

Refugee Definition

Refugees are people who have fled their countries due to a fear of persecution, having crossed an international border

They enjoy the protection afforded them by refugee law and the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is the designated agency in the UN system for refugee protection

Principle of Non-Refoulement

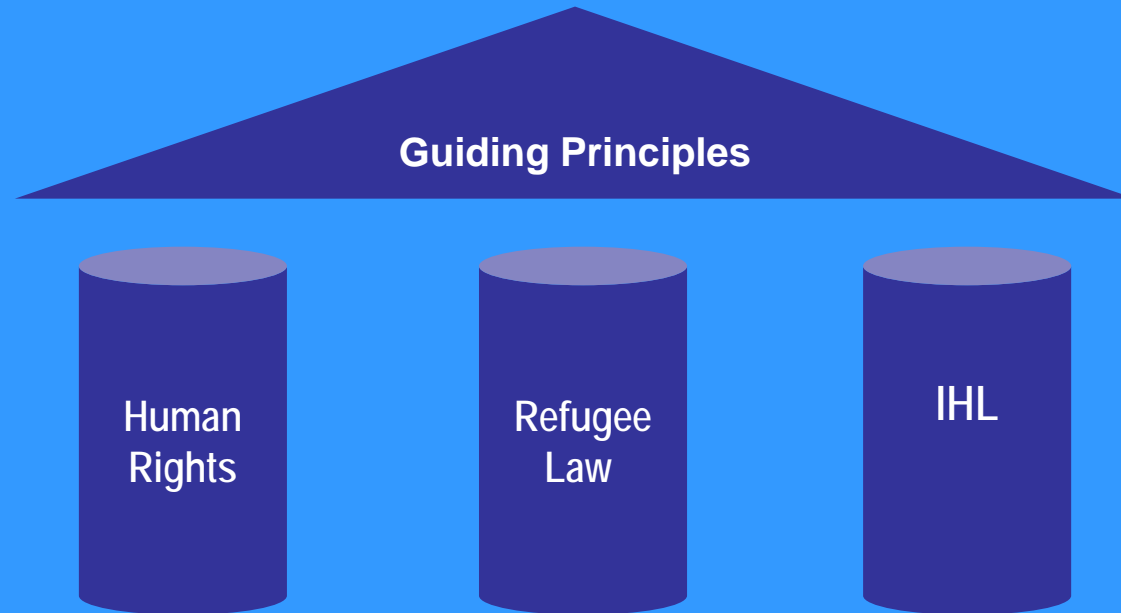
Article 33(1) of the 1951 Convention:

“No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refoule”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”

Definition of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

“Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.” (1998)

International Refugee Law



Displacement is not Legal, including when...

Principle 6:

- It is aimed at, or resulting in, altering the racial, religious, ethnic composition of the population
- In situations of armed conflict unless the security of civilians or imperative military reasons so demand

Displacement is not Legal, including when...

- **In cases of development projects not justified by compelling and overriding public interest**
- **Cases of disasters unless safety or health requires evacuation**
- **When used as collective punishment**

Minimising Impact of Displacement

- **Under proper conditions (e.g. proper accommodation, safety, health and hygiene),**
- **Avoid family separation,**
- **Proper legal guarantees, review, and remedies in place,**

Minimizing Impact of Displacement (cont.)

- Adequate information provided to the displaced, seeking their consent,
- Involve the displaced, esp. women, in the move.