

Understanding Refugees in Canada

Research by: GLOCAL Research Team, Sanjida Akter, Laayba Shaikh, Ke Vaughn Thames, and Jia

Yue He

Edited by Danielle Jbeili, Jia Yue He, and Helen Guan

GLOCAL Foundation of Canada

GLOCAL Foundation of Canada	1
Introduction	3
Executive Summary	5
Definitions	6
Glossary	6
Convention Refugee.....	6
Person in Need of Protection.....	7
Asylum Seeker.....	7
Resettled Refugee.....	7
Internally Displaced Person (IDP).....	7
Stateless Person.....	8
Key Actors	8
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB).....	8
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).....	9
Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).....	9
Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR).....	10
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).....	10
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).....	11
Choosing Canada: Refugee Reasons for Leaving Home	11
Armed Conflict and War.....	12
Political Unrest and Instability.....	12
Human Rights Violations.....	13
Persecution and Discrimination Based on Identity.....	14
Religious and Ethnic Identity.....	14
Gender and Sexual Orientation.....	16
Climate Change and Environmental Factors.....	17
Health Crises and Pandemics.....	18
Entering Canada	19
Making a Claim before the IRB.....	19
Refugee Appeal Division.....	21
Government Assisted Refugees (GAR).....	21
Blended-Visa Office Referred Program (BVOR).....	22
Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH).....	22
Groups of Five (G5).....	23
Community Sponsor.....	23
Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR).....	23
The Case of Québec.....	24
Québec Refugee Reception Program.....	24
Privately Sponsored Refugees in Quebec.....	24
Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA).....	25
Resettlement Challenges and Solutions	26
Language Barriers.....	27
Employment Challenges.....	27

Housing Issues.....	28
Mental Health Supports.....	30
Stigma.....	31
Social Integration.....	32
Conclusion.....	33
References.....	34

Introduction

On a global scale, the number of individuals forced to flee their homes in search of refuge from crises such as war, famine, climate disasters, and discrimination is growing at an unprecedented rate. They may relocate to another city, a neighbouring country, or the other side of the world. By the end of 2024, an estimated 123.2 million individuals worldwide have been forcibly displaced, including around 31 million refugees, 73.5 internally displaced persons,¹ 5.9 million displaced Palestinians under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA),² 8.4 million individuals seeking asylum, and 5.9 million individuals needing international protection (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2024b; 2024c; 2024d). As of June 2025, there were roughly 42.5 million refugees, 8.42 million asylum seekers, 67.8 million individuals who have been displaced within the borders of their country, and 4.4 million stateless persons³ around the globe (UNHCR, 2024c; 2025b).

According to data from 2024, the vast majority (73%) of refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries in Africa and Asia, with a small fraction residing in higher-income countries in Europe and North America, including Canada (Canadian Council for Refugees [CCR], n.d.-c; UNHCR, 2024a; 2024b; 2024c), which hosts around 1.5% of the world's refugees (CCR, n.d.-b). In 2023, Canada received 144,035 asylum claims, breaking the previous record for refugee claims set in 2022 (UNHCR Canada, 2024). In 2024, this number reached 174,000 (UNHCR, 2024c). From January to March 2024, 11,082 refugee claims were approved and 186,234 are pending evaluation (IRB, 2024).

The journeys of refugees can be dangerous and filled with uncertainty, and oftentimes, refugees can find themselves in more precarious situations than the ones they fled in their home countries. Once they arrive in their host countries, numerous other challenges may arise, such as language barriers, limited access to services and support, trauma from the conditions they have fled, discrimination, and many more.

¹ Data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The UNHCR (2024c) reported 68.1 million internally displaced persons at the end of 2024.

² Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons are not under the mandate of the UNHCR.

³ Stateless persons are not automatically included in the total number of forcibly displaced individuals. The UNHCR reports that around 1.4 of stateless persons were displaced by the end of 2024.

For all of these reasons and more, refugees are among the most vulnerable populations and their needs and circumstances require specific attention. Given the increasing levels of displacement around the globe, governments, organizations, and institutions need to work together to support refugees on all levels. This overview will detail the relevant definitions, key actors in supporting refugees, refugee streams of entry into Canada, causes of displacement, and challenges arising from forced migration. It will also cover current policy recommendations based on research with refugee communities and their unique, nuanced circumstances.

Executive Summary

- People are displaced for many reasons, including armed conflict, political instability, human rights violations, persecution based on identity, natural disasters, climate change, and health crises. It is estimated that over 1 hundred million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide.
- Canada is a significant destination for individuals seeking refuge, and currently hosts over 600,000 people who have been forcibly displaced. In 2023, Canada received a record-breaking 140,000+ asylum claims, and received more than 170,000 in 2024.
- There are several pathways through which people can gain refugee status in Canada. This includes settling with the help of government sponsorship, the blended visa office-referred program, and private sponsorship. Québec has its own programs.
- People face many challenges in resettling in a new country, including language barriers, access to housing, mental health and physical health care, and social stigma. Canada will need to attend to these challenges as displacement rises and more people search for their new homes.

Choosing Canada: Refugee Reasons for Leaving Home

As of 2025, Canada hosts 692,635 people who have been forcibly displaced, including 389,250 refugees and people in refugee-like situations (UNHCR, 2025a). The phenomenon of forced migration is complex and multifaceted, and there are a number of reasons why someone might seek refuge in Canada. Some of the primary reasons compelling individuals to leave their countries include war, political instability, and persecution based on identity, among others.

Armed Conflict and War

Armed conflict and war are primary catalysts for forced displacement, compelling individuals and communities to flee their homes in search of safety and security. In 2020, for example, the conflict in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia led to a serious humanitarian crisis (Global Affairs Canada, 2024). Canada currently hosts 5,424 refugees and asylum seekers from Ethiopia (UNHCR, 2025a). The 2022 war in Ukraine has also led to a rise in Ukrainians seeking refugee status in Canada. Around 300,000 Ukrainians have arrived under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET), and Ukrainians with family in Canada were able to apply for permanent residency under a temporary public policy from October 2023 to October 2024 (IRCC, 2025; 2026).

Armed conflicts often involve direct violence against civilians, leading to widespread fear and insecurity. The impact of armed conflict extends beyond direct violence and can induce migration through loss of income, the erosion of social relationships, and government failure (Abel et al., 2019). Refugees often escape to avoid violence, persecution, and human rights violations (Peters & Van Den Hoek, 2021). The destruction of essential infrastructure during armed conflicts further compounds the challenges faced by communities. The loss of homes, hospitals, and schools disrupts normalcy, leaving people with no choice but to abandon their communities to find safety in more stable environments. Fleeing to neighboring countries or regions perceived as safer is often the only means of escaping the immediate

dangers posed by warfare. Thus, armed conflict contributes to the refugee crisis by compelling the mass movement of people (Braithwaite et al., 2019).

Political Unrest and Instability

Political instability is another driver of forced displacement (Palattiyil et al., 2024). Instability can mean a number of different things, but some of the key measures include a state that has high poverty rates, a weak government structure with a lack of security, and high levels of violent conflict (Martin-Shields, 2017). As governance systems fail to address the needs of the population, individuals may feel compelled to leave their home countries in pursuit of a more stable and just environment.

One of the primary facets of political instability leading to forced displacement is government oppression and states where insufficient governance results in power vacuums and the proliferation of gang violence. Citizens often face persecution based on their political beliefs, affiliations, or perceived opposition to ruling regimes. The erosion of civil liberties and political freedoms, such as the right to free speech, assembly, and political participation, can result in an atmosphere of fear and insecurity, prompting individuals to seek refuge in countries where they can exercise their rights without fear of persecution (Collier et al., 2009). Individuals who seek to express dissenting opinions, engage in political activism, or oppose the ruling factions may face persecution and imprisonment. This can force them to flee in search of a safer, more permissive environment, such as Canada, a relatively stable and wealthy country that protects freedom of expression (Peters & Besley, 2015).

Human Rights Violations

Widespread human rights abuses contribute to forced displacement (Amnesty International, 2021). Human rights violations encompass a spectrum of abuses, including torture, forced labour, the denial of basic freedoms, extrajudicial killings, and arbitrary detention. Violations of basic human rights intensify during situations of armed conflict. The deterioration of governance structures intensifies the urgency for individuals to seek refuge in countries where their human rights are more likely to be respected

(Amnesty International, 2021). When governments or non-state actors perpetrate these abuses, individuals are left with little choice but to flee their home countries to escape immediate threats to their lives and well-being (Amnesty International, 2021). Addressing the root causes of human rights violations is essential to preventing forced displacement and fostering a more just and humane global society.

Forced displacement may also result from systemic forced labour and exploitation. Conflict has been shown to increase the risk of forced labour, child labour, recruitment into armed groups, human trafficking, and more (International Labour Organization, 2023). Vulnerable populations, including women, children, and marginalized communities, are disproportionately affected by human rights violations. Women may face gender-based violence, including higher rates of sexual assault and domestic violence, and migrant women are especially vulnerable to violence (UN Women, 2021), while children may be recruited into armed conflict (Human Rights Watch, n.d.).

Persecution and Discrimination Based on Identity

Forced displacement driven by persecution and discrimination reflects a reality where individuals, often targeted based on their identity, are compelled to flee their homes to escape threats to their lives and well-being. Persecution manifests in various forms, including violence, harassment, legal oppression, imprisonment, and killings based on factors such as ethnicity (Newland, 1993), religion (Good, 2009), sexual orientation or gender identity/expression (SOGIE), and disability (such as people with albinism in some African countries; Rao, 2017/2018). Persecution can even lead to the forced displacement of entire communities, as witnessed in instances of ethnic cleansing or religious persecution (Newland, 1993). Fleeing becomes not just a choice but a necessity for survival.

Religious and Ethnic Identity

The fear of retribution for one's identity or beliefs is a powerful motivator for seeking asylum. Refugees may flee their home countries due to persecution based on religious belief or ethnicity – a complex identity that may include a shared culture, language, race, religion, social organization, and

geographic origin (Human Rights Watch, 2022; Newland, 1993). Canada has become a refuge for individuals facing religious or ethnic persecution (Government of Canada, 2024), though cultural and religious integration challenges persist, such as discrimination based on perceived religion or race from Canadians (Danso, 2002).

As the definition of ethnicity may encompass religious beliefs, ethnic persecution is often linked and co-occurs with religious persecution. This is the case in Myanmar, where the Buddhist majority have launched a campaign of persecution, violence, and killings against the mostly Muslim Rohingya minority in 2017, though persecution has occurred since the 1970s (Albert & Maizland, 2020). Ethnoreligious communities, such as Jewish communities in Nazi Germany (Newland, 1993), have also faced mass persecution and genocide, leading to displacement in large numbers. Historically, Canadian attitudes toward such refugees were not always welcoming. In 1939, a ship carrying 900 Jewish refugees was turned away; 250 of these refugees were later killed by the Nazis (Canadian Heritage, 2022). The Canadian government has since pledged to protect those fleeing religious and ethnic persecution and combat-related forms of bigotry, such as antisemitism (Canadian Heritage, 2022). As a result, 40,000 Holocaust survivors were later resettled in Canada (Canadian Heritage, 2022).

Ethnic conflicts can have long-lasting and damaging effects, as well as complex histories and dynamics. One widely known example is that of Rwanda, where ethnic tensions between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi – divisions that are rooted in colonial notions of race – forced over 100,000 Tutsi to flee to neighbouring countries, such as Uganda (Van der Meeren, 1996). In 1994, extremist Hutu subjected the Tutsi and their supporters to widespread violence and genocide after the assassination of the president, who was a member of the Hutu (United Nations [UN], 2022). Despite the presence of United Nations peacekeeping forces, the massacre lasted for 100 days and resulted in an estimated one million deaths (UN, 2022).

After the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front took power, many Hutu fled to other countries, fearing reprisals; some became the targets of violence, militarized themselves against the primarily Tutsi-led Rwandan government, or later returned to Rwanda, where they were ostracized under suspicion of participating in the genocide (Lischer, 2011). Other refugees, including Tutsi, have resettled in countries like Canada, where they may experience symptoms of posttraumatic stress, barriers in family reunification, and other challenges (Yohani & Kreitzer, 2021). Refugees who have survived genocide benefit from the support of a community, particularly other survivors, in finding integration, healing, and justice (Yohani & Kreitzer, 2021; UN, 2022).

Gender and Sexual Orientation

Refugees may seek asylum due to threats and violence related to their gender (UNHCR, 2022; 2024b). For example, women fearing violence and persecution based on their gender in their country of origin may seek asylum in other countries. However, they also face the risk of experiencing more gender-based violence en route to and in their host country, such as sexual harassment, assault, and intimidation (Moussa, 1998). For example, sexual violence against Tutsi women by Hutu men was also a large facet of the Rwandan genocide, and children that were born of this violence continue to be ostracized in the country (Human Rights Watch, 1996).

Individuals also flee legal and extralegal persecution based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), facing unique challenges in resettlement (Nathwani, 2015). As of 2020, 69 UN states criminalize LGBTQI+ individuals and 11 have the death penalty as a punishment for homosexuality (ILGA World et al., 2020). The federal Canadian government collaborates with several Canadian organizations to support LGBTQI+ refugees. In 2019, the Government of Canada established the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership with the Rainbow Refugee Society, which allows Sponsorship Agreement Holders to privately sponsor LGBTQI+ refugees (IRCC, 2024c). Since 2023, the

Rainbow Railroad non-profit organization can refer individuals fleeing gender-based or sexual orientation-related persecution to the Government-Assisted Refugee program (IRCC, 2024c).

Before, during, and after migration, LGBTQI+ asylum seekers and refugees experience many challenges. In many countries worldwide, LGBTQI+ individuals are at risk for mental health concerns such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder and violence in the forms of sexual abuse, physical assault, incarceration, and murder (Messih, 2016). During migration, asylum seekers are at risk of violence based on perceived sexual orientation or gender presentation, as well as exclusion from programs and resources supporting refugees (Messih, 2016). After migration, LGBTQI+ refugees may experience discrimination based on their identity, mental health issues related to persecution, and difficulty finding safe housing in their host country (Messih, 2016; Nathwani, 2015; Yarwood et al., 2022).

Some authors have raised concerns about Canada's process of determining refugee eligibility based on SOGIE, as other cultures, especially non-Western cultures, have their own nuanced comprehension of sexuality and gender, as well as their own norms regarding gender roles and presentation (Mulé, 2019; Murray, 2014). For example, determining whether a refugee is LGBTQI+ can involve invasive questions about sexual history based on a Western understanding of homosexuality (Lee et al., 2023). Furthermore, the intersections of LGBTQI+ refugees' identities, such as the compounding influences of discrimination based on race, gender, disability, may be ignored (Mulé, 2019). Therefore, a comprehensive, culturally appropriate and sensitive policy on processing SOGIESC-based refugee claims and supporting sexual and gender minority refugees is a valuable tool for supporting these refugees. In 2021, in response to advocates who highlighted the unique challenges that SOGIESC refugees may face in making a claim before the IRB, the Government of Canada released Guideline 9: Proceedings Before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics. This guideline is meant to act as a reference for judges sitting on the IRB in hearings involving SOGIESC refugees. The document provides thorough guidelines for judges on common misconceptions regarding SOGIESC refugees, as well as how

to confront stereotypes or Westernized tropes regarding LGBTQI+ individuals that may affect the outcome of hearings (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2021).

Climate Change and Environmental Factors

Climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly recognized as drivers of displacement. Individuals and communities leave their homes due to the increasingly inhospitable conditions wrought by natural disasters and the broader impacts of a changing climate. Natural disasters, food and water scarcity, and environmental degradation compel people to migrate (Balci et al., 2023; Feng, 2023), and many currently displaced people are from countries vulnerable to climate change (UNHCR, n.d.-c; Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, 2024). Statistics from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2017) show that between 2008 and 2016, over 227 million people were displaced by climate disasters, and it is estimated between 25 million and 1 billion people may be displaced due to climate change by 2050 (Becklumb, 2010). Changes in the environment have caused such a significant impact that the term “environmental refugees” has been coined to describe the influx of refugees from climate disasters (Salehyan, 2005).

One of the primary drivers of displacement linked to environmental factors is the occurrence of natural disasters. Drought, erosion, and rising sea levels cause a slower crisis that eventually forces communities to leave their homes, whereas wildfires – including those that wracked Canada in 2023 – flooding, hurricanes and earthquakes require immediate evacuation (UNHCR, 2023). Climate disasters tend to cause internal displacement, which means individuals are protected under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNHCR, n.d.-c; 2023). While environmental disasters and climate change do not appear under the criteria for claiming refuge under the 1951 Convention, resource scarcity due to natural disasters may lead to armed conflict and economic instability, which then drives displacement (Salehyan, 2005). For instance, competition for resources in the wake of environmental degradation can escalate existing tensions, potentially leading to conflict-induced migration (Salehyan, 2005).

The concept of “climate refugees” is emerging, but needs more clarity and legal recognition, which affects the protection and support available to these individuals (Feng, 2023; Berchin et al., 2017). As climate and environmental refugees do not meet the criteria set out by the 1951 Refugee Convention, debates over the legitimacy, applicability, and international implications of the term (such as its effect on national sovereignty) are ongoing (Berchin et al., 2017). Before a clear legal and academic definition is settled, countries, including Canada, may make their own treaties, policies, and other arrangements to support people displaced by climate change (Feng, 2023). In addition, planning around immigration policy, infrastructure, health, and other resources is required to address the predicted increase in global temperatures and climate-induced migration (Becklumb, 2010).

Health Crises and Pandemics

Health emergencies can intensify existing vulnerabilities, leading to displacement (World Health Organization [WHO], 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted some of these challenges including healthcare access and inequities in healthcare outcomes (Tuyisenge & Goldenberg, 2021). Refugees may be especially vulnerable to public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic due to the effects of structural racism, language barriers, overcrowded housing or homelessness, poverty, overrepresentation in low-paying service jobs, and reliance on public services shut down in quarantine, such as public transport (Brickhill-Atkinson & Hauck, 2021; Clarke et al., 2020; Saifee et al., 2021). Robust health emergency preparedness is critical, especially for vulnerable populations like refugees (WHO, 2022). Emergency measures include provisions for accommodating the influx of refugees fleeing a public health crisis, adequate quarantine and sanitation procedures, outreach to refugee groups, increasing healthcare capacity and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate care to ensure that the health needs of all residents, including newcomers, are met (Brickhill-Atkinson & Hauck, 2021; Clarke et al., 2020).

