

**Forum:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**Issue #2:** Measures to address the lack of rights for refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid.

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## Introduction

Refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid often face numerous challenges in accessing basic services and exercising their rights. This lack of legal status can leave them vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. To address these challenges, measures can be put in place to provide refugees with legal protection and access to essential services. One measure is to simplify registration procedures for refugees who do not have a residence. This can help ensure that they are identified and provided with legal protection. Countries providing aid can also provide legal aid to refugees who do not have a residence, helping them understand their legal rights and access legal remedies in case of human rights violation. Access to basic services, such as healthcare, education, and employment, is essential for refugees to become self-sufficient and integrate into society. This also includes integration programs being implemented to help refugees to integrate into the social and economic life of the host country. Such programs can reduce social isolation, discrimination, and stigmatization, promoting social cohesion and reducing social tensions. Overall, providing legal protection and access to essential services to refugees who do not

have a residence in the countries providing aid is essential for ensuring their safety, well-being, and integration. By implementing such measures, countries can demonstrate their commitment to protecting the rights of refugees and promoting social cohesion.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Refugees

people who are meant to leave their home country due to persecution, war, or violence and seek refuge in another country

### Legal Status

The legal rights and protections afforded to individuals within a given country.

### Vulnerability

the susceptibility of individuals to physical, emotional, or economic harm.

### Basic Services

essential services required for human well-being, including healthcare, education, and employment.

### Social isolation

a state in which an individual or group is disconnected from social networks and lacks social support.

### Discrimination

unfair treatment of individuals or groups based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or other personal characteristics

## **Human rights violations**

actions that infringe upon the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, including the right to life, liberty, and security of a person.

## **Stigmatization**

the social disapproval and labeling of individuals or groups based on their perceived differences or characteristics.

## **Integration**

the process of social and economic inclusion of refugees into the host country's society and economy.

## **Social cohesion**

the degree of social connectedness and shared values among members of a society or community

## **Immigrants**

A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

## **Migrants**

A person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.

## **Illegal Immigrants**

The migration of people into a country in violation of the immigration laws of that country or continued residence without the legal right to live in that country.

## Major parties involved and their views

### United States

The United States has traditionally been an advocate for refugee rights and humanitarian assistance. The U.S. might approach this issue by emphasizing its commitment to international cooperation and diplomacy. It could prioritize programs that ensure refugees, regardless of their residence, have access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. The U.S. might support initiatives to strengthen global refugee resettlement efforts and provide financial aid to countries hosting refugees.

### Germany

A country with a history of taking in refugees, could emphasize the importance of a unified European response. It might work toward establishing equitable burden-sharing mechanisms among EU member states. Germany could advocate for creating pathways to legal residence and integration for refugees without a fixed abode, aiming to provide them with basic rights and access to services.

### France

Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and promoting coordinated efforts among EU nations. It could support initiatives that ensure refugees have access to fundamental rights, including housing, education, and healthcare. France might also emphasize the significance of social integration and cultural assimilation for refugees without a residence.

### Italy

Views the issue through a lens of shared responsibility. It could advocate for comprehensive European policies that address the rights of refugees regardless of their residence status. Italy might prioritize cooperation with neighboring countries to ensure safe and dignified living conditions for refugees, while working to prevent social exclusion and vulnerability.

## **Spain**

Might stress the importance of solidarity within the EU in addressing refugee rights. It could support efforts to create mechanisms for fair distribution of refugees across member states. Spain might emphasize the need for comprehensive support systems that provide refugees without a residence with access to education, healthcare, and legal assistance.

## **Greece**

Has been another major country affected by the refugee crisis in Europe, particularly as a major transit point for refugees arriving by sea from Turkey. The country has faced criticism for its treatment of refugees who do not have a residence in the country, particularly with regards to their access to healthcare and social services.

