

## Refugee Week 2018: Key facts for educators

### Key terms and language

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Talking about refugees and the movement of people can involve lots of different terms. It is important to understand the differences between these terms, and to try and use them correctly, so that you can feel confident teaching this topic. Here are some of the key terms.

**Refugee** – Someone who is outside their own country but has been granted refugee status to stay in another country. Refugee status is normally granted to those who are unable to return, in fear of death, imprisonment or harassment because of their race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinions. This is normally granted for five years, and then they can apply for indefinite leave to remain.

**Asylum Seeker** – Someone who has fled their own country and crossed an international border, asking another country to recognise them as a refugee and give them protection. In the UK, asylum seekers have to apply and wait to hear if they will be given refugee status.

**Internally displaced person** – Someone who, like a refugee, has been forced to leave their home and move to another part of their own country.

**Economic migrant** – Someone who leaves their own country to earn money or seek work in another country. They still have the protection of their country, and this can describe someone who is in the country and working legally or illegally.

**Illegal immigrant** – Someone who goes to live or work in another country when they do not have the legal right to do this. They might have entered the country without permission from an Immigration Officer, or they might have carried on living in the country after their visa expired.

### A global “refugee crisis”

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In 2015 Europe was first reported to be facing a “refugee crisis”. In 2018 the crisis is now considered to be global, with only a few parts of the world not affected. A crisis like this can affect individuals, families or whole communities and countries who find it hard to cope and need help.

The current refugee crisis includes:

- The largest number of people fleeing violence and conflict since World War Two.
- Nearly 1.3 million refugees fled their country of origin in the first half of 2017 alone. This brought the total number of refugees to over 18.5 million worldwide for the first time.
- Some of the countries people are fleeing from include Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar, with people fleeing because of fear of violence, conflict or persecution.
- People, including many children (over 50% of refugees are under 18 years old), make dangerous journeys to arrive in foreign countries often hungry, ill, traumatised and with few or no possessions or money.

## Refugees in the UK and the bigger picture

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Some key facts and figures:

**65.6 million** – the number of people worldwide fleeing conflict, violence or persecution.<sup>i</sup>

**28,300** – the number of people per day who are forced to flee their homes because of conflict, violence or persecution.<sup>ii</sup>

**18.5 million** – the number of refugees worldwide.<sup>iii</sup>

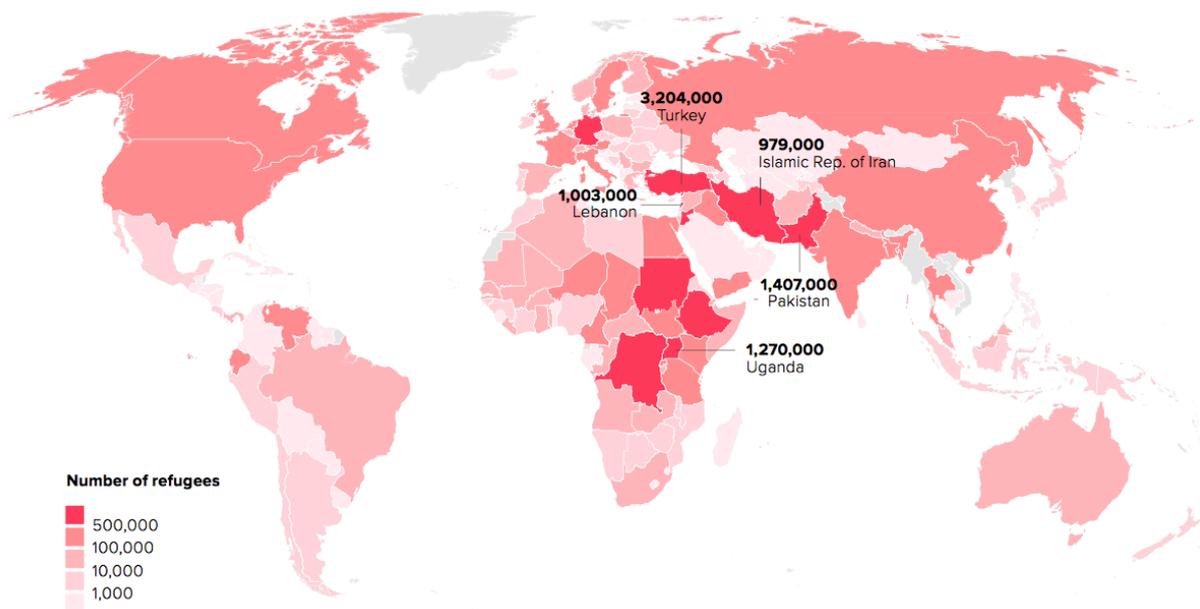
**55%** – the proportion of refugees worldwide coming from just three countries – South Sudan, Afghanistan and Syria.<sup>iv</sup>

**158** – the number of countries or territories worldwide that are hosting refugees.<sup>v</sup>

**11.3 million** – the number of refugees hosted by the top ten countries (Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Lebanon, Iran, Germany, Ethiopia, Jordan, Sudan, DR Congo).<sup>vi</sup>

**75%** – the proportion of refugees hosted by developing countries (see map below).<sup>vii</sup>

**World map showing the location of the world's refugees in June 2017**<sup>viii</sup>



**121,300** – number of refugees hosted in the UK (just 0.18% of the UK population of 65.7 million).<sup>ix</sup>

**39,000** – UK asylum applications in 2016 (compared to Germany – 692,000, Italy – 117,000 and France – 83,000).<sup>x</sup>

**34%** – the proportion of successful asylum applicants allowed to stay in the UK in 2016.<sup>xi</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> UNHCR Figures at a glance – <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> UNHCR Mid Year Report 2017 – <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/5aaa4fd27/mid-year-trends-june-2017.html>

<sup>iv</sup> UNHCR Figures at a glance – <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html>

<sup>v</sup> UNHCR Mid Year Report 2017 – <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/5aaa4fd27/mid-year-trends-june-2017.html>

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid.

<sup>vii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid.

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/asylum>

<sup>xi</sup> Ibid.