Entering Canada

According to the UNHCR in Canada (n.d.-a), Canada has welcomed over 1 million refugees between 1980 and 2017. Once refugees have obtained official refugee status in Canada, they may apply to become permanent residents and acquire the associated rights, including working and accessing healthcare in their region of residence. They may then apply for Canadian citizenship after fulfilling the requirements for citizenship (IRCC, 2024b). Refugees can enter any region in Canada through 3 recognized streams (with the exception of Québec, which has its own programs). The streams are the Government Assisted Refugees program, the Blended Visa Office-Referred Program, and the Privately Sponsored Refugees program.

Making a Claim before the IRB

Persons wishing to make a refugee claim may either do so at a point of entry to Canada (a Port of Entry Claim) or at an Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada Office (an Inland Claim). At this point, the claim will be initially evaluated and determined as either eligible or ineligible. Some reasons that a claim may be deemed ineligible include if the person is deemed to be a security threat, if they have made a refugee claim in Canada before or have been granted refugee status in another country, or if they entered Canada through the United States and are thus ineligible under the Safe Third Country Agreement (FCJ Refugee Centre, n.d.). If a claim is found to be eligible, the refugee claimant will be given a portfolio of documents that are necessary for making an official refugee claim before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB).

Perhaps the most important part of this portfolio is the Basis of Claim (BOC) form. The BOC form is a detailed questionnaire that asks the refugee claimant questions about themselves and their reasons for claiming refugee status in Canada. Refugee claimants may choose to have a representative help them fill out this form, or they may choose to represent themselves in front of the IRB. Questions that the BOC form asks include questions such as “Did you move to another part of your country to seek safety?” These

questions are important for the IRB to determine if all other avenues for seeking safety were taken by the claimant before deciding to leave their home country entirely (FCJ Refugee Centre, n.d.).

It is helpful for the refugee claimant to have outside sources that corroborate their claims of persecution in their home country. The National Documentation Package (NDP) is a resource designed by the IRB to help in this process. This resource provides a mass documentation of resources about the state of any given country in the world, and is updated frequently to reflect changing political situations. The NDP for a country amalgamates sources such as news articles and human rights reports from organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, giving a broad interview of the country's political status and stability. It is divided into different sections that reflect a reason that a person may be persecuted in the country, such as gender and sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religion (IRB, n.d). These documents may be presented before the IRB to prove that the status of an individual's home country makes it unsafe for that individual to return.

Refugee Appeal Division

Refugee hearings typically take half a day, with the claimant receiving the decision (either positive or negative) at the end of the hearing. In the case of a negative decision, the claimant may choose to appeal through the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD). However, there are many exceptions to a claimant's right to appeal. For example, claimants who are designated as part of an "irregular arrival" into the country, or claims that are explicitly determined to have "no credible basis" or are "manifestly unfounded," do not reserve the right to appeal a negative IRB decision to the RAD (FCJ Refugee Centre, n.d.).

Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)

The Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) program is an initiative where refugees are referred by the UNHCR or any other officially recognized referral organization to the Government of Canada. Once referred, these individuals must be registered under refugee status and the Government of Canada is responsible for supporting the individual upon arrival to Canada (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Canada [IRCC], n.d.-a). As part of the evaluation process, a Canadian Visa Officer conducts an interview with the individual applicant to determine that:

- they have not committed serious crimes in the past,
- they are not a safety or security risk to Canada, and
- no identity fraud has been committed (IRCC, n.d.-b)

Before being accepted into Canada, the individual must:

- go through a medical exam,
- pass a criminal and security check, and
- give biometric information, which includes fingerprints and a digital photo (IRCC, n.d.-b)

If an application is approved, a government-funded organization will support the individual with the necessary paperwork to leave the country they are claiming refuge from and to support them with funds to travel to Canada (IRCC, n.d.-b). Upon arrival in Canada, an officer from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will greet the individual and ensure that they are allowed to enter the country (IRCC, n.d.-c). GARs will receive financial support from the federal government (or provincial government if in Quebec) for up to 1 year from their arrival in Canada or until they are able to support themselves, whichever comes first.

Blended-Visa Office Referred Program (BVOR)

The Blended-Visa Office Referred Program (BVOR program) is a blend of both government support and private sponsorship. The government can match registered private sponsors to refugees entering the country where they share in the support of refugees for 1 year from the date of their arrival (UNHCR Canada, n.d.-b). Sponsors are responsible for providing refugees with 6 months of financial support, while the government is responsible for another 6 months of financial support (IRCC, n.d.-d).

Sponsors must also offer 12 months of emotional, social, and settlement support to the refugee families or individual refugees (IRCC, 2024d). In the case of refugees with disabilities, sponsors are required to offer 24 to 36 months of support under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship program. In either case, this support may include helping the refugee(s) access local services, transportation, work, housing, and education.

Sponsors cannot be one individual, but rather must apply and register with one of three options:

Sponsorship Agreement Holders, Groups of Five, or Community Sponsors.

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH)

Sponsorship Agreement Holders are organizations which have signed an agreement with the Government to sponsor and support refugees upon resettlement to Canada.

Groups of Five (G5)

Groups of Five (G5s) are groups of 5 or more individuals who are registered Canadian citizens or permanent residents who sponsor and support refugees upon resettlement to Canada (IRCC, n.d.-e). In order to be part of a G5, one must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- be at least 18 years old
- live in the same community where the refugee is expected to settle, and
- agree to give settlement support for the length of the sponsorship (usually 1 year)

The group must:

- provide a settlement plan
- prove the group has the money to sponsor a refugee for 1 year

Community Sponsor

Organizations, associations, and corporations are all examples of community sponsors. These are groups that commit to sponsoring refugees for generally 1 year. These groups may also partner with other groups or individuals who agree to help the sponsor with their duties (IRCC, n.d.-f).

Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)

The Privately Sponsored Refugees or Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program involves the sponsorship of refugees by private groups who are committed to sponsoring a refugee for up to 1 year after their arrival in Canada. This includes the costs of basic necessities, start-up costs like furniture or clothing, and emotional and social support. The private groups who are eligible must be either a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, a G5, or a community sponsor (UNHCR Canada, n.d.-c). The difference between the PSR program and the BVOR program is that PSRs do not receive any financial sponsorship from the government (IRCC, n.d.-g).

The Case of Québec

Québec's approach to refugee resettlement differs slightly from the rest of Canada due to the province's unique immigration agreements with the federal government. The federal government determines refugee status, while Québec is responsible for reviewing selection applications and rendering decisions on cases recognized by Canada as refugees or similar situations abroad (IRCC, n.d.-h). To be resettled in Québec, the province conducts an assessment of an already determined Convention refugee to determine whether an individual is a potential candidate to be resettled in Québec. To be considered, individuals with recognized refugee status must submit a permanent selection application to the Québec government (Government of Québec, n.d.-a). Upon review of their application, refugees will receive the Certificat de sélection du Québec (CSQ – Québec Selection Certificate) which confirms that they have been selected to resettle in Québec (Government of Québec, n.d.-a). The Québec Government assists refugees through the GAR program (IRCC, 2020), but it is the responsibility of the provincial government rather than the federal government (IRCC, n.d.-h).

Québec Refugee Reception Program

Under this program, government-assisted refugees arriving in Québec have access to the Programme Réussir l'intégration (PRI), which is the official integration program for newcomers, including

immigrants and refugees, in Québec (IRCC, 2019). Refugees under this stream will also be eligible to receive financial support from the province's immigration ministry, or the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIDI) (IRCC, n.d.-h). The integration program and MIDI officers assist refugees with initial settlement steps, such as finding accommodation, applying for health insurance, and enrolling in language or integration programs (IRCC, 2019; IRCC, n.d.-h).

Privately Sponsored Refugees in Quebec

Québec allows for independent sponsorship of refugees destined to Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) or outside the CMM. It has sole responsibility for the sponsorship program regarding refugees destined for Québec. Similar to the federal program, there are three types of sponsors allowed: groups of 2 to 5 residents of Québec, regular organizations, and experienced organizations with more than ten years of experience sponsoring resettled refugees. These organizations must be registered non-profit and legally recognized in Québec (IRCC, n.d.-h). MIDI sets the annual caps for sponsorship depending on the type of sponsor and the intended destination.

Applications for sponsorship are first submitted to MIDI for approval. If the application is approved, sponsors must submit the approval letter and "Fiche de transmission" received from MIDI as part of their application package to the Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa for further evaluation (IRCC, 2019). The sponsored refugees must fall into one of two specific categories: (1) a Convention refugee or (2) a member of the country of asylum class abroad, i.e. someone who is outside of their country of origin and facing a threat to their wellbeing, as determined by migration officers abroad (IRCC, n.d.-h). Sponsors are responsible for assisting refugees with integration after arriving in Québec and providing resources for their essential needs.

Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA)

Countries with similar legal standards for refugee status sometimes have agreements "requiring people to claim asylum only in the first 'safe' country they enter" (Gagnon et al., 2021). The Safe Third

Country Agreement (STCA) between Canada and the United States was signed in 2002 and came into force December 29, 2004 (IRCC, 2023). Due to the STCA, “most people who come to Canada via the U.S. cannot claim asylum in Canada, although there are some exceptions” (Gagnon et al., 2021).

