

International Women's Day

Women and armed
conflict

Victims of conflict: Refugees and displaced individuals



Basic facts

1. Today, 50% of the world's refugees are women and girls. (UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/women.html>)
2. Only 4% of projects in UN inter-agency appeals were focused on women and girls in 2014, and just 0.4% of all funding to fragile states went to women's groups or women's ministries from 2012 to 2013 (UN OCHA (2015) *World Humanitarian Data and Trends*, p. 23.)
3. According to UN reports, 60% of preventable maternal deaths take place in humanitarian settings (United Nations Economic and Social Council (2014) *Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters, Report of the Secretary-General.*)
4. At least 1 in 5 refugees or displaced women are estimated to have experienced sexual violence (United Nations Economic and Social Council (2014) *Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters, Report of the Secretary-General.*)

Women and Armed Conflict



“Women are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation in conflict and the best buffer against the radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence.”

— Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director



<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Multimedia/2015/infographic-armed-conflict-en-11x17.pdf>

Refugees

Who is a refugee?

- U.N. definition (1951 Convention):
 - *A refugee is a person 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 to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”*

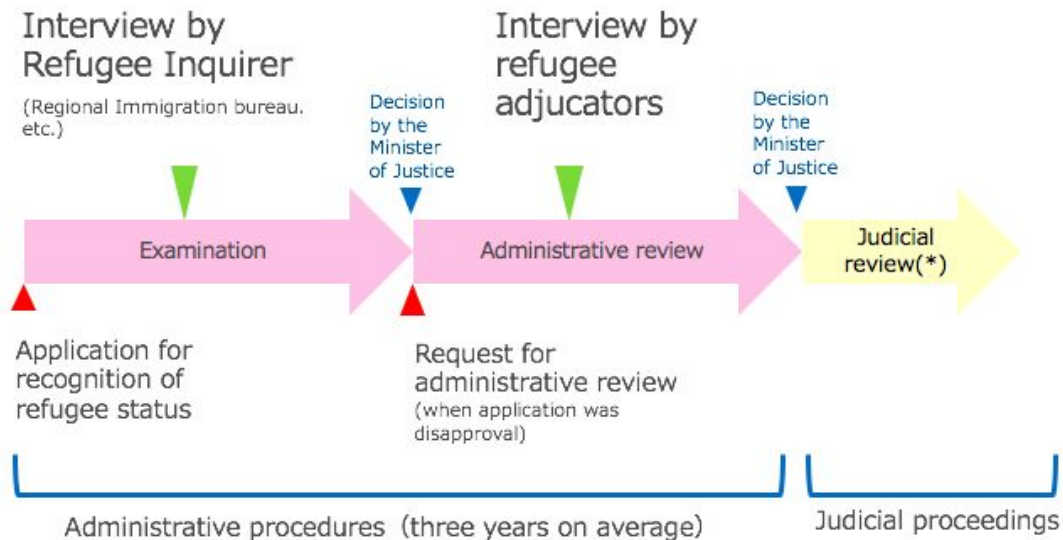
Signing countries' responsibility to refugees

- signing countries often have laws that specify the kinds of persecution or harm
- signing countries have 'special responsibilities' to the protection of children, women and girls, people with disabilities, and other individuals with special needs

e.g. human trafficking of young girls in some countries; empowering displaced women and those with special assistance

Legal procedures in Japan

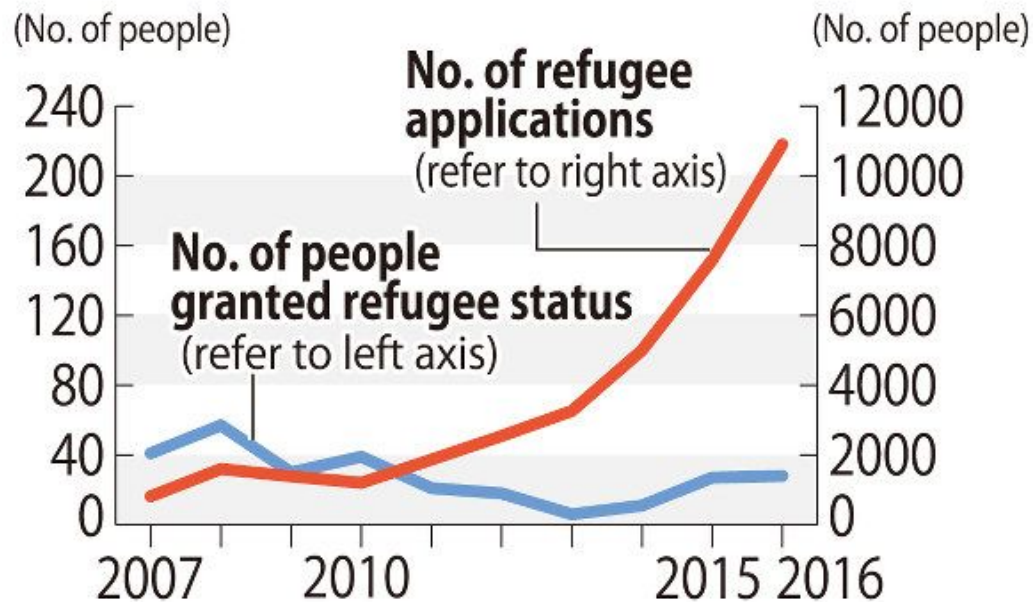
Procedure for Recognition of Refugee Status



* Lawsuit may be filed concurrently with administrative procedures.

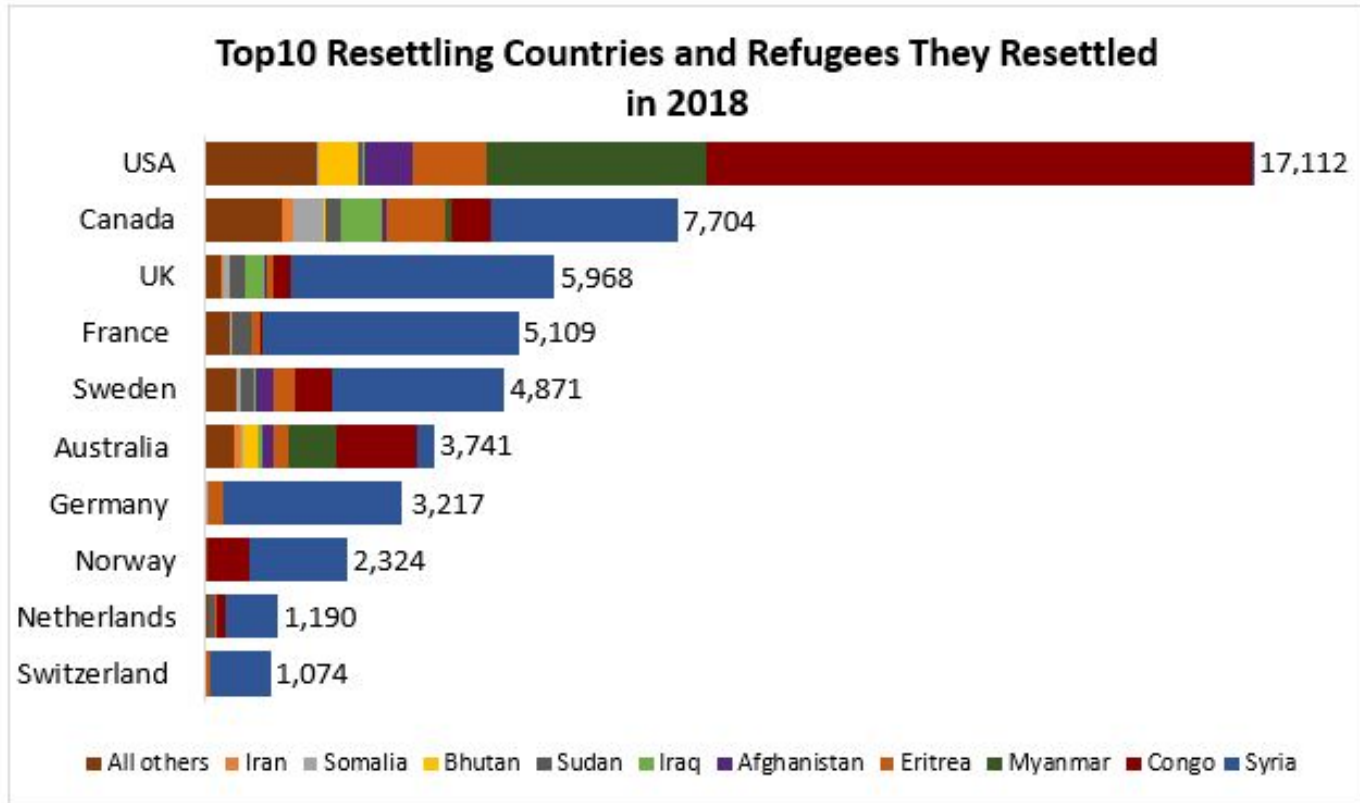
In Japan...

No. of people granted refugee status in Japan since 2007



Source: Ministry of Justice

Around the world...



from: <https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-international-refugee-protection-system/>

Where do
they go?

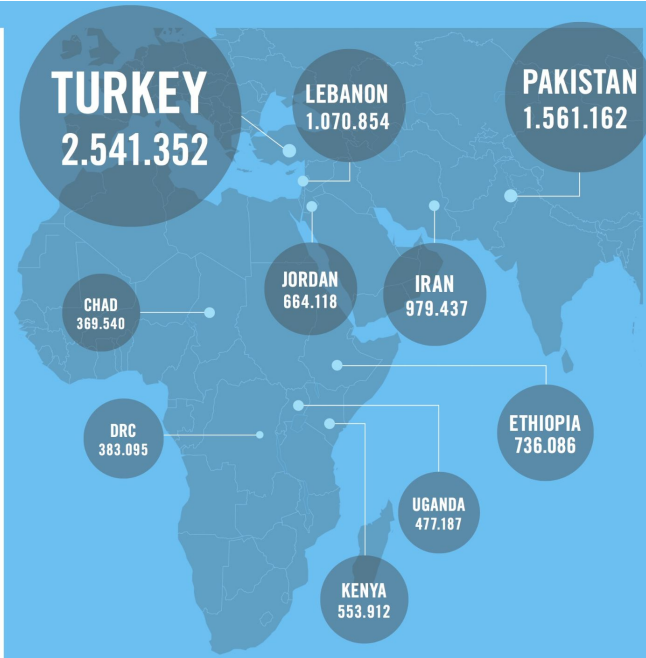
85% of the
world's refugees
under UNHCR's mandate
are **hosted** in
developing
countries

© UNHCR/Annie Sakkab



UNHCR
United Nations
High Commissioner
for Refugees

TOP 10 REFUGEE HOSTING COUNTRIES IN 2015



Source: Global Trends
Forced Displacement in 2015,
UNHCR, UNRWA.

An additional 5.2 million Palestine Refugees are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*.

* They are hosted in: Gaza Strip (1,258,559), Jordan (2,117,361), Lebanon (449,957), Syria (526,724), West Bank (774,167)

Half of the top 10 refugee-hosting countries are now located in sub-Saharan Africa, with four of them being least developed countries.

With 2.54 million refugees in its territory, Turkey remained the country hosting the largest number of refugees by the end of 2015.

Many victims of war are women, so why are they ignored?

EXISTING GAPS IN WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SINCE 1992, WOMEN ONLY ACCOUNT FOR
2.4%
OF CHIEF
MEDIATORS
ON PEACE AGREEMENTS.¹⁴



2%
FUNDING FOR WPS IS LOW ACROSS ALL AREAS, COMPRISING ONLY 6% OF TOTAL AID & 2% OF AID FOR PEACE & SECURITY.¹⁵



ONLY 2
STATES HAVE EXISTING WPS LEGISLATION, YET OVER **70** STATES HAVE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS¹⁷



75 COUNTRIES UNDERTOOK CONSTITUTION REFORM FROM 1990-2015, BUT
ONLY ONE IN FIVE
DRAFTERS WAS A WOMEN¹⁶



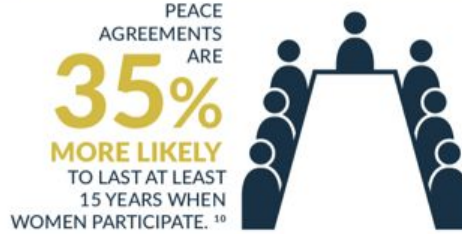
**Defined by the Global Gender Gap Index, the gender gap refers to the relative gaps between women and men across the areas of: health, education, economv. and politics*

What you need to know about women and peace-keeping

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/uncategorized/what-you-need-to-know-about-women-and-peacekeeping/>

Women's participation is the 'key' to peace

A GROWING BODY OF EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN ALL ASPECTS OF PEACEBUILDING HAS A **TANGIBLE POSITIVE IMPACT** ON HUMAN SECURITY.⁹



{ STATES WITH A **LARGER GENDER GAP*** & FEWER RIGHTS FOR WOMEN TEND TO HAVE:¹²

HIGHER LEVELS OF PERCEIVED & ACTUAL CORRUPTION



GREATER LIKELIHOOD FOR INTER- & INTRA-STATE VIOLENCE

HIGHER RATE OF DISEASE



LOWER LIFE EXPECTANCY

{ STATES WITH A **SMALLER GENDER GAP** TEND TO HAVE:¹³



DURABLE PEACE AGREEMENTS

LOWER LEVELS OF CHILD MORTALITY



GREATER FOCUS ON SOCIAL WELFARE

HIGHER TRUST IN THEIR GOVERNMENT



Slow changes...

- In _____, the UN passed the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 – the first resolution to address the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women.
- In _____ Major General Kristin Lund of Norway was appointed as the **first woman** to serve as Force Commander in a United Nations peacekeeping operation – the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.
- a meager proportion of women in the peacekeeping force – 4 percent of soldiers and 10 percent of police deployed to UN missions. **Women make up a greater proportion of the UN's deployed civilian staff, though at 22 percent, they are still underrepresented, especially at senior levels.**

References

Images from

- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/03/10/national/ukrainian-refugees-evacuees-japan/>
- <https://www.issj.org/en/refugees/about>

Procedures for refugee status in Japan:

- <https://www.issj.org/en/refugees/about>
- Refugee Olympic: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20170711/p2a/00m/0sp/015000c>

Refugees and Peace-building

- <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/uncategorized/what-you-need-to-know-about-women-and-peacekeeping/>
- <https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-international-refugee-protection-system/>