylum seekers have applied for International Protection and are waiting for the government to recognize them as refugees. According to international law, their asylum application must be considered.

REFUGEE

A person who has to leave their country because of war or persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, sexuality, gender, or politics. Refugees are allowed to stay in Ireland legally and can apply for citizenship after three years.



PROGRAMME/RESETTLED REFUGEES

These are people who had to flee their country, often living in refugee camps. After being interviewed and having their story confirmed, they are moved to a new country, like Ireland, and are automatically given refugee status.



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDP)

A person who has been forced to flee their home but has not crossed an international border. They stay in their home country but cannot return to their home. There are more IDPs than refugees in the world today.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Due to the war, Ukrainians are being granted Temporary Protection in EU countries. This allows them full rights to live, study, receive medical and welfare assistance, and work.



MIGRANT / IMMIGRANT

Anyone who moves to another country, often for work, education, or better opportunities. Poverty and natural disasters are common reasons for migration. Millions of Irish people have migrated around the world over the past 200 years.



UNACCOMPANIED MINOR SEEKING ASYLUM

A child under 18 years old who is seeking asylum and is separated from both parents.



COUNTRIES THAT MOST REFUGEES FLEE FROM*

1. AFGHANISTAN
2. SYRIA
3. UKRAINE
4. VENEZUELA
5. SUDAN

COUNTRIES HOSTING THE MOST REFUGEES *

1. IRAN
2. TURKEY
3. PAKISTAN
4. UGANDA
5. GERMANY

*UNHCR, JUNE 2024



- Women, men, and children leave their countries to seek international protection. Because the journey is dangerous, men often travel first. Once they get status, they can apply for their family to join them.
- Seeking asylum/international protection is not illegal; it is a recognised human right worldwide.
- Refugees often have no safe and legal way to come to a safe country. Some refugees are smuggled by traffickers who use fake documents or unsafe methods to enter a country. This happens because there aren't many safe ways to enter countries like Ireland for protection. People might lose their documents or have them stolen during the journey.
- When an asylum seeker arrives in Ireland, they go through at least two in-depth interviews. They are checked and fingerprinted by the International Protection Office, and the information is stored in a Europe-wide database.
- Refugees come to Ireland because it's too dangerous to stay in their own country. Some choose Ireland because they have connections here, because English is spoken, or because other places don't feel safe to them.
- Most refugees know nothing about the social welfare system and want to work, integrate into society, and be self-reliant.
- Refugees contribute significantly to the Irish economy in fields like health, IT, social care, commerce, construction, education, culture, sports, and more.
- There is no evidence that nationality, religion, or a person's legal status in Ireland is linked to crime rates.
- Refugees and asylum seekers are not given priority for housing. Most live in shared rooms in hostels or Direct Provision Centres. Recently some asylum seekers have been unable to find accommodation leaving them homeless or living in tents.