Exceptions fall under four categories: family members of Canadian permanent residents and citizens; unaccompanied minors (under the age of 18); holders of specified valid documents, such as permits and visas that allow for work, study, and travel in Canada; and public interest cases, such as individuals who would face death penalty in the U.S. (IRCC, 2023).

The STCA has faced challenges in the Canadian Supreme Court under section 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; as of 2023, it remains in effect (IRCC, 2023). In addition, until March 2023, the STCA applied only at official land border crossings, also known as designated points of entry (Gagnon et al., 2023). Before March 2023, refugees who crossed at unofficial points of entry could circumvent the agreement by applying for status once in Canada. After March 2023, the STCA applied at all land border crossings and internal waterways (IRCC, 2023). This change came after much publicity surrounding Roxham Road, one unofficial point of entry from the United States into Canada in Québec. Prior to its closing, 95,610 migrants utilized this point of entry to Canada in 2022 (Drimonis, 2024).

Many refugee advocates reflected that the closure of the Roxham Road entry point would not stop irregular migration, but would rather force people to take other more dangerous paths to enter Canada through the United States, such as through forests or rivers encapsulating Roxham Road. Indeed, the new agreement stipulates that no one who crosses from the United States into Canada may make a refugee claim in Canada for 14 days following their arrival. Refugee advocates have pointed out that this new agreement encourages desperate asylum seekers to employ the services of human traffickers, who can smuggle them across the border and hide them within the country for two weeks (Drimonis, 2024). Luna Vives at Université de Montréal has noted that the closure of Roxham Road has not stopped migration

across the Canadian border from the United States, but rather directed it to other, sometimes more dangerous routes (Drimonis, 2024).

Resettlement Challenges and Solutions

Refugees face significant and unique challenges in their host countries. These include language barriers, difficulty with finding employment, housing, and more. In addition to the aforementioned challenges, it can also be difficult to integrate oneself into some of the established communities within the host country. Within Canada, there are a host of services, organizations and services to ease the process of resettlement (IRCC, 2017).

Language Barriers

Language proficiency is an important aspect of successful integration for refugees in Canada as it permeates all aspects of integration. As refugees may not be proficient in English or French, the official languages of Canada, this can impede their ability to access essential services like healthcare (Rasi, 2020), communicate effectively, and secure meaningful employment (Arthur et al., 2023; Kaur et al., 2021). Language barriers may also contribute to social isolation and hinder the establishment of crucial social networks. Language training programs, community language services, and initiatives to promote language acquisition among refugees are vital components of addressing this challenge (Arthur et al., 2023; Foged & van der Werf, 2023). Additionally, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that supports linguistic diversity is crucial for the successful integration of refugees into Canadian society.

Employment Challenges

Refugees arriving in Canada often encounter significant hurdles in the job market. Refugees are supported by one of the three streams for up to one year after their arrival, after which they are expected to become self-sufficient (Senthanar et al., 2023). However, the process of finding work can be difficult for several reasons, such as a lack of proficiency in English or French, a lack of work experience in Canada, the discrediting of foreign credentials, and discrimination (Senthanar et al., 2023). To address these issues,

refugees require support in language training, credential validation, and a greater effort to promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Language proficiency is a crucial factor affecting a refugee's employment prospects in Canada, as limited proficiency in English or French can hinder effective communication in the workplace and limit access to job opportunities (Wilkinson & Garcea, 2017). Refugees may face challenges in understanding job requirements, participating in interviews, and engaging in day-to-day workplace interactions. They may face challenges in navigating the Canadian job market due to unfamiliarity with job search processes, networking norms, and industry practices. Understanding how to effectively search for jobs, tailor resumes to Canadian standards, and create professional networks is crucial for successful integration.

The non-recognition of foreign credentials and work experience can lead refugees to jobs that they may be overqualified for (Senthanar et al., 2023). Those with higher education and qualifications may find themselves in less stable and unsafe working conditions as a result (Senthanar et al., 2023). Gaining Canadian work experience is crucial to mitigating this issue, but the opportunities presented may be outside of the necessary field of work.

Discrimination may also manifest in workplace dynamics, impacting job satisfaction and career progression. Refugees may face bias during hiring processes, which can affect their chances of securing employment or advancing in their careers (Mooten, 2021). Refugees may also encounter challenges in understanding workplace dynamics, norms, and networking opportunities, affecting their professional relationships and career advancement.

Integration into the Canadian workforce is a crucial aspect of social integration (Banulescu-Bogdan, 2020; Arthur et al., 2023). Addressing these employment challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving government policies, employer initiatives, and community support programs. Efforts to recognize foreign credentials, promote diversity and inclusion, provide language

training, and offer mentorship programs can contribute to the successful integration of refugees into the Canadian workforce.

Housing Issues

Securing affordable and suitable housing is a critical concern for refugees upon arrival in Canada. Financial limitations pose a significant challenge for many refugees in securing housing. They may face difficulties in accessing affordable housing due to limited financial resources, especially during the initial stages of their settlement (Bragg & Hiebert, 2022). High housing costs in certain regions can put a strain on budgets, impacting their ability to find suitable and stable accommodation. While there are affordable housing programs in Canada, refugees may face challenges in accessing these resources due to complicated application processes, restrictive eligibility criteria, or lack of awareness. Limited availability of subsidized housing can hinder newcomers' ability to secure affordable and suitable housing options, particularly in high-demand urban areas (Ziersch & Due, 2018). As a result, some refugees may experience overcrowded living conditions or reside in substandard housing (Francis & Hiebert, 2014). Overcrowding can lead to health and well-being concerns, as it may be difficult for families to maintain adequate hygiene and privacy in such situations (Ziersch & Due, 2018).

Migrants may be unfamiliar with the Canadian housing market, including rental processes, lease agreements, and property ownership (Francis, 2010). Differences in housing terminology, legal procedures, and cultural norms can pose challenges for newcomers seeking suitable accommodation. Lack of knowledge about available housing options and tenant rights may further complicate the search for appropriate housing. Furthermore, refugees report experiencing bias from landlords or property managers based on factors such as ethnicity, race, and immigrant or refugee status, making it challenging to secure rental agreements or purchase homes in certain neighbourhoods (Miraftab, 2000; Teixeira, 2008).

Addressing housing challenges for refugees requires a comprehensive approach, including affordable housing initiatives, anti-discrimination measures, cultural competency training for landlords,

and educational programs to inform newcomers about the Canadian housing landscape.

Government-sponsored resettlement programs, community support services, and initiatives to increase awareness among landlords about the needs of refugees are essential components in addressing housing challenges. Affordable housing policies and programs can also play a crucial role in ensuring that refugees have access to safe and secure housing. All of these efforts contribute to the successful settlement and integration of refugees into Canadian communities.

Mental Health Supports

Refugees often bring with them experiences of trauma and stress related to displacement, persecution, and other hardships. This trauma, coupled with the stress of adapting to a new culture, can contribute to significant mental health challenges (Kirmayer et al., 2019). Access to mental health services is critical for addressing the psychological well-being of refugees (Kirmayer et al., 2019). However, refugees may face social, financial, and logistical barriers in accessing resources, such as language barriers, lack of awareness, shortage of culturally appropriate care options, issues of transportation, time, cost, and the effects of mental health crises.

Language barriers can hinder migrants' access to mental health services, which may make it difficult for newcomers to express their emotions or understand treatment options. This barrier underscores the importance of culturally sensitive and language-appropriate mental health services (Kirmayer et al., 2019). Cultural sensitivity and an understanding of the unique challenges faced by refugees are essential in providing effective mental health support.

Refugees may be less aware of mental health services available in Canada, and stigma around mental health issues can prevent individuals from seeking help. Educational programs aimed at raising awareness and reducing stigma are essential in encouraging refugees to access mental health supports (Bhui et al., 2015). This underscores the importance of cultural competence – skills that enable effective, respectful, and culturally appropriate interaction between clinicians and their clients – which is crucial in

providing effective mental health support to people from diverse cultural groups (Bhui et al., 2007). Social workers and mental health care providers may choose to learn about the conditions, culture, and history of the refugee client's country of origin. Service providers need to understand and address cultural factors that may influence mental health, including beliefs about mental illness, stigma, and help-seeking behaviors (Kirmayer et al., 2019). Culturally competent mental health services are more likely to be accepted and effective for diverse migrant communities.

Finally, there are many logistical barriers that refugees encounter when seeking support for their mental health. A combination of different economic and social determinants affect refugee mental health and access to mental health care. Poverty may both worsen mental health outcomes and hinder access to appropriate care (Hynie, 2018), as free and low-cost mental health resources are limited in capacity and supply. Refugees, especially in the first few years after arrival in their host country, have a limited income stream and often earn less compared to newcomer economic immigrants and the average Canadian (Bragg & Hiebert, 2022). Thus, the financial cost and time requirement of professional mental health care may be prohibitive to refugees. Integrating mental health services into the broader healthcare system, offering culturally competent mental health programs, and reducing the stigma associated with seeking mental health support are some more key strategies (Kirmayer et al., 2019). Collaboration between healthcare providers, community organizations, and refugee support agencies can enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of mental health services for refugees.

