

*1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees:* a landmark United Nations treaty that defines the term “refugee,” explains the rights accorded to them, and standardizes state treatment of them. The original treaty, adopted in 1951, added a supplement in 1967 that universalized the definition of a refugee, which had originally referred just to those displaced by conflict in Europe before 1951. Rights that the convention obliges its 145 state parties to provide include access to courts and employment, the provision of identity papers, and the possibility of naturalization.

*amnesty:* a type of pardon offered by a government that forgives a person or group of people suspected or found guilty of a crime. The word “amnesty” shares a root with “amnesia,” suggesting that the person’s actions will be legally forgotten. The term is also used to reference a government’s decision to grant previously undocumented immigrants the legal authorization to remain in a country.

*asylum:* a protective status granted by national governments to individuals, called refugees or asylum seekers, who have been internationally displaced, cannot return home, and seek resettlement abroad. Asylum status often officially recognizes a displaced person as a refugee and grants them corresponding protections, such as the right to remain in a country or access to education and health care.

*asylum seeker:* a refugee who has applied for asylum, a protective status granted by a host government. Not all refugees are willing or able to apply, and applications may be denied. When individuals’ asylum requests are granted by governments, they are officially recognized as refugees, although certain countries, such as the United States, maintain a distinction between the two.

*brain drain:* a term, distinct from brain waste, that refers to the emigration of highly educated or skilled individuals from a home country, resulting in a “brain gain” in the receiving country.

*brain waste:* a term, distinct from brain drain, that refers to the phenomenon of economic migrants with college educations employed in menial sectors or sectors unrelated to their degree. It can also refer to economic migrants who,

# Glossary: Migration

having gained skills abroad, return home but depart again rather than put those skills to use in the home country.

*diaspora*: a community of people who have left their country of origin and live abroad.

*Dublin Regulation*: a European Union law that establishes which EU member state is responsible for examining an asylum application submitted by someone who is not an EU citizen. Generally, according to the Dublin Regulation, the EU country where the asylum seeker first arrives is responsible for processing the application, which ensures that each case is processed by only one government. If asylum seekers register in one EU country and then travel to another, they can be sent back to the first country in a “Dublin transfer.”

*economic migrant*: someone who leaves their home country primarily to seek economic opportunity abroad, whether legally or illegally.

*host government*: the government of a country to which a person has migrated, whether for economic reasons or to seek asylum. Alternatively known as host country.

*internally displaced person (IDP)*: an individual forced to leave home due to conflict, violence, persecution, or natural disaster who, unlike a refugee, remains in their country of origin and does not cross a recognized international border.

*international migrant*: a person who has moved from one country to another, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. International migrant is an umbrella term encompassing economic migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, who move for different reasons.

*naturalization*: the legal process through which a state grants citizenship to someone without it. The process of qualifying for citizenship varies from country to country, but commonly includes a minimum legal residency requirement and language and civics testing. Other paths to naturalization can include marriage to a citizen or birth within a country’s borders.

## Glossary: Migration

*non-refoulement*: a principle of international law that bars countries from returning or expelling refugees to a country in which they suffered persecution. Acceptance of this principle stops governments from returning asylum seekers to places where repression could imperil their lives.

*norm*: commonly accepted standard of behavior. Because international law is not always binding, international relations is highly influenced by norms. In this context, norms are traditional ways of doing things that have developed over time and are accepted by most of the actors involved—not necessarily all—as correct or standard. For example, gender equality has been recognized by enough countries to be considered a human rights norm, even though countries have varying approaches and policy responses to the issue.

*push and pull factors*: the reasons that push people to leave their homes and pull migrants toward a new place. Push and pull factors may overlap, but in general, push factors include economic or political instability in a home country, environmental concerns, persecution, and violence. Pull factors may include better employment opportunities, safety, or access to better services in a new country.

*refugee*: as defined by the UN Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, someone who has fled conflict or persecution in their home country, has a reasonable fear that returning would be unsafe, and is protected by international law. In many countries, the term refugee also refers to someone who has sought and received asylum in a new country; individuals granted asylum are often legally recognized as refugees by host countries, allowed to remain, and given certain rights.

*remittance*: money sent by members of a diaspora living overseas to relatives or others in their native country.

*repatriation*: the return of a person, voluntarily or forcibly, to their home and especially to a country where they hold citizenship.

*resettlement*: the relocation of refugees to a new country in which they will reside permanently, enjoying the protection of that government and civil, political, and other rights similar to those of citizens. Less than 1 percent of refugees who apply for resettlement are accepted.

# Glossary: Migration

*responsibility to protect (R2P)*: a nonbinding norm holding that outside powers have a responsibility to intervene in response to a government's failure to protect its population from mass atrocities such as genocide, even though this violates the government's sovereignty. The world's governments adopted the R2P doctrine in 2005, but it remains controversial and unevenly applied.

*Schengen Agreement*: a treaty signed in 1985 that, when it came into effect a decade later, eliminated internal borders among 26 European countries, including many, but not all, members of the European Union, allowing for the free movement of people within the so-called Schengen zone. In 2017, several Schengen countries temporarily re-introduced border controls, citing concerns related to increasing irregular migration and terrorism.

*sovereignty*: supreme or absolute authority over a territory.

*undocumented immigrant*: a person who migrates to another country without permission or authorization from that country's government. The lack of permission often leaves them with considerably fewer rights than people with authorization. These migrants are called by different names, often for political effect. In the United States, they may be simultaneously referred to as undocumented immigrants or illegal aliens; in the European Union, irregular migrants is the term typically used.

*United Nations*: an international organization composed of 193 independent member states that aims to promote international peace and stability, human rights, and economic development. The United Nations was established in 1945 and remains the only organization with practically universal membership among the world's countries.