



INVOLVING REFUGEE VOLUNTEERS

What's the plan for today?

Introductions



Refugees and
volunteering



Definitions



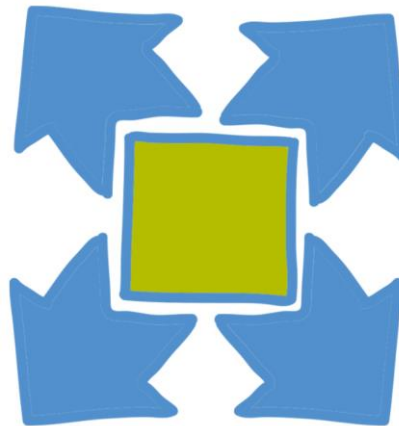
Barriers
and pathways



Refugees
& Asylum
in Scotland



Group
discussion



Definitions...



Migrant

Is anybody who moves from one region or country to another for any reason



Asylum Seeker

Is a person who has made a claim to be considered for protection to a state which has signed the UN Convention on Refugees 1951.

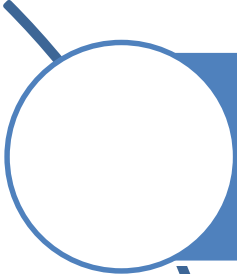


Refugee


A refugee is someone who is flees from risk, danger or persecution and seeks protection, safety or asylum.

A Refugee is someone whose individual application for protection has been recognised under the UN Convention on Refugees 1951

Some terminology to be mindful of...



Prioritise the person, not the immigration status:
People in the asylum process, person seeking asylum



No one is illegal:
People are not illegal, actions are – criminalising the asylum process is a deliberate hostile policy



Dehumanising language around migration:
'Hordes' 'swarms' 'invasion' 'crackdown'



Safe and legal routes to asylum
Instead of bringing numbers down, controlling borders

The Lexicon of Global Migration



Émigré



Global Nomad



Expat



Immigrant



Asylum-seeker



Migrant

[@trilingual](https://www.instagram.com/trilingual)



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Global trends report

2021

Published June 2022

Trends at a Glance



83%

HOSTED IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Low- and middle-income countries hosted 83 per cent of the world's refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad.³ The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 27 per cent of the total.

72%

HOSTED IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

72 per cent of refugees and Venezuelans displaced abroad lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

3.8

MILLION REFUGEES HOSTED IN TÜRKIYE

Türkiye hosted nearly 3.8 million refugees, the largest population worldwide. Colombia was second with more than 1.8 million, including Venezuelans displaced abroad.

Türkiye

3.8 million

Colombia

1.8 million

Uganda

1.5 million

Pakistan

1.5 million

Germany

1.3 million

1 IN 6

ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations, the island of Aruba hosted the largest number of Venezuelans displaced abroad (1 in 6) while Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees (1 in 8),⁴ followed by Curaçao (1 in 10), Jordan (1 in 14) and Türkiye (1 in 23).⁵

Aruba

1 in 6

Lebanon

1 in 8

Curaçao

1 in 10

Jordan

1 in 14

Türkiye

1 in 23

The 1951 Refugee Convention

A refugee is anyone who:

“...owing to a **well-founded** fear of being **persecuted** for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group** or **political opinion**, is **outside** the country of his nationality and is **unable** or owing to such **fear**, is **unwilling** to avail himself of the protection of that country.” (Article 1A)

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/about-unhcr/who-we-are/1951-refugee-convention>

UN Refugee Convention, 1951



Who are we talking about today? Refugees across Scotland

Asylum Dispersal (throughout asylum process)

Asylum Accommodation in hotels (temporary housing)

Separated children and young people – looked after/social work

Resettlement across Scotland (mainly from Syria)

Afghanistan (nationality based scheme) - Bridging Hotels

Ukraine (nationality based scheme)

Refugees (recognised after asylum process in the UK)

A closer look 1:

Asylum dispersal

- 55,000 people in UK, 4500 in Glasgow (currently the only dispersal city in Scotland)
- Change coming: asylum dispersal will be Scotland-wide
- £49.18 p/w, no right to work or access to benefits

Asylum accommodation in hotels

- single men mainly from Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Yemen
- £8.86 per week, meals provided by hotels
- No right to work or access to benefits
- Temporary housing, may be moved elsewhere in UK

Separated children and young people

- Spontaneous presentations to local authorities eg after trafficking
- National Transfer Scheme' – allocated to LA areas depending on population numbers
- Looked after by Social work
- Guardians assigned by [Scottish Guardianship Service](#)

A closer look 2:

Resettlement

- UK Resettlement scheme for people affected by the Syrian conflict – now closed
- All local authorities in Scotland
- Refugee status
- Have access to benefits and employment rights

Afghanistan (nationality based scheme) Bridging Hotels

- People relocated from Afghanistan
- Housed in hotels awaiting permanent housing
- Refugee status
- Have access to benefits and employment rights

Ukraine (nationality based scheme)

- 3 years' Leave outside immigration rules
- Families, matched sponsors, Scottish 'super-sponsor' scheme, visa extensions
- Mainly women and children
- Have access to benefits and employment rights

Involving refugee volunteers

Because you need language skills?
Because you'd like to offer services to refugees?
Because diversity and inclusion are important?
Because it's the right thing to do?

