

A refugee is a person forced to flee their country due to persecution, war, violence, or serious human rights violations. They hold a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group membership, rendering them unable or unwilling to return to the country of their nationality (United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951).

Key Definitions and Context

Legal Definition: According to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, a refugee is an individual who is outside their country of nationality and cannot return due to a well-founded fear of persecution or a serious threat to their life or freedom.

Protection: Under the principle of non-refoulement, refugees are entitled to international protection, which means they cannot be returned to a country where they may face "irreparable harm upon return, including persecution, torture, ill-treatment, or other serious human rights violations" (UN OHCHR, n.d.).

Broader Definition: The Cartagena Declaration expanded the definition of a refugee to include individuals affected by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive human rights violations, and other situations that significantly disrupt public order (Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, 1984).

Distinctions (Amnesty International, n.d.)

1. **Refugee vs. Migrant:** Refugees flee danger, while migrants typically move voluntarily in search of work or better opportunities.
2. **Refugee vs. Asylum Seeker:** Asylum seekers are individuals who have not yet received a decision on their asylum claim, making them not legally recognized as refugees at that stage.
3. **Refugee vs. Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** Refugees are people who cross international borders to escape danger, whereas internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain within their own country and do not cross borders.

Exclusion Clause: A person who has committed a crime against peace, a crime against humanity, a war crime, a serious non-political crime, or acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations is excluded from the international protection granted to refugees (Article 1F of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951).

References:

Amnesty International. (n.d.). *Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants*.

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

Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, Colloquium on the International Protection of Refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama, November 19-22, 1984,

http://www.oas.org/dil/1984_Cartagena_Declaration_on_Refugees.pdf

United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, July 28, 1951,

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-relating-status-refugees>

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *The Principle of Non-Refoulement Under International Human Rights Law*, n.d.,

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Migration/GlobalCompactMigration/ThePrincipleNon-RefoulementUnderInternationalHumanRightsLaw.pdf>

Proposal:

FA members who meet the above criteria are eligible for "Refugee Status" and will pay 50% of the designated tiered Annual Membership fee to activate their yearly membership.