Stigma

Stigma is an inherently negative stereotyping of individuals or groups, paired with some form of separation or "us vs. them" component, and a loss of social status as a result (Anderson et al., 2022). Refugees are subjects of many forms of stigmatization, often with varying levels of severity based on country of origin. Negative stereotypes such as being labelled "terrorists" or the narrative that refugees are stealing jobs and resources from citizens create a harmful stigma that can be difficult to combat (Vigil &

Abidi, 2018). Due to this stigma, refugees may face prejudice or discrimination from Canadian residents. Though a significant amount of people are accepting of refugees, there has been a decline in acceptance in some regions (Ipsos, 2024; Esipova et al., 2020). Stigma, stereotyping, and discrimination leads to experiences of alienation, increased stress and physical and mental health struggles among refugees (Szaflarski & Bauldry, 2019). Refugees also report fearing violence, victimization, and legal backlash as a result of stigma (Rudiger, 2007).

In some Western countries, such as those in Europe and North America, attitudes rooted in racism and xenophobia are common, leading to inaccurate and negative perceptions of refugees as economic burdens or public health and safety threats. For example, some citizens may doubt that refugees are able to integrate, adopt local values, and contribute to the host society (Ipsos, 2024) and may be associated with fear of crime (Pruysers et al., 2024). There is also a tendency to frame refugees as helpless, dependent, or even incompetent victims (Baranik et al., 2018; Kortendiek & Oertel, 2023). Some research has shown that by acknowledging the resilience and agency of refugees, it may encourage them to lean into their strengths and attain better educational outcomes (Bauer et al., 2021).

The fear that refugees will bring violence, crime, and instability is generally unfounded: research shows no link between increased migration of refugees and increases in crime (Dragičević, 2019; Forrester et al., 2019; Helbling & Meierrieks, 2020; Pruyers et al., 2024), and migrants in general commit fewer crimes per their share of the population (Ghandnoosh & Rovner, 2017). Furthermore, refugees do not necessarily displace native-born workers in the workplace; for example, during the 2015–2016 refugee crisis in Europe, migrants in Germany were more likely to struggle to find employment (Gehrsitz & Ungerer, 2022). Nevertheless, these erroneous perceptions have resulted in more restrictive immigration policies and anti-migrant sentiment (Helbling & Meierrieks, 2020).

Social Integration

Cultural adaptation involves adjusting to new cultural norms, values, and social practices (Berry, 1997). Building social connections is fundamental to the successful integration of refugees into Canadian society. Social isolation can be a significant challenge, as refugees may face difficulties in connecting with local communities due to cultural differences and language barriers (UNHCR, n.d.-e). Refugees may experience challenges in navigating unfamiliar cultural landscapes, leading to feelings of isolation and alienation (Berry, 1997; 2017).

Community-based programs and peer support initiatives that foster interaction and cultural exchange play a crucial role in supporting social integration, facilitating social connections and promoting a sense of belonging among refugees (Bhui et al., 2015). These programs facilitate connections between newcomers facing similar challenges, offering a supportive environment where individuals can share experiences and coping strategies (Bhui et al., 2015). To connect with their community, newcomers can visit libraries, community or recreation centres, join associations, sports teams, and social clubs, or volunteer (IRCC, 2017). They can also seek the assistance of local settlement service providers.

However, refugees may face barriers in accessing these programs due to limited awareness, language barriers, or cultural differences. Furthermore, refugees may not have regular access to private transportation, which restricts their ability to travel for education, employment, healthcare, mental healthcare, and social support systems (Smith et al., 2022). Accessing community engagement programs, such as sports programs, resettlement service providers, and cultural exchange events held by schools, community centres, and local organizations can enhance social integration and contribute to creating an inclusive environment for refugees (Banulescu-Bogdan, 2020; UNHCR, n.d.-e; IRCC, 2017).

Conclusion

Forced migration is a multifaceted phenomenon driven by a combination of factors, including armed conflict, political instability, persecution, and climate change. Understanding these diverse factors is

key to developing comprehensive policies and support systems for refugees in Canada. As migration flows increase, Canada will also see an increase in newcomers seeking refuge. To address the challenges associated with refugee movements, a comprehensive approach that includes proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts, initiatives for economic development, and a commitment to upholding human rights, is essential.

Appendix 1: Definitions

The definition of a refugee was introduced in international law in 1951 after the Second World War (CCR, n.d.-b; UNHCR, 1951). The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (also referred to as the Refugee Convention) was developed to create an internationally recognized definition of refugee that guarantees the right to asylum from persecution as an international human right (CCR, n.d.-c). The Convention aims to define the term while spelling out the key responsibilities of host countries. It describes the main principle of “non-refoulement,” which includes the obligations of states to not send a refugee back to the country where they face the threat of persecution (CCR, n.d.-c). Canada signed the Convention in 1969 (CCR, n.d.-c).

The international community recognizes the complex layers of support required for refugees, their host countries, as well as their home countries. The main international institution in charge is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR responds to on-the-ground crises, assists in providing resettlement services, and advocates for refugee needs to governments and other stakeholders (UNHCR, n.d.-d). The UNHCR also recognizes the needs of those who do not fall under this definition of “refugees” but who still require a level of protection and support that is not granted to them by international law.

For the purposes of this report, multiple terms are used to describe refugees and those in need of a similar level of protection. Convention refugees, resettled refugees, and asylum seekers are all protected under international law whereas internally displaced and stateless persons are not (Amnesty International, n.d.-a).

Convention Refugee

Article 1 of the Refugee Convention defines a refugee to be a person outside of their country of origin due to a “well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion” (UNHCR, n.d.-a; 1951). This definition of refugee is most widely used in a legal context, some countries and organizations may use a broader definition (Newland, 2008). It is interchangeable with “refugee” as it simply refers to an individual who fits the definition provided by the Convention.

Person in Need of Protection

Persons in need of protection are people who may not meet the strict Convention definition but face a danger of torture, risk to their life, or risk of cruel and unusual treatment if returned to their home country. Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (2001), they are granted the same rights as a Convention refugee (IRB, n.d.-c).

Asylum Seeker

According to Amnesty International (n.d.-a), an asylum seeker is someone who has left their home country due to a fear of persecution or human rights violations in their home country, is seeking protection in another country, but has not yet received legal refugee status. In the Canadian context, we call these individuals “claimants” due to their claim of refugee status (CCR, n.d.-b).

Resettled Refugee

A resettled refugee is one who has fled their home country, has temporarily fled to a second country, and is offered a permanent home in a third country (CCR, n.d.-b). In Canada, resettled refugees are considered refugees before arriving in Canada, whereas claimants are granted status after they have arrived in Canada and a decision is made.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are persons who have been forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict, natural disasters, violations of human rights, etc. but who do not cross the borders of their home country into another (UNHCR, n.d.-d). IDPs are seeking refuge within their countries but are not recognized under international law as refugees. Instead, they stay under the responsibility of the Governing State (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d.). Despite the lack of recognition in international law, IDPs still require protection as they seek refuge in another part of their country. The situation may eventually escalate to where IDPs become refugees. A refugee may also return to their country but not to their place of origin, which makes them an IDP (UNHCR, n.d.-b). Therefore, the State and the UNHCR are the main bodies seeking to protect IDPs.

Stateless Person

A stateless person is one who is considered to be without any nationality. They are denied the right to a nationality and therefore are often left without the right to access basic needs and services. Stateless people often stay in the country they are born in but without the right to citizenship (UNHCR Canada, n.d.-b). A stateless person can be stateless without being a refugee but still require protection. In 1954, a Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People was created to provide a similar level of basic protection that the 1951 Convention provides to refugees. As of June 2024, Canada has not signed the Convention and has no laws that protect stateless people (CCR, n.d.-c).

Appendix 2: Key Actors

There are a number of key actors who are involved in processing refugee claims and supporting refugees when they arrive in Canada.

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) is the main administrative board in charge of making decisions regarding immigration and refugee matters in Canada. Refugee claims are made first through an officer from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) or from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), who then decide whether the claim should be referred to the IRB's Refugee Protection Division (RPD). The RPD holds a hearing of these claims where refugees have the chance to defend their claim (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada [IRB], n.d.-a). The RPD makes the final decision, in accordance with international and Canadian refugee law, whether the claim will be accepted or denied (IRB, n.d.-b). In the event that a refugee claim is denied, the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) offers refugees the chance to appeal the initial decision made by the RPD. The RAD may confirm or change the initial decisions made and has the ability to recommend to the RPD that the claim be heard again (IRB, n.d.-b).

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is the main governmental body responsible for refugee matters. The IRCC's primary role is to develop and implement the policies, programs, and services that facilitate newcomer entry and integration into Canada (IRCC, n.d.-i). The IRCC "is responsible for selecting immigrants, issuing visitors' visas, and granting citizenship" (IRB, n.d.-b, para. 3). Their role in terms of refugees is to determine whether a refugee claim is eligible to be referred to the IRB to be heard.

Another aspect of the IRCC's involvement in refugee matters is through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), which is funded and overseen by the IRCC. The RAP collaborates with

different resettlement service providers to give direct support to refugees in accessing basic needs and services for up to one year from the date of their arrival to Canada (IRCC, n.d.-j). The services provided through the RAP are extensive and include income support, healthcare services, professional development training, and more (IRCC, n.d.-k).

