



Refugee myth busters

Myth

Refugees only come to Canada for job opportunities.

Refugees are invading Canada.

Refugees pose a security risk to Canada.

Fact

No one chooses to be a refugee. Refugees are forced to flee their countries because their lives are in danger, due to situations beyond their control: persecution, conflict or war. They do not have the choice to leave their country, unlike economic immigrants who choose to leave their countries for better opportunities.

It is not easy for refugees to enter Canada. There are very strict and lengthy immigration processes for refugees to be able to get into the country.

Canada also has three ocean borders, making it difficult to reach when refugees are fleeing for their lives. When most refugees flee, they tend to go to countries bordering their own. That is why the majority of the world's refugees are being hosted in the global south. According to the UNHCR, "71% of refugees are being hosted by low- and middle-income countries."

Source: [UNHCR](#), the UN Refugee Agency

Refugees must undergo mandatory background criminal checks and security screenings before they are allowed to enter Canada. If they do not pass the screenings, they are not allowed in.

Myth

Refugees are “queue jumpers.”

Refugees get more government benefits than Canadians.

Refugees are a burden on the Canadian economy.

Fact

Refugees enter Canada via very strict, lengthy and legal immigration processes.

Sponsored refugees must undergo a complex refugee status determination process through a Canadian visa office. This often takes years to finalize before refugees are finally allowed to enter to Canada.

Since Canada is a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, refugee claimants (or asylum seekers) in Canada, have the right to seek asylum at the borders or points of entry. When refugee claimants arrive at a border without being previously approved, they go through an in-land refugee status determination process to see if they can stay in Canada as refugees.

Refugees have access to the same health and provincial benefits as anyone on social assistance or disability.

Refugees come from different places and backgrounds. **Many refugees are educated and hard-working people with varied professional and technical skills.** Upon arriving in Canada, refugees can apply for jobs to support their families.

Most refugees work when they arrive; they also pay taxes and contribute to the economy as consumers.

Source: [Refugees in Canada - United Nations Refugee Agency | UNHCR Canada](#)