## **Canada**

Historically welcoming stance toward refugees could lead it to focus on expanding resettlement opportunities. It might emphasize the significance of integration programs that help refugees establish themselves, regardless of their residence. Canada might work to ensure that refugees have the means to access basic rights, including language training, employment support, and social services.

## Australia

Approach might involve providing pathways to legal residence for refugees without fixed abodes. It could emphasize humanitarian efforts by offering integration programs, access to essential services, and protection under the law. Australia might also advocate for international cooperation to address the broader refugee crisis.

## Turkey

Hosting a significant number of refugees, Turkey could prioritize international support and funding to maintain infrastructure in refugee camps. It might focus on providing basic rights, such as education and healthcare, for refugees without a residence. Turkey might also advocate for assistance from the global community to ensure refugees' well-being.

## Lebanon

Given its large refugee population, Lebanon's perspective could center on humanitarian assistance. It might advocate for increased international aid to maintain services and support refugees' rights. Lebanon could emphasize the need for global cooperation to address the challenges faced by refugees without fixed residences.

## Jordan

Could prioritize international collaboration to ensure refugees' rights are upheld. It might advocate for assistance in providing education, healthcare, and protection for refugees without a residence. Jordan's perspective could

include working with other nations to find sustainable solutions for refugees in need.

## Iraq

Displacement might inform its perspective. It might advocate for regional stability and international support to address refugee issues. Iraq could emphasize diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts, provide aid, and uphold the rights of refugees, even those without a fixed residence. .

## Iran

Might view the issue through a lens of regional stability and assistance. It could advocate for international support to provide for the basic needs of refugees without residence. Iran's perspective might focus on cooperation with neighboring countries and the international community to ensure refugees' rights are protected

## General Overview

### Legal protection

Refugees often face challenges in accessing legal protection and representation in their host countries. An example of this can be seen in the legal barriers faced by refugees in accessing asylum procedures in various countries. For instance, refugees without a fixed residence might find it difficult to meet residency requirements to apply for asylum. In response, civil society organizations like the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)

have worked to provide legal aid to refugees, helping them navigate complex legal processes and advocate for their rights.

### **Access to basic services**

Refugees without a residence may encounter barriers in accessing basic services such as healthcare and education. In Lebanon, where a large number of Syrian refugees reside, many face challenges in enrolling their children in schools due to the lack of proper documentation. Non-governmental organizations like UNICEF have worked alongside governments to establish temporary learning centers that provide education to refugee children, ensuring they have access to education despite their residence status.

### **Discrimination and exclusion**

Refugees often face discrimination and exclusion in their host countries, particularly when they lack a legal residence. An example of this can be seen in cases where refugees are denied access to public services due to their status. In Germany, organizations like the Central Council of Muslims in Germany have worked to combat discrimination against refugees, promoting dialogue and understanding between different communities to foster inclusion.

### **Economic empowerment**

Refugees struggle to access employment and economic opportunities without a proper residence. In Turkey, Syrian refugees without legal status have faced challenges in finding formal employment. Initiatives like the "Work for Life" project, supported by organizations like the International Labour



Organization (ILO), have focused on providing vocational training and support to refugees, enabling them to develop skills and pursue economic empowerment.

### International legal frameworks

International legal frameworks, such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, play a crucial role in protecting the rights of refugees without a residence. However, gaps in these frameworks can pose challenges. For example, the Convention doesn't explicitly address the rights of refugees in protracted situations without a stable residence. Efforts are underway to strengthen these frameworks. The Global Compact on Refugees, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, emphasizes the importance of burden-sharing and comprehensive responses to refugee situations, including addressing the needs of refugees without a fixed residence.

### Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1951	The United Nations refugee convention is adopted, defining the rights of refugees and the responsibilities of the state in protecting them.
1989	The conventions on the right of the child is adopted, including provisions

for the protection and care of refugee children

2011

The syrian civil war begins, leading to one of the largest refugee crisis in modern history

2015

The European migrant crisis reaches its peak, with more than one million refugees and migrants arriving in Europe by sea.