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is an agency dedicated to ensuring that travel and trade are conducted in accordance with Canadian governmental standards. This ensures national and public security while also allowing for the free flow of individuals and commodities (Government of Canada, 2022). The CBSA provides information regarding safe travel to and from Canada, including crossing the border, understanding customs regulations, having appropriate travel documents, planning trips, appropriate and inappropriate travel items and more (Government of Canada, 2023).

The CBSA provides information regarding the security and maintenance of borders, including arrests and detentions made at the border, reporting of suspicious activity, detection technology used at borders, and information to minimize the spread of illegal border activities such as human and drug trafficking (Government of Canada, 2023). The role of the CBSA in regard to refugee matters is through enforcement and safe regulation of refugee matters. The CBSA is in charge of implementing the conditions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and investigating, apprehending, and detaining any violators (Canada Border Services Agency, n.d.). Refugees who make a claim at any port of entry, meaning through land, sea, air, or the Arctic will go through a CBSA officer when they arrive (IRCC, 2024a). The officer will then decide whether the claim is eligible and send them directly to the IRB, schedule them for an interview with an officer, direct them to make their claim online, or decide that the claim is ineligible (IRCC, 2024a).

Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) is a non-profit organization that provides a platform for the rights of refugees and their sponsors to be voiced. The CCR is guided by three core principles. Firstly, it aims to reflect the diverse issues faced by refugees and migrants; secondly, it is meant to be collaborative and democratic; and finally, its scope is on a global level (CCR, n.d.-a). By working with networks, other refugee resettlement organizations, advocacy groups, and policy analysts on a global level, CCR has been assisting refugees for the past 40 years (CCR, n.d.-a). Some areas that it chooses to focus on include protection of refugees, trafficking of women, sponsor concerns, anti-racism, integration of immigrants and refugees, and the rights of children and newcomer youth (CCR, n.d.-a).

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is responsible for protecting the world's largest undefended border between the U.S. and Canada through all ports of entry – land, air, sea, and the Arctic (Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP], n.d.). The RCMP works alongside the CBSA to ensure that Canada's borders are protected from any potential incoming and outgoing threats. The goal of the RCMP is to safeguard Canadians against severe threats by maintaining border integrity. These threats include individuals travelling to conduct terrorist activities, groups planning organized crimes, and individuals or groups that may use the borders to transport illegal goods (RCMP, n.d.).

The RCMP works alongside many other organizations, groups and partners in order to ensure that they are able to strategically tackle threats. Domestically, their partners include the municipal, provincial and territorial police forces (RCMP, n.d.). Federally, their partners include the CBSA, IRCC, Canada Revenue Agency, Department of National Defence, and Global Affairs Canada (RCMP, n.d.). Their international partners include the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement, and U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (RCMP, n.d.).

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The main international institution in charge of supporting refugees on a global scale is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR's mandate is guided by the 1951 Refugee Convention. The UNHCR responds to on-the-ground crises, assists in providing resettlement services, and advocates for refugee needs to governments and other stakeholders (UNHCR, n.d.-a). The UNHCR has been operating in Canada since 1976. It protects refugees and asylum seekers, identifies durable solutions, informs and educates individuals about refugee issues, and encourages the public and the Government to assist in funding UNHCR programs (UNHCR, n.d.-b).

References

- Abel, G. J., Brottrager, M., Cuaresma, J. C., & Muttarak, R. (2019). Climate, conflict and forced migration. *Global Environmental Change, 54*, 239–249.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2018.12.003>
- Albert, E., & Maizland, L. (2020, January 23). *The Rohingya crisis*. Council on Foreign Relations.
Retrieved June 26, 2024, from
https://indianstrategicknowledgeonline.com/web/What%20Forces%20Are%20Fueling%20Myanmar%E2%80%99s%20Rohingya%20Crisis_.pdf
- Amnesty International. (2021). *Amnesty International Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights*. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2021/04/annual-report-202021/>
- Amnesty International. (n.d.). Refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>
- Andersen, M. M., Varga, S., & Folker, A. P. (2022). On the definition of stigma. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice, 28*(4), 847-853. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jep.13684>
- Arthur, N., McMahon, M., Abkhezr, P., & Woodend, J. (2023). Beyond job placement: Careers for refugees. *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance, 1–19*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10775-023-09579-x>
- Balci, V., Yenigun, I., Yenigun, A., & Uyanik, S. (2023). Yesterday, today, tomorrow; environmental refugees. *Defense and Security Studies, 4*, 65–74. <https://dx.doi.org/10.37868/dss.v4.id241>
- Banulescu-Bogdan, N. (2020). Beyond work: reducing social isolation for refugee women and other marginalized newcomers. Transatlantic Council on Migration/Migration Policy Institute.
https://www.immigrationresearch.org/system/files/TCM-Social-Isolation_FINALWEB.pdf

- Baranik, L. E., Hurst, C. S., & Eby, L. T. (2018). The stigma of being a refugee: A mixed-method study of refugees' experiences of vocational stress. *Journal of Vocational Behavior, 105*, 116–130.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvb.2017.09.006>
- Bauer, C. A., Boemelburg, R., & Walton, G. M. (2021). Resourceful actors, not weak victims: Reframing refugees' stigmatized identity enhances long-term academic engagement. *Psychological Science, 32*(12), 1896–1906. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976211028978>
- Becklumb, P. (2010, February 9). *Climate change and forced migration: Canada's role*. Library of Parliament.
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/bdp-lop/bp/YM32-2-2010-04-eng.pdf
- Berchin, I. I., Valduga, I. B., Garcia, J., & de Andrade Guerra, J. B. S. O. (2017). Climate change and forced migrations: An effort towards recognizing climate refugees. *Geoforum, 84*, 147–150.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2017.06.022>
- Berry, J. W. (1997). Immigration, acculturation, and adaptation. *Applied Psychology: An International Review, 46*(1), 5–34. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1464-0597.1997.tb01087.x>
- Berry, J. (2017). Theories and models of acculturation. In S. J. Schwartz & J. B. Unger (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of acculturation and health* (pp. 15–28). Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190215217.013.2>
- Bhui, K., Mohamud, S., Warfa, N., Craig, T. J., & Stansfeld, S. A. (2015). Cultural adaptation of mental health measures: Improving the quality of clinical practice and research. *The British Journal of Psychiatry, 183*(3), 184–186. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.183.3.184>
- Bhui, K., Warfa, N., Edonya, P., McKenzie, K., & Bhugra, D. (2007). Cultural competence in mental health care: a review of model evaluations. *BMC Health Services Research, 7*, 15.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6963-7-15>

- Bragg, B., & Hiebert, D. (2022). Refugee trajectories, imaginaries, and realities: Refugee housing in Canadian cities. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 31(1), 16–32.
<https://cjur.uwinnipeg.ca/index.php/cjur/article/download/313/177/746>
- Braithwaite, A., Salehyan, I., & Savun, B. (2019). Refugees, forced migration, and conflict: Introduction to the special issue. *Journal of Peace Research*, 56(1), 5–11.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343318814128>
- Brickhill-Atkinson, M., & Hauck, F. R. (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on resettled refugees. *Primary Care*, 48(1), 57–66. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pop.2020.10.001>
- Canadian Council for Refugees. (n.d.-a). *About the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)*. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://ccrweb.ca/en/about-ccr>
- Canadian Council for Refugees. (n.d.-b). *Background information about refugees*. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://ccrweb.ca/en/information-refugees>
- Canadian Council for Refugees. (n.d.-c). *Who is a refugee?* Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-facts#who>
- Canadian Heritage. (2022, July 21). History of Canada and the Holocaust. Government of Canada. Retrieved June 26, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/canada-holocaust/history.html>
- Clarke, S. K., Kumar, G. S., Sutton, J., Atem, J., Banerji, A., Brindamour, M., Geltman, P., & Zaaed, N. (2020). Potential impact of COVID-19 on recently resettled refugee populations in the United States and Canada: Perspectives of refugee healthcare providers. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 23, 184–189. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-020-01104-4>
- Collier, P., Hoeffler, A., & Rohner, D. (2009). Beyond greed and grievance: Feasibility and civil war. *Oxford Economic Papers*, 61(1), 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oeq/gpn029>

- Danso, R. (2002). From 'there' to 'here': An investigation of the initial settlement experiences of Ethiopian and Somali refugees in Toronto. *GeoJournal*, 56, 3–14.
<https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1021748701134>
- Dragičević, D. (2019). Is there any correlation between terrorism and immigration? Evidence from EU countries. *Journal of Business Paradigms*, 4(2), 4–21.
<https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/1055228.journal-4-2-december-2019-article1.pdf>
- Drimonis, T. (2024). You close Roxham Road, people are just going to cross somewhere else. *The Walrus*.
<https://thewalrus.ca/close-roxham-road/>
- Esipova, N., Ray, J., & Pugliese, A. (2020). *World grows less accepting of migrants*. Gallup.
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/320678/world-grows-less-accepting-migrants.aspx>
- FCJ Refugee Centre. (n.d.). *Overview of the refugee process in Canada*. Retrieved July 4, 2025, from
<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/canada-refugee-process/summary-of-the-process/>
- Feng, S. (2023). The difficulties to define the climate refugees and proposed suggestions. *Advances in Economics, Management and Political Sciences*, 16, 226–232.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.54254/2754-1169/16/20231012>
- Foged, M., & van der Werf, C. (2023). Access to language training and the local integration of refugees. *Labour Economics*, 84, 102366. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2023.102366>
- Forrester, A. C., Powell, B., Nowrasteh, A., & Landgrave, M. (2019). Do immigrants import terrorism? *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 166, 529–543.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2019.07.019>
- Francis, J., & Hiebert, D. (2014). Shaky foundations: Refugees in Vancouver's housing market. *Canadian Geographies*, 58, 63–78. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12056.x>

