

GLOSSARY: MIGRATION, ASYLUM AND REFUGE

Common terms associated with migration, refuge and asylum for use in the classroom.



Assisted Voluntary Return

Administrative, logistical, financial and reintegration assistance for rejected asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking, stranded migrants, qualified nationals and other migrants who, unable or unwilling to remain in host countries, volunteer to return to their countries of origin.

Assimilation/segregation/integration

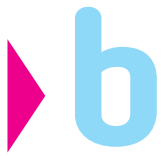
Different perspectives on how people from diverse cultural settings and countries live together. Assimilation is when migrants adapt completely to the customs of the host country. Assimilation involves the subsuming of language, traditions, values, mores and behaviour. Segregation involves different ethnic, cultural or religious groups living separately within a community where they rarely come in contact with the other groups. Integration involves multicultural solutions, where the different groups engage daily with each other while maintaining their traditions and respecting each other.

Asylum

Asylum is a form of protection offered by a State on its territory to refugees who face persecution in their country of origin. Asylum is based on two rights: the right of a person to enter the host country and the right not to be obliged to exit it by force.

Asylum seeker

A person who flees persecution or serious harm in their own country and seeks refuge in another. The asylum seeker applies for refugee status in the host country and the decision whether or not this is granted will depend on whether the individual's circumstances meet international and national criteria. If asylum on humanitarian or other related grounds is denied, or the individual's stay in the country is found to be irregular or unlawful, the person must leave the country voluntarily or face deportation.



Border management

Border management involves the control and surveillance of human traffic, business people, tourists, migrants and refugees, across borders, including the detection and prevention of the irregular entry of non-nationals into a given country. Countries implement different measures to control entry such as visa requirements, sanctions against transport companies found carrying irregular migrants, and interception at sea.



Country of origin

The country that is the source of migratory flows (regular or irregular).



Family reunification

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child or adolescent living, for whatever reason, in a country different than his/her parents, has a right to join them. Family reunification allows families to settle in another country so that the family unit can stay together.



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Freedom of movement

A human right comprising three basic elements: freedom of movement within the territory of a country, the right to leave any country and the right to return to his or

her own country. Freedom of movement is also referred to in the context of freedom of movement arrangements between States at the regional level (e.g. European Union).



Life-threatening situations

Man-made crises or natural events which occur at a given place and time, potentially leading to disaster. A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society involving widespread human, environmental or material loss which exceeds the ability of the affected community to cope with its own resources. Disasters can lead

to humanitarian crises or emergencies, leading to large numbers of forced migrations.

Not all life-threatening situations lead to disasters: it depends on the intensity of the catastrophe and primarily, on the vulnerability of the population prior to the event.





Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

Freedom of movement is the right to travel around a country, leave a country and return to one's country of origin. Freedom of movement also refers to the freedom of movement of certain citizens to travel around and between certain countries (e.g. European Union).



International minimum standards

The doctrine under which non-nationals benefit from a series of rights determined by international law, independently of the rights of the State in which the non-national finds him or herself. A State is required to observe minimum standards set by international law with respect to treatment of non-nationals on its territory (or the property of such persons), (e.g. denial of justice, unwarranted delay or obstruction of access to courts are in breach of international minimum standards required by international law). In some cases, the level of protection guaranteed by the international minimum standard may be superior to that standard which the State grants its own nationals.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

Migrant

IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is. IOM concerns itself with migrants and migration-related issues and, in agreement with relevant States, with migrants who are in need of international migration services.

Brain drain - Emigration of trained and talented individuals from the country of origin to another country resulting in a depletion of skills resources in the former.

Brain gain - Immigration of trained and talented individuals into the destination country. Also called "reverse brain drain".



Antônio Rocco - Os emigrantes

Migration

The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It refers to any movement of population, regardless of the duration, composition or causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other reasons, including family reunification.

Facilitated migration - Fostering or encouraging of regular migration by making travel easier and more convenient. This may take the form of a streamlined visa application process, or efficient and well-staffed passenger inspection procedures.

Forced migration - A migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects).