2016

The United Nations adopts the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, committing to a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing refugee and migrant issues.

2017

The United States implements a travel ban on several Muslims-majority countries, including refugees, sparking widespread protests and legal challenges.

2018

The global compact on refugees is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, outlining a framework for burden-sharing and

international cooperation in responding to refugee crises.

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic causes disruptions to refugee aid and resettlement programs, exacerbating the already precarious situation for many refugees.

2021

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan leads to a renewed refugee crisis, with many Afghans fleeing the country to seek safety and protection elsewhere.

## **UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events**

The United Nations has played a crucial role in addressing the issue of the lack of rights for refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid. Through various resolutions, treaties, and events, the UN has established the rights and protections for refugees, including those who have fled their countries due to conflict, violence, and other threats to their safety.

The 1951 Refugee Convention is a landmark treaty that established the rights of refugees and the responsibilities of states in protecting them. The Convention was expanded in 1967 to cover refugees who have fled their countries due to generalized violence, conflict, and other situations that threaten their lives and safety. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, includes provisions for the protection and care of refugee children.

The UN has also taken steps to address the needs of refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in 2016, committed to a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing refugee and migrant issues. The Global Compact on Refugees, adopted in 2018, provided a framework for international cooperation in responding to refugee crises and addressing the needs of refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid.

The UN has also held events such as the Global Refugee Forum, which brought together governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to strengthen the response to refugee situations. The UN's continued involvement and commitment to protecting the rights of refugees are essential to ensuring that refugees receive the support and assistance they need.

## **Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

The lack of rights for refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid is a complex issue that has proven difficult to resolve. While there have been attempts to address this issue in the past, many of these attempts have fallen short in providing adequate protection and support for refugees.

One of the main challenges has been a lack of political will and commitment from governments to provide refugees with the necessary rights and protections. Many countries have been hesitant to take in refugees, leaving them in a precarious situation without legal status or access to basic services. Additionally, funding for refugee programs has been inadequate,

making it difficult for organizations to provide the necessary support for refugees.

Another challenge has been a lack of coordination and cooperation between countries and organizations in responding to the refugee crisis. Without a comprehensive approach, refugees are often left without adequate protection and support.

Despite these challenges, there have been some positive developments in recent years. The adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Refugee Forum have provided a framework for international cooperation and a more coordinated approach to addressing refugee situations. However, these initiatives are still in their early stages, and it remains to be seen whether they will be effective in addressing the issue of the lack of rights for refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing aid.

## **Possible Solutions**

1. **Mobile Refugee Services:** Implement mobile service units that travel to areas with high concentrations of refugees without residence status. These units could provide medical care, legal aid, education, and other essential services directly to the refugees, ensuring their rights are upheld even if they can't access aid-providing countries.
2. **Flexible Temporary Residency:** Introduce a flexible temporary residency program that allows refugees without a fixed residence to stay in aid-providing countries for a defined period. This residency would grant them access to basic rights and services while also giving them time to explore long-term solutions, such as seeking asylum or finding stable

housing.

3. Virtual Resettlement Programs: Establish virtual resettlement initiatives that allow refugees to access essential services and resources remotely, even if they are not physically residing in the aid-providing country. This could involve digital platforms for remote education, telemedicine services, and legal assistance to bridge the gap for refugees unable to physically relocate.

## **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)**

Sustainable Development Goal 10, "Reduced Inequalities", would be the most relevant goal for addressing the lack of rights for refugees who do not have a residence in the countries providing asylum (the protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their native country) . This goal aims to reduce inequalities within and among countries and promote inclusive societies that provide access to basic services and legal protections for refugees. This also involves eliminating discriminatory laws and practices, promoting inclusive policies and institutions, and addressing systemic factors that contribute to inequalities. By doing so, refugees can be empowered to participate fully in society, have access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, and be protected from discrimination and social exclusion. This is particularly relevant for refugees who may face significant barriers in accessing their rights due to their refugee status, nationality, or ethnicity. By promoting non-discrimination and inclusion, this can help to ensure that refugees are able to access the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities.

