

Refugee protection in

If there is a person in your country who you are considering expelling or refusing entry

and

That person indicates some fear of being removed:

PLEASE NOTE

- The person might be at risk of persecution or serious human rights abuses in his or her country of origin.
- **IF SO**
- Your Government has an international obligation to protect the person from being returned.
- ... has signed the international 1951 Refugee Convention and has a duty to protect refugees within its territory.
- The consequences of a wrongful expulsion can be serious.

If in doubt, contact the ... Immigration Department or UNHCR for advice.

Some possible signs of a need for refugee protection

A person may be at risk of persecution or other serious human rights abuses if he or she:

- is agitated, fearful, emotionally distressed or disoriented;
- expresses a fear of being returned home or expelled;
- asks to see “the United Nations” or “UNHCR” or asks if there is a “UN office” in your country;
- asks to see a lawyer;
- claims to be “stateless” or “homeless”;
- indicates he/she has been, or fears being, persecuted or suffering serious harm if expelled and/or returned home; or,
- claims to have been imprisoned or ill-treated in his/her home country.

You may need to carry out further investigations

Refugees must not be returned to their country of origin.

- Careful enquiry is required before any expulsion or removal from ... can take place.
- The assessment of whether someone requires international protection is a complex and specialized area of law.

An interview and assessment would normally consider:

- the person’s nationality, background and beliefs;
- the situation in his/her own country;
- any specific evidence that the person might be persecuted or harassed or suffer serious human rights abuses if returned to that country;
- the reasons why the person left his/her country and came to ...; and,
- the reasons why the person does not want to return to his/her own country.

How can UNHCR help ?

- UNHCR provides expert and confidential advice and guidance to Governments on whether persons need refugee protection;
- UNHCR offers ‘around-the-clock’ telephone support on its “24/7 Hotline” (see below);
- UNHCR may, if necessary, provide logistical and financial assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees while their cases are being investigated;
- UNHCR helps your Government find practical solutions for refugees and gives you advice on how to treat other migrants by putting you in contact with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

If in doubt, contact UNHCR:

UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra, Australia

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