Irregular migration - Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. There is no clear or universally accepted definition of irregular migration. From the perspective of destination countries it refers to the

entering, staying or working of migrants in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, common irregularities include people crossing an international border without a valid passport or travel document or not fulfilling the administrative requirements for leaving the country. The use of the term "illegal migration", however, tends to be restricted to cases of smuggling of migrants and human trafficking.

Labour migration - Movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment. Labour migration is addressed by most States in their migration laws. In addition, some States take an active role in regulating outward labour migration and seeking opportunities for their nationals abroad.



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Naturalization

Naturalization is when a State formally grants its nationality to a non-national following a process of application undertaken by the individual concerned. International law does not provide detailed rules for naturalization, but it recognizes the competence of every State to naturalize those who are not its nationals and who apply to become its nationals.

Non-refoulement

A core principle of international refugee law that prohibits States from returning refugees in any manner whatsoever to countries or territories in which their lives or freedom may be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

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OCAH (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coordinated response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

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Passport

A passport is a travel document, usually issued by a country's government, which certifies the identity and nationality of its holder for the purpose of international travel. A passport specifies nationality, but not necessarily citizenship or the place of residence of the passport holder.



Push-pull factors

Migration is often analysed in terms of the "push-pull model", which looks at the push factors, which drive people to leave their country (such as economic, social, or political problems) and the pull factors attracting them to the country of destination.



Refugee

A person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, 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". (Convention relating to the Status of Refugees).



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Refugee/displaced persons' camp

A refugee camp is a temporary settlement built to receive refugees and people in refugee-like situations. Refugee camps usually accommodate people who have fled from neighbouring countries, but there are also camps for internally displaced persons. Integration communities are an alternative to these camps, in which refugee and displaced people are welcome in the local community with the support of the Government.

Remittances

Money earned or acquired by non-nationals that are transferred back to their country of origin.

Repatriation

The personal right of a refugee, prisoner of war or a civil detainee to return to his or her country of nationality under specific

conditions laid down in various international instruments. The option of repatriation is bestowed upon the individual personally and not upon the detaining power. When a State returns foreign people to their country of origin against their will, the correct words are expulsion or deportation.

Resettlement

The relocation and integration of people (refugees, internally displaced persons, etc.) into another geographical area and environment, usually in a third country. In the refugee context, the transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought refuge to another State that has agreed to admit them. The refugees will usually be granted asylum or some other form of long-term resident rights and, in many cases, will have the opportunity to become naturalized.

Rural exodus

Migration of people from rural areas to cities, in search of new job opportunities. Rural migration began in the 19th century during the Industrial Revolution, and has been the cause of rural population depletion ("ghost towns") and urban overpopulation ("slums", "dormitory suburbs").



ICAS-SAHP, Fototeca Municipal de Sevilla. Archivo Serrano, 1961.



Smuggling

"The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident" (UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air). Smuggling, contrary to trafficking, does not require an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights.

Stateless person

"A person who is not recognised as a national of any State by law" (Art. 1, UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954). As such, a stateless persons lack rights attributable to the national diplomatic protection of a State, possess no inherent right of sojourn in the State of residence and no right of return in case he or she travels outside the State. As stateless persons are particularly vulnerable, States are obliged to work to alleviate cases of statelessness. Different

situations can lead to statelessness: civil wars, disintegration of a country, governmental decisions, belonging an excluded minority or legislative conflicts, for instance. Children not registered at birth are also stateless.



Trafficking in persons

"The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation" (UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children). Trafficking in persons can take place within the borders of one State or may have a transnational character.



Unaccompanied children

Children and adolescents who cross borders alone or who are separated from their families and unprotected. Natural disasters and wars separate a lot of children from their families, Unaccompanied minors are usually undocumented and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, smuggling and trafficking when in transit and in the destination countries.



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UNHCR

UN agency mandated to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons and to engage in the resolution of asylum-related issues. UNHCR's most important

responsibility is to make sure that the human rights of refugees are respected, including their right to seek asylum and not be returned involuntarily to a country where they have reason to fear persecution.



Visa

An endorsement on a passport or otherwise indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave or stay for a specified period of time in one or more States.



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Xenophobia

At the international level, no universally accepted definition of xenophobia exists, though it can be described as attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity. There is a close link between racism and xenophobia, two terms that can be hard to differentiate from each other.



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