



Migrants & Refugees



Who are Refugees?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her home due to persecution – for reasons of race, religion, ethnicity, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group – war, or violence.^{1,2} Since they cannot return home or are at risk if they try, they require international protection.

While there is no universal definition, a migrant is an individual who leaves his or her home, either moving across international borders or internally displaced within their country, irrespective of their legal status. A migrant is a migrant regardless of whether their movement is voluntary or involuntary or the length of their stay/ displacement.³ A migrant may leave their home for many reasons, including natural disasters and climate change, demographic instability, unmet needs in the labor market, or growing inequalities. Unlike a refugee, a migrant is protected under his or her own government.

Migrants and refugees are at risk of being trafficked for the purposed of exploitation.

¹UNHCR: Refugee Facts

²1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

³IOM: Who is a Migrant

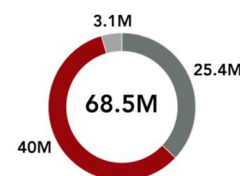
Statistics

244M international migrants globally

31 newly displaced every minute

Global Displacement

40M internally displaced
25.4M refugees
3.1M asylum-seekers



Global Compact

The United Nations has committed to intensify cooperation, protect, and find solutions for refugees and migrants through the creation of two compacts: 1) the global compact on refugees and 2) the global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration.

The Global Compacts call for united action and allow ideas and interventions to be harnessed from new partners. From Civil Society to the private sector, all are called to be part of the solution by creating new pathways for migrants and refugees to live in safety and with dignity. Both compacts will come before the UN General Assembly in December 2018.

GOARCH's Advocacy Points

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has been involved in the negotiations for the global compacts advocating for the following:

The protection of all migrants, regardless of their status, from *refoulement* and arbitrary or collective expulsions, and that States ensure returns are rights-based, safe, and dignified

The right to basic services for all refugees and migrants, which must be expanded to include mental health services and legal aid.

An explicit reference of the fundamental right to religious freedom for all migrants and refugees.

What you can do

Educate yourselves, families, friends, and communities about refugees and migrants.

Take Action by becoming an IOCC Parish Representative.

Volunteer with a local refugee resettlement agency – such as Church World Service or International Rescue Committee – to make a difference.

Call and write your representatives encouraging them to propose legislation in line with international laws and standards regarding migrants and refugees

Where to learn more

The Global Compact on Migration

refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact

The Global Compact on Refugees

unhcr.org/en-us/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees.html

The NGO Committee on Migration

ngo-migration.org

International Organization for Migration

iom.int

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

unhcr.org/en-us/

I Am a Migrant

iamamigrant.org

About Us

The Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations is tasked with cultivating professional relationships with faith-based organizations, academic institutions, and NGOs. It coordinates the ecumenical and interfaith dialogues of the Archdiocese on a national level and is responsible for pan-Orthodox activities through the Office of the Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA.

Programs at the UN

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is accredited through the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI) and has General Consultative Status under the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC). The Archdiocese has been actively working at the UN for nearly 40 years.