## Appendix

- I. <https://www.unhcr.org/globalcompact-for-refugees.html>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2019). Global Compact on Refugees. (The provided link leads to information about the "Global Compact on Refugees" by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This compact, established in 2018, outlines a comprehensive framework to address challenges related to forced displacement and enhance the global response to refugee situations. It focuses on alleviating pressure on host countries, promoting self-reliance among refugees, expanding durable solutions, and strengthening international cooperation for a more effective response to refugee crises. The content likely provides details about the objectives, principles, and strategies outlined in the compact.)

- II. <https://www.iom.int/refugee-and-migrant-rights>.

International Organization for Migration. (2021). Refugee and Migrant Rights. (The provided link directs to information by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) regarding "Refugee and Migrant Rights." This content likely offers insights into the organization's efforts to safeguard the rights of refugees and migrants worldwide. It may cover topics such as legal protections, access to basic services, and advocacy for policies that uphold the dignity and well-being of individuals on the move. The page could provide resources and initiatives aimed at promoting human rights for refugees and migrants as part of IOM's mission.)

- III. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/global-refugee-crisis/>.

Amnesty International. (2020). The Global Refugee Crisis. (The provided link directs to Amnesty International's content on "The Global Refugee Crisis." This page likely offers information and insights about the ongoing challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants around the world. Amnesty International's focus may include advocating for human rights, raising awareness about displacement issues, and highlighting the need for improved protection and support for those affected by the refugee crisis. The content may feature reports, campaigns, and actions aimed at addressing the critical concerns of refugees and migrants in various regions.)

IV. <https://www.hrw.org/topic/refugees-and-asylum-seekers>.

Human Rights Watch. (2021). Refugees and Asylum Seekers. (The provided link leads to the Human Rights Watch's page on "Refugees and Asylum Seekers." This webpage likely contains information about the organization's work in monitoring and advocating for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers globally. It may cover topics such as legal protections, access to basic services, and the challenges faced by displaced individuals. The content might include reports, articles, and campaigns aimed at highlighting and addressing human rights violations and advocating for the rights and dignity of refugees and asylum seekers.)

V. <https://www.unhcr.org/protection.html>.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). (2021). Protection of Refugees. (The provided link directs to The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)'s page on the "Protection of Refugees." This page likely offers insights into UNHCR's efforts to ensure the safety, rights, and well-being of refugees worldwide. It may cover topics such as legal frameworks, assistance



programs, and advocacy initiatives aimed at providing comprehensive protection for refugees in accordance with international standards. The content might include information about UNHCR's strategies, partnerships, and resources dedicated to safeguarding the rights of displaced individuals and addressing the challenges they face.)

VI. <https://www.rescue.org/topic/refugees-and-asylum-seekers>.

International Rescue Committee (IRC). (2021). Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

(The provided link leads to the International Rescue Committee (IRC)'s page on "Refugees and Asylum Seekers." This webpage likely offers insights into the IRC's work and initiatives related to providing assistance, support, and protection to refugees and asylum seekers. The content may cover various aspects such as emergency response, resettlement efforts, advocacy for policy changes, and humanitarian programs designed to alleviate the challenges faced by displaced individuals. The page might include information on IRC's projects, stories, and resources focused on improving the lives and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers globally.)

VII. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/what-we-do/issues/refugee-rights>.

Oxfam International. (2021). Refugee Rights. Retrieved from (The provided link directs to Oxfam International's page on "Refugee Rights." This page likely provides insights into Oxfam's work and initiatives aimed at advocating for the rights of refugees. The content may cover various aspects such as access to essential services, legal protections, and efforts to address the root causes of displacement. Oxfam's page might feature reports, campaigns, and stories that shed light on the challenges faced by refugees and the organization's efforts to promote

human rights, equality, and dignity for displaced individuals around the world.)