Having conversations about barriers:

Unstable
'no-choice'
housing

Learning
a new
language

Changes in
immigration
status

Access to:

- Transport costs
- Clothing
- Stationery

Poverty:

- Dispersal asylum support: £49.18 p/w
- Hotel residents: £8.86 p/w

Digital
poverty:

- Access to gadgets
- Access to data
- Ease and speed of comms

Competing
commitments:

- solicitor appointments
- Home Office interviews
- immigration reporting
- housing inspections
- ESOL classes
- Health appointments
- Hotel meal times

Refugee volunteering: an active welcome



Clear messaging



clear
'refugees
welcome'
messaging

**I WELCOME
REFUGEES**

#IWelcomeRefugees
@ScotRefCouncil

scottish
refugee
council 30
years


Recruiting actively

Linking up with existing networks:

- can you visit your local refugee support groups?
- is there a refugee support team in your local authority?
- are there ESOL classes for refugees in local colleges?



Felxibility in your recruitment process



is it easy to engage with your volunteering programme?

Easing the formalities

- long, complex application forms?
- over-reliant on internet access?
- do you ask applicants for their preferred mode of contact? Phone calls? Texts? WhatsApp?
- are you flexible with references?
- do you reimburse expenses quickly and easily?

Planning pathways and support



is your
programme
refugee-
friendly?

Pathways and support

- Involve refugees as event participants
- Create roles suitable for learners of English
- Buddy up current volunteers with a refugee who is an English learner
- Plan progression routes once language skills improve

Refugee volunteering: an active welcome

Explore existing networks:

visit your local refugee support groups
is there a refugee support team in your local authority?
are there ESOL classes for refugees in local colleges?

are you recruiting actively?

is it easy to engage with your volunteering programme?

Easing the formalities

long, complex application forms?
over-reliant on internet access?
do you ask applicants for their preferred mode of contact?
Phone calls? Texts? WhatsApp?
are you flexible with references?
do you reimburse expenses quickly and easily?

Pathways and support

Involve refugees as event participants
Create roles suitable for learners of English
Buddy up current volunteers with a refugee who is an English learner
Plan progression routes once language skills improve

is your programme refugee-friendly?

clear 'refugees welcome' messaging

I WELCOME REFUGEES

#IWelcomeRefugees
@ScotRefCouncil

scottish
refugee
council 30
years

What does the Home Office say?

[Home Office Guidance](#) - version published 26 January 2024:

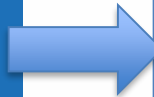
“It is Home Office policy to support asylum seekers volunteering for charities or public sector organisations.”

Refugees and Asylum Seekers at all stages of the asylum process (including post-refusal) have the right to volunteer in the UK.

Guidance

Permission to work and volunteering for asylum seekers (accessible)

Updated 26 January 2024

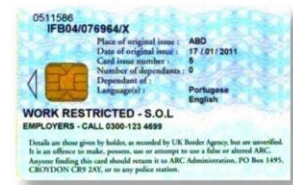
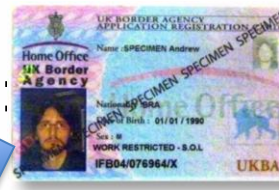


[Permission to work:
caseworker guidance -
GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

What about disclosures?

People seeking asylum and refugees can obtain disclosures at all levels in Scotland, including PVGs.

Photo IDs issued by the Home Office:



ARC (Applicant Registration Card)



BRP (Biometric Residence Permit)

Convention Travel Document



Want to meet refugee applicants?

**Volunteering
Information
Afternoons
Online at SRC**

**last Thursday
of every month
(except
December)**



**WANT TO
VOLUNTEER?**

Come to our **Online Volunteering Information Afternoon** and talk to organisations in Glasgow who are looking for volunteers.

This meeting is open to all asylum seekers and refugees.

Date: August 26th, 2-4pm 2021 on ZOOM

Interested?

Please register on our website:
www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/
and we will get in touch to send you the Zoom link

www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk  [scottishrefugeecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/scottishrefugeecouncil)  [scodrefcouncil](https://twitter.com/scodrefcouncil)
Scottish Refugee Council, Portland House, 17 Renfrew Street, Glasgow, G2 5AH Tel: 0141 248 9799
Scottish Refugee Council is a charity registered in Scotland. Registered Charity: SC039633

Involving refugee volunteers:



<https://youtu.be/pY03EXASnQI?si=nP9qqXMy-kOQVX2->

Find us online:

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/>



Are you
a refugee or
seeking asylum?
Want to volunteer?

[Click here to register!](#)

Online Volunteering
Information Meetings

Thursday 26 January
2023
2-4pm



Want to involve
refugee volunteers
in your
organisation?

Like to recruit refugee
volunteers to support the
work of your organisation?

**Read our top ten tips,
and contact us!**



Want to have a
look at our
volunteering
stories?

Our staff and volunteers
talk to camera
about what
volunteering with us
is really like

FAQs

Do you have
any questions
about volunteering
with us?

Frequently
Asked Questions
about volunteering
at Scottish
Refugee Council

Any questions? Contact us!

Gün Orgun	Volunteer Development Coordinator volunteering@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
Marwa Bushnaq	Regional Integration Coordinator Marwa.Bushnaq@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
Training for practitioners	Training - Scottish Refugee Council