

# Diocese of Rockford Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services



# Matthew 25:35-40

**For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,**

**naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'**

**Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?**

**When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?**

**When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'**

**And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'**



# Mission

Immigration and Refugee Services carries out the commitment of the Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve and advocate for refugees, asylees, and other forced migrants, immigrants and other peoples on the move. Special concern is given to the most vulnerable among these populations, such as, but not limited to, minors unaccompanied by parents or adult guardians and the victims of human trafficking.

# Welcoming the Displaced

Immigration and Refugee Services works with the U.S. Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, and Health and Human Services along with other organizations to help people transition from a life often filled with fear, violence, and terror, to a new beginning filled with hope in a safe and welcoming environment. It remains the largest refugee resettlement agency in the country.

# How do we serve our clients

- Reuniting Families
- Finding and furnishing initial housing
- Orienting refugees to their new communities
- Providing English language training
- Assisting in finding initial employment
- Referring other social, medical, and employment services

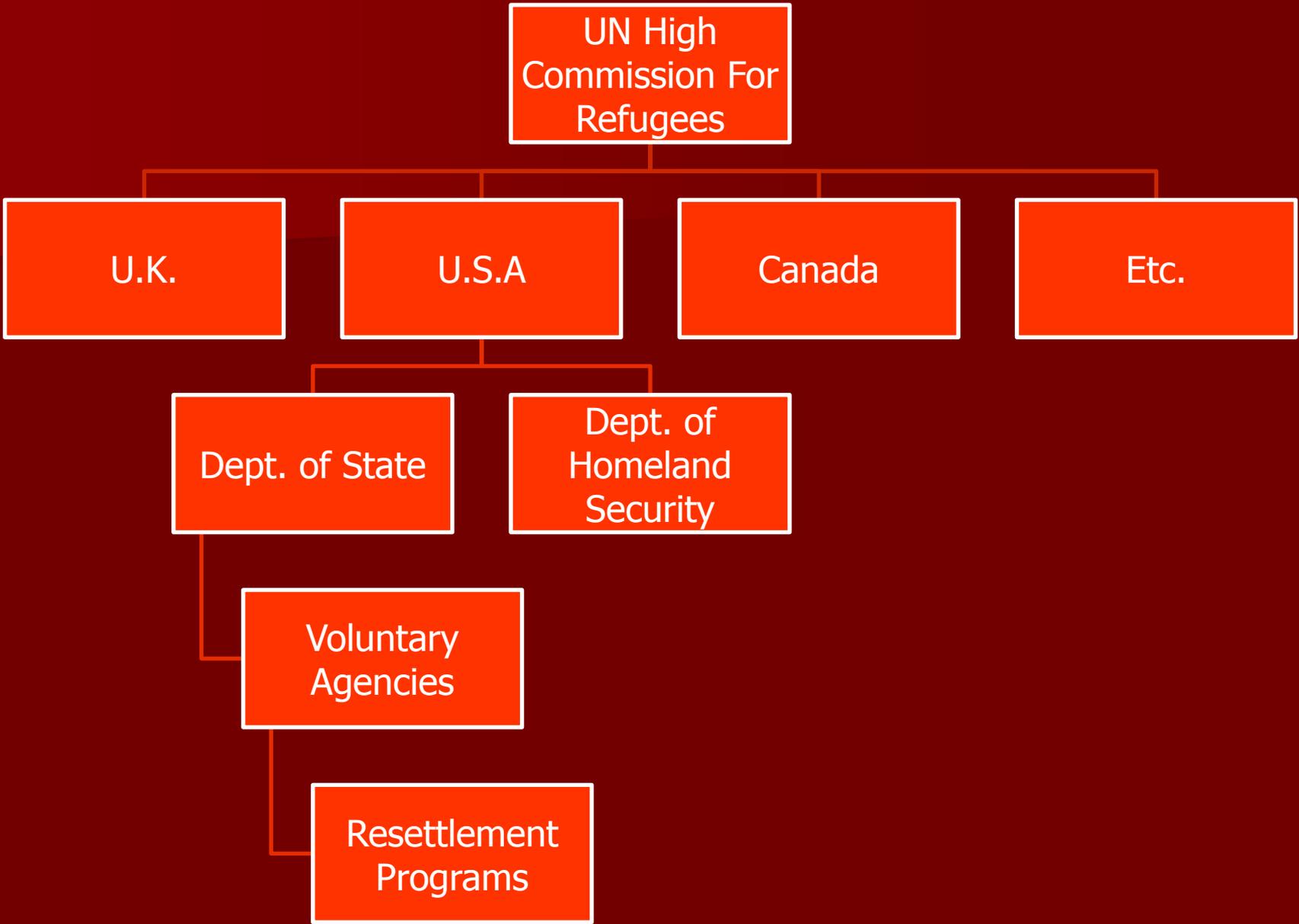
# Who is a refugee?

- A refugee is a person who has fled his or her country of origin because of a well founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.
- This definition of a “refugee” excludes people who have left their homes only to seek a more prosperous life. Such people are commonly called “economic migrants.”

# Process



- Each year, the President of the United States determines to admit a limited number of refugees. This year U.S. will admit approximately 80,000 refugees from around the world.



# Volags

- Church World Services
- Ethiopian Community Development
- Episcopal Migration Ministries
- Hebrew Immigration Aide Society
- International Rescue Committee
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops
- World Relief Corporation
- State of Iowa

# FAQs



# Where do they come from?



# Tout le Monde

- Poland
- Ukraine
- Former Yugoslavia
- Albania
- Sierra Leone
- Cote D'Ivoire
- Angola
- Burundi
- Congo
- Iraq
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Nepal
- Russia
- Myanmar
- Laos
- Vietnam
- Uzbekistan

# Are refugees legal immigