



Apply Human Rights

Introduction to Litigators and others to Refugees Human Rights

Human Rights are universal, and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights belong to all human beings, including refugees and internally displaced people taking into consideration their particularly vulnerable status.

Asylum seekers and refugees are entitled to all the rights and fundamental freedoms that are spelled out in international human rights instruments. These include the right to life, protection from torture and ill-treatment, the right to a nationality, the right to freedom of movement, the right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's country, and the right not to be forcibly returned.

The task of international protection includes the prevention of refoulement – a refugee's right not to be returned to a country where they are in danger of persecution, assistance in the processing of asylum seekers, providing legal counsel and aid, promoting arrangements for the physical safety of refugees, promoting and assisting voluntary repatriation, and helping refugees to resettle (article 8 of the Statute of the Office of the UNHCR).

The most important international treaties which determine standards for the protection of refugees and displaced persons can be found under the **Regulations category**.

We have as well covered the regional agreements on the rights of refugees and published them under the geographical area, such as **Africa, Americas, Asia, Middle East, Europe and Oceania**.

At the national level most countries have implemented and enforced the human rights of refugees in national law.

Still the effective enjoyment of these rights through their full recognition, effective protection and their application is expected from many States. Governments must not only refrain from violating the human rights of refugees, but must work actively to promote and protect these rights.

Under the category **Case Law** we give reference to the most important databases with the rich access to the cases on the violation of refugees' rights. Case law incorporates courts' decisions from individual cases and encompasses courts' interpretations of status, constitutional

provisions, administrative regulations and, in some cases, law originating solely from the courts. Ex. a link to the full text of decisions by International Court of Justice referred to the violation of refugees rights.

Interpretation of refugees' rights by UN and others is another category under which we placed the interpretation of the content of refugees' human rights provisions by the Committee against Torture.

To have access to legal recourse against violations of refugees' rights is essential. That is why the **Complaint Procedures** category contains an overview of complaint procedures under different international and regional human rights bodies. Individuals who claim that any of their rights have been violated and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies may submit a written communication to the Committee for consideration.

The **Bibliography** category consists of the list of important publications on specific issues of refugees' rights.

If you need to get in contact with the persons or organisations working on protection and promotion of refugees' rights and get their view on a certain problem we have the **Contact persons/organisations category** at your disposal. Ex. "The UN Refugee Agency" which helps to coordinate action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. You can directly come to this page clicking on this link.