



DEFINITIONS

Immigration Terms You Should Know



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



The general term for the process of becoming a refugee in Ireland. The International Protection Office in Ireland has a duty of care for all stages of International Protection.



ASYLUM SEEKER

Means the same as International Protection Applicant. Asylum seekers have applied for International Protection and are waiting for the government to recognise them as refugees. According to international law, their application for asylum must be heard.



REFUGEE

Someone forced to leave their country because of war or persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, sexuality, gender or politics. Refugees are legally permitted to stay in Ireland and can apply for citizenship after 3 years.

PROGRAMME/RESETTLED REFUGEES

People who have been forced to flee their country, many of whom live in refugee camps. They are interviewed and if their story is believed, they are transferred to a new third country, e.g. Ireland. They are given refugee status automatically.

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

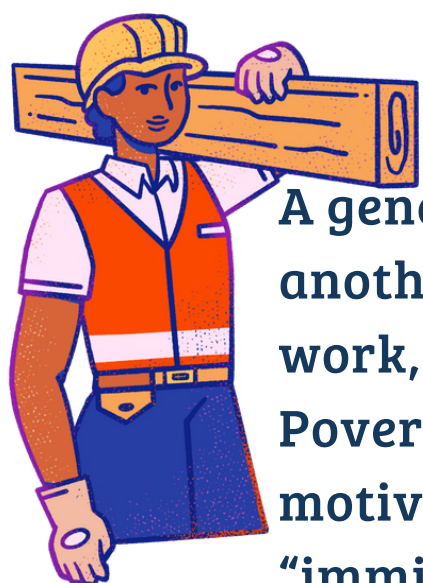
Because of the war in Ukraine causing millions to flee, Ukrainians are being given Temporary Protection in EU countries, allowing them full rights to live, study, receive medical and welfare assistance and work.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDP)

Someone who has been forced to flee their home but has not crossed an international border for safety. IDPs live in their home countries but are unable to return home. There are far more IDPs than refugees in the world today.



MIGRANT



A general term for anyone who moves to another country, including for reasons of work, education, or increased opportunity. Poverty and natural disasters are often motivating factors. In the USA, the term "immigrant" is used more frequently than "migrant"



UNACCOMPANIED MINOR SEEKING ASYLUM

A child who is under 18 years of age and who is seeking asylum and separated from both parents and/or their primary caregiver(s).



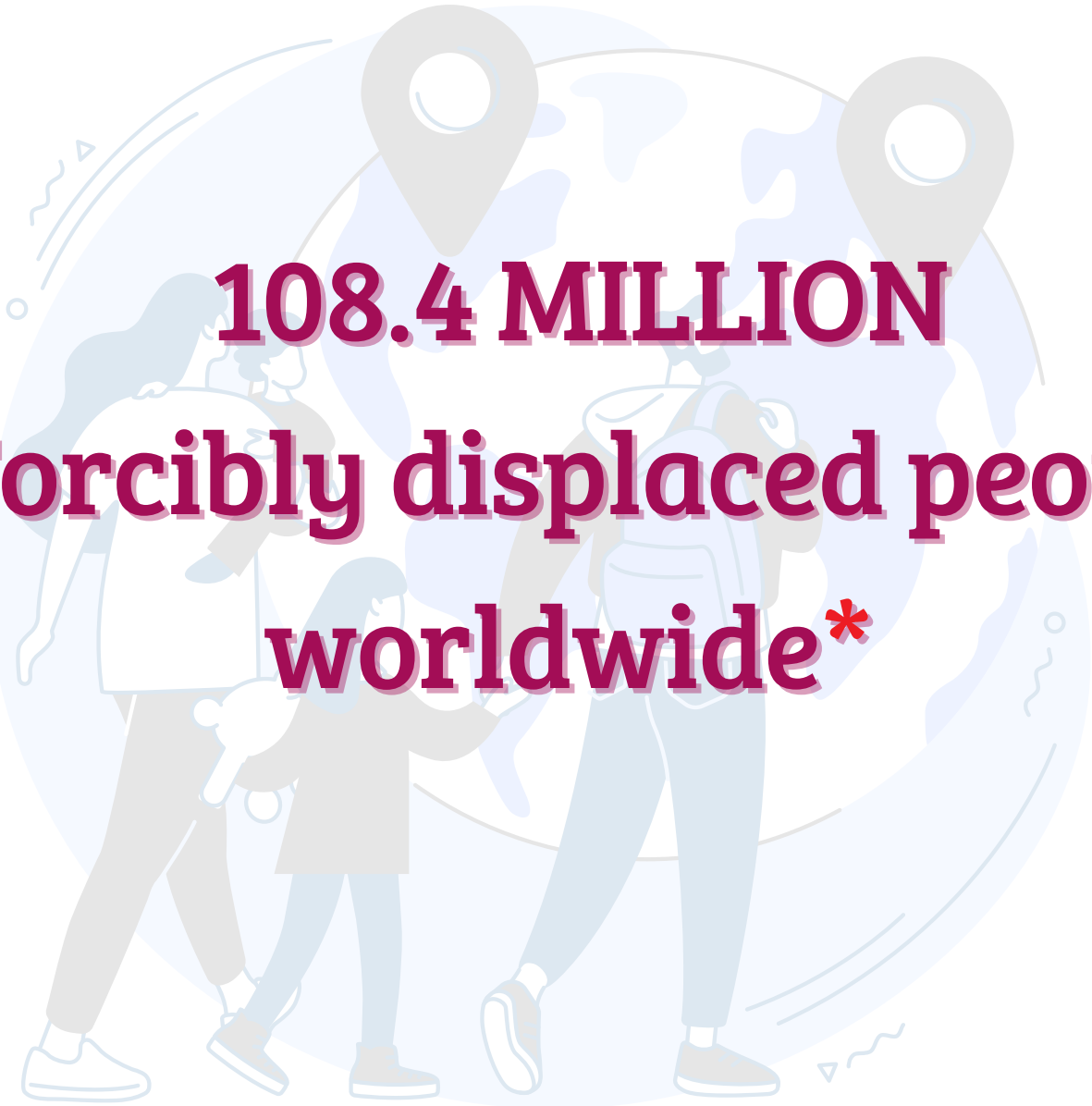
FACTS



Schools of
Sanctuary



108.4 MILLION
Forcibly displaced people
worldwide*



62.5 MILLION
are internally displaced people

35.3 MILLION
are refugees

5.4 MILLION
are asylum-seekers

5.2 MILLION
are other people in need of international protection*

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**COUNTRIES RECEIVING
THE MOST REFUGEES**



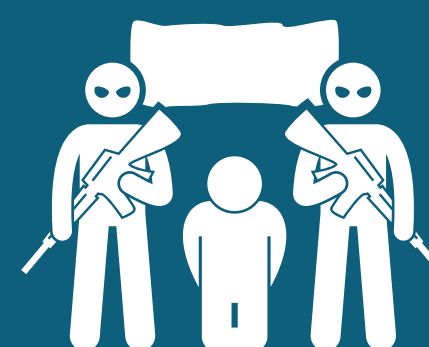
REFUGEES FLEE FROM



**CONFLICT
PERSECUTION
VIOLENCE**



HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SEEKING PROTECTION IN IRELAND

Is it true that only young single men come to Ireland as refugees?

No, there are women, men and children fleeing their countries in search of safety. Due to the dangerous journey, men often travel first to seek protection and once granted status, refugees can apply for family reunification so that their family can join them. This is a safer option than paying for smugglers or taking dangerous routes.

Is it true that there are high rates of crime among refugees?

There is no evidence that nationality, religion or a person's legal status in Ireland has any impact on crime rates.

Is it illegal to seek asylum?

No. Seeking asylum /protection is not illegal. Some refugees have no choice but to use false identity documents or to use irregular or unsafe ways to enter the country. This is due to the lack of availability of safe ways to come to countries like Ireland and seek protection. People may have lost documents in their home country or they may have been stolen on the way.

Are asylum seekers and refugees prioritised for housing in Ireland?

No, most asylum seekers and refugees, including those from Ukraine, are mainly housed in hotels and spare rooms not their own houses. For the most part, asylum seekers are housed in direct provision centres and some refugees still live there due to lack of housing. It is often very difficult for refugees to find rental property. The government has recently failed to find accommodation for asylum seekers, leaving them homeless or living in tents.

Is it true that asylum seekers are unvetted?

When an asylum seeker enters Ireland, they are interviewed in depth at least twice and fingerprinted by the International Protection Office in Ireland. The data is stored on a Europe-wide database containing the fingerprints of all asylum seekers.

Do refugees just come here for social welfare benefits?

No, Refugee status is a special protection in international law and a person is given this because it is too dangerous to stay in their own country. The process of seeking asylum includes a detailed interview that ascertains if a person needs this protection. Many refugees are unaware of the social welfare system when they arrive, and are very keen to work so that they are not dependent on the state.



Misinformation is dangerous. Accurate information is vital when discussing issues such as seeking protection as misinformation contributes to stereotyping refugees and creating an unfavourable environment not only when welcoming people fleeing their country but also for building strong inclusive communities.