- Gagnon, P., Mason, R., & Chesoi, M. (2023). *Overview of the Canada-United States Safe Third Country Agreement*. Library of Parliament Research Publications, https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/202070E
- Gehrsitz, M., & Ungerer, M. (2022). Jobs, crime and votes: A short-run evaluation of the refugee crisis in Germany. *Economica*, 89, 592–626. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.12420>
- Ghandnoosh, N., & Rovner, J. (2017, March 16). *Immigration and public safety*. The Sentencing Project. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/immigration-and-public-safety>
- Global Affairs Canada. (2024, May 10). *Canada-Ethiopia relations*. <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/ethiopia-ethiopie/relations.aspx?lang=eng>
- Good, A. (2009). Persecution for reasons of religion under the 1951 Refugee Convention. In T. G. Kirsch & B. Turner (Eds.), *Permutations of Order: Religion and Law as Contested Sovereignities* (1st ed., pp. 27–48). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315600062>
- Government of Canada. (2023). *Blended Visa Office-Referred Program*. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-outside-canada/private-sponsorship-program/blended-visa-office-program.html>
- Government of Canada. (2024). *Canada: A history of refuge*. Retrieved June 17, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/about-refugee-system/how-system-works/history.html>
- Government of Québec. (n.d.-a). *Refugees recognized in Canada*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.quebec.ca/en/immigration/refugees-asylum-seekers/refugees-recognized-in-canada>
- Government of Québec. (n.d.-b). *Roles of Quebec and Canada*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.quebec.ca/en/immigration/refugees-asylum-seekers/roles-quebec-canada>

- Gul, S. (2023). Factors that influence the life satisfaction of Afghan refugees living in Eastern Turkey: The role of their migration causes. *Sustainability*, 15(20), 14853.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.3390/su152014853>
- Helbling, M., & Meierrieks, D. (2022). Terrorism and migration: An overview. *British Journal of Political Science*, 52(2), 977–996. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123420000587>
- Human Rights Watch. (1996, September). *Shattered lives: Sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide and its aftermath*. <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/summaries/s.rwanda969.html>
- Human Rights Watch. (2022). *World Report 2022: Rights trends in global refugee crisis*. Retrieved June 14, 2024, from
https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2022/01/World%20Report%202022%20web%20pdf_0.pdf
- Human Rights Watch. (n.d.). *Children and armed conflict*. Human Rights Watch.
<https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights/children-and-armed-conflict>
- Hynie, M. (2018). The social determinants of refugee mental health in the post-migration context: A critical review. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 63(5), 297–303.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0706743717746666>
- ILGA World, Ramon Mendos, L., Botha, K., Carrano Lelis, R., López de la Peña, E., Savelev I, & Tan, D. (2020). *State-Sponsored Homophobia 2020: Global Legislation Overview Update*. ILGA.
https://ilga.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ILGA_World_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_report_global_legislation_overview_update_December_2020.pdf
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. (n.d.-a). *Applying for refugee protection*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/applying-refugee-protection/Pages/index4.aspx>
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. (n.d.-b). *Board information*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/board/Pages/index.aspx>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. (n.d.-c). *Chapter 14 - Persons in need of protection*. Retrieved March 9, 2026, from <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/legal-concepts/Pages/RefDef14.aspx>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. (2024, May 15). *Claims by country of alleged persecution – 2024*. <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/protection/Pages/RPDStat2024.aspx>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-a). *Government-assisted refugee program*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/resettle-refugee/government-assisted-refugee-program.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-b). *After approval in the government-assisted refugee program*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/resettle-refugee/government-assisted-refugee-program/after-approved.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-c). *Prepare for arrival*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/resettle-refugee/after-applying/prepare-arrival.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-d). *Blended Visa Office-Referred Program*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/sponsor-refugee/private-sponsorship-program/blended-visa-office-program.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-e). *Eligibility for groups of five*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/sponsor-refugee/private-sponsorship-program/groups-five/eligibility.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-f). *Eligibility for community sponsors*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/sponsor-refugee/private-sponsorship-program/community-sponsors/eligibility.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-g). *Private sponsorship program*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/sponsor-refugee/private-sponsorship-program.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-h). *Procedures by program – Quebec resettlement:*

Quebec Refugee Reception Program. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/refugee-protection/resettlement/quebec-procedures.html#government-assisted-ref>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-i). *Mandate*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-j). *Resettlement assistance program handbook*.

Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/resettlement-assistance-program-handbook.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (n.d.-k). *Resettlement assistance program*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/program-terms-conditions/resettlement-assistance-program.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2017, June 29). *Newcomers to Canada: Connecting with your community*.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/new-life-canada/community-connections.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2019, January 18). *Procedures by program – Quebec resettlement*. Government of Canada. Retrieved June 13, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/refugee-protection/resettlement/quebec-procedures.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2020, February 10). *Quebec resettlement – Government Assisted Refugee (Quebec GAR)*. Government of Canada. Retrieved June 13, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/refugee-protection/resettlement/government-assisted/quebec.html>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. (2021, December 17). *Guideline 9: Proceedings Before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics*.

<https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/policies/Pages/GuideDir09.aspx#a6>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2023, March 27). *Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement*.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/agreements/safe-third-country-agreement.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2024a). *Claim refugee status from in Canada: After you apply*.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum/claim-protection-inside-canada/after-you-apply.html#claim-poe>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2024b). Applying for permanent residence from within Canada: Protected Persons and Convention refugees [IMM 5205].

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/guide-5205-applying-permanent-residence-within-canada-protected-persons-convention-refugees.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2024c, February 12). *General information: Institutional GBA Plus capacity*. Retrieved June 14, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/departmental-plans/departmental-plan-2024-2025/gender-based-analysis-plus.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2024d, March 21). *Joint Assistance Program: About the process*. Government of Canada. Retrieved June 13, 2024, from

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/sponsor-refugee/private-sponsorship-program/joint-assistance-program.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2025, July 4). *Temporary public policy to facilitate continued access to open work permits and study permits for foreign nationals in Canada who arrived under the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel measures - Extension*.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/public-policies/ukraine-cuaet-open-work-permit-study-permit-extension.html>

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. (2026, January 16). *Temporary public policy to facilitate*

access to temporary residence for certain Ukrainians and their family members who have applied under the temporary public policy to grant permanent residence to certain Ukrainian nationals with family in Canada.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/public-policies/ukr-family-tr.html>

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. (2017). *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2017*.

Retrieved June 13, 2024, from <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/>

Ipsos. (2024, June 18). Global attitudes to refugees: a 52-country survey from Ipsos and UNHCR.

<https://www.ipsos.com/en/unhcr-ipsos-survey-shows-enduring-public-support-refugees-alongsid-e-stark-variations-attitudes>

Kaur, H., Saad, A., Magwood, O., Alkhateeb, Q., Mathew, C., Khalaf, G., & Pottie, K. (2021, June 18).

Understanding the health and housing experiences of refugees and other migrant populations experiencing homelessness or vulnerable housing: a systematic review using GRADE-CERQual.

CMAJ Open, 9(2), E681–E692. <https://doi.org/10.9778/cmajo.20200109>

Kirmayer, L. J., Narasiah, L., Munoz, M., Rashid, M., Ryder, A. G., & Guzder, J. (2019). Common

mental health problems in immigrants and refugees: General approach in primary care. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 183(12), E959–E967. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.090292>

Kortendiek, N., & Oertel, J. (2023). Caught between vulnerability and competence – UNHCR’s visual framing of refugees, economic threat perceptions and attitudes toward asylum seekers in

Germany. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 1–17.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2023.2179151>

Lee, E. O. J., Hamila, A., Koukoui, S., Zoldan, Y., Militzer, R., Chehaitly, S., Baillargeon, C., & Sansfaçon,

A. P. (2023). Migration of LGBTQI+ people: Sexual and/or gender minority migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers. In Murakami, N. J., & Akilova, M. (Eds.), *Integrative social work practice with refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced persons*. Essential Clinical Social Work Series.

Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-12600-0_17

- Lischer, S. K. (2011). Civil war, genocide and political order in Rwanda: Security implications of refugee return. *Conflict, Security & Development*, 11(3), 261–284.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14678802.2011.593808>
- Martin-Shields, C. P. (2017). *State fragility as a cause of forced displacement: Identifying theoretical channels for empirical research*. German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3087980
- Messih, M. (2016). Mental health in LGBT refugee populations. *American Journal of Psychiatry Residents' Journal*, 11(7), 5–7. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp-rj.2016.110704>
- Miraftab, F. (2000). Sheltering refugees: The housing experience of refugees in Metropolitan Vancouver, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 9(1), 42–63.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/44320598>
- Mooten, N. (2021, July). Racism, discrimination and migrant workers in Canada: Evidence from the literature. IRCC Policy Research, Research and Evaluation Branch.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/reports-statistics/research/racism-discrimination-migrant-workers-canada-evidence-literature.html>
- Moussa, H. (1998). Violence against refugee women: gender oppression, Canadian policy and the international struggle for human rights. *Resources for Feminist Research*, 26(3/4): 79–111.
- Mulé, N. J. (2019). Safe haven questioned: Proof of identity over persecution of SOGIE asylum seekers and refugee claimants in Canada. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 18(2), 207–223.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2019.1639238>
- Murray, D. A. B. (2014). Real queer: “Authentic” LGBT refugee claimants and homonationalism in the Canadian refugee system. *Anthropologica*, 56(1), 21–32. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24469638>

Nathwani, N. (2015, December). *Protecting persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities*.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/5e6b8d4.pdf>

Newland, K. (1993). Ethnic conflict and refugees. *Survival*, 35(1), 81–101.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00396339308442675>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (n.d.). About internally displaced persons. Retrieved

May 30, 2024, from

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-internally-displaced-persons/about-internally-displaced-persons>

Peters, L. E. R., & Van Den Hoek, J. (2021). Charting a justice-based approach to planned climate

relocation for the world's refugees. In I. J. Ajibade & A. R. Siders (Eds.), *Global views on climate*

relocation and social justice (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4324/9781003141457-4>

Peters, M. A., & Besley, T. (2015). The refugee crisis and the right to political asylum. *Educational*

Philosophy and Theory, 47(13–14), 1367–1374.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2015.1100903>

Pruysers, S., Banerjee, K., & Blais, J. (2024). Fear of crime and anti-refugee sentiments: Evidence from

Canada. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 40(2), 1–19.

<https://doi.org/10.25071/1920-7336.41297>

Rao, P. (2017/2018). *Ending albino persecution in Africa*. United Nations Africa Renewal.

<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2017-march-2018/ending-albino-persecution-africa>

Rasi, S. (2020). Impact of language barriers on access to healthcare services by immigrant patients: A

systematic review. *Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management*, 15(1), 35–48.

<https://doi.org/10.3316/ielapa.057892660325679>

Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (n.d.). *Border integrity*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from

<https://rcmp.ca/en/federal-policing/border-integrity>

Rudiger, A. (2007). *Prisoners of Terrorism? The impact of anti-terrorism measures on refugees and asylum seekers in Britain*. Refugee Council.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Anja-Rudiger/publication/260713503_Prisoners_of_Terrorism_The_impact_of_anti-terrorism_measures_on_refugees_and_asylum_seekers_in_Britain/links/0f3175320d573f17f5000000/Prisoners-of-Terrorism-The-impact-of-anti-terrorism-measures-on-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-Britain.pdf

Saifee, J., Franco-Paredes, C., & Lowenstein, S. R. (2021). Refugee health during COVID-19 and future pandemics. *Current Tropical Medicine Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40475-021-00245-2>

Salehyan, I. (2005, June 21–23). *Refugees, climate change, and instability* [Workshop paper]. Human Security and Climate Change: An International Workshop, Asker, Norway.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Idean-Salehyan/publication/254982049_Refugees_Climate_Change_and_Instability/links/00b7d53988c6340902000000/Refugees-Climate-Change-and-Instability.pdf

Senthanar, S., Mamun, S., Kaida, A., & Sloetjes, H. (2023). Employment outcomes of refugees in Canada: Exploring the impact of social networks and institutional support. *Work*, 75(4), 1165–1178.

<https://doi.org/10.3233/WOR-220221>

Smith, C., Myadar, O., Iroz-Elardo, N., Ingram, M., & Adkins, A. (2022). Making of home:

Transportation mobility and well-being among Tucson refugees. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 103, 103409. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2022.103409>

Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights. (2024, December). *Ripped from home: The global crisis of forced displacement*. Senate of Canada.

https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/441/RIDR/Reports/GlobalForcedDisplacement_e.pdf

Szafarski, M., & Bauldry, S. (2019). The effects of perceived discrimination on immigrant and refugee physical and mental health. *Advances in Medical Sociology, 19*, 173–204.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/S1057-629020190000019009>

Teixeira, C. (2008). Barriers and outcomes in the housing searches of new immigrants and refugees: a case study of “Black” Africans in Toronto’s rental market. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment, 23*, 253–276. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-008-9118-9>

Environment, 23, 253–276. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-008-9118-9>

Tuyisenge, G., & Goldenberg, S. M. (2021). COVID-19, structural racism, and migrant health in Canada.

Lancet (London, England), *397*(10275), 650–652.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00215-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00215-4)

United Nations. (2022, April 7). *28 years after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, ‘stain of shame endures’*. Retrieved June 26, 2024, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115792>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.-a). *The 1951 refugee convention*. Retrieved May 30, 2024, from <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/1951-refugee-convention>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.-b). *About UNHCR in Canada*.

<https://help.unhcr.org/canada/about-unhcr-in-canada/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.-c). *What we do: Climate change and disaster displacement*.

<https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/environment-disasters-and-climate-change/climate-change-and>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.-d). *Who we protect*.

<https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.-e). *Welcome to UNHCR's Integration Handbook for Resettled Refugees: Promoting integration through social connections.*

<https://www.unhcr.org/handbooks/ih/social-connections/promoting-integration-through-social-connections>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (1951). *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.*

<https://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022). *Global trends: Forced displacement in 2021.*

Retrieved June 13, 2024, from

<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/62a9d1494.pdf>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2023). *Why UNHCR is taking action on climate change displacement.* Retrieved June 13, 2024, from

<https://www.unhcr.org/innovation/why-unhcr-is-taking-action-on-climate-change-displacement/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024a). *Key facts for countries hosting the world's refugees.* Retrieved August 8, 2024, from

<https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/insights/explainers/refugee-hosting-metrics.html>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024b). *Global trends: Forced displacement in 2023.*

Retrieved June 13, 2024, from

<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/global-trends-report-2023.pdf>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024c). *Global trends: Forced displacement in 2024.*

Retrieved March 10, 2026, from <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2024d, June 13). *Refugee data finder.* Retrieved June

17, 2024, from <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2025a). *Refugee data finder: Canada.*

https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/data-summaries?data_summaries%5Bregion%5D=&dat

a_summaries%5Bcountry%5D=33&data_summaries%5BwithinFrom%5D=within&data_summaries%5Bview%5D=population_totals&data_summaries%5Byear%5D=2025&data_summaries%5BpopType%5D=REF&data_summaries%5B_mode%5D=country&data_summaries%5B_token%5D=f60679fe782b.y6DmzP1vvPympH1ftXM1ug-QGh-tBhJGwEnHh42OYbk.puyWps0uxKP84jgb5BJe3TfkT0mdMFE0iXqy5dndV-j68Z61sV3ezcjSTQ&data_summaries%5Bsubmit%5D=

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2025b, November 4). *Figures at a glance*. Retrieved March 9, 2026, from <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/figures-glance>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Canada. (n.d.-a). *Refugees in Canada*. <https://www.unhcr.ca/in-canada/refugees-in-canada/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Canada. (n.d.-b). *Sponsoring refugees identified by UNHCR*.

<https://www.unhcr.ca/in-canada/other-immigration-pathways-refugees/sponsoring-refugees-unhcr/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Canada. (n.d.-c). *What is the private sponsorship of refugees?*

<https://www.unhcr.ca/in-canada/other-immigration-pathways-refugees/private-sponsorship-refugees/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Canada. (2024, March). *Statistics on asylum-seekers in Canada*. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from

<https://www.unhcr.ca/in-canada/statistics-on-asylum-seekers-in-canada/>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). (2021).

From evidence to action: Tackling gender-based violence against migrant women and girls.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/10/policy-brief-from-evidence-to-action-tackling-gbv-against-migrant-women-and-girls>

- Van der Meeren, R. (1996). Three decades in exile: Rwandan refugees 1960–1990. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 9(3), 252–267. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/9.3.252>
- Vigil, Y., & Baillie Abidi, C. (2018). “We” the refugees: Reflections on refugee labels and identities. *Refuge*, 34(2), 52–60. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1055576ar>
- Wilkinson, L., & Garcea, J. (2017, April). *The economic integration of refugees in Canada: A mixed record?* Migration Policy Institute.
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/economic-integration-refugees-canada-mixed-record>
- World Bank. (2016). *Poverty and shared prosperity 2016: Taking on inequality*.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25078>
- World Health Organization. (2022). *Refugee and migrant health*. Retrieved June 13, 2024, from
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/refugee-and-migrant-health>
- Yarwood, V., Checchi, F., Lau, K., & Zimmerman, C. (2022). LGBTQI + migrants: A systematic review and conceptual framework of health, safety and wellbeing during migration. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(2), 869.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19020869>
- Yohani, S., & Kreitzer, L. (2023). Migration, resettlement and integration of survivors of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda in Canada: A community-based study. *International Migration*, 61(1), 39–54. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.12920>
- Ziersch, A., & Due, C. (2018). A mixed methods systematic review of studies examining the relationship between housing and health for people from refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds. *Social Science & Medicine*, 213, 199–219. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2018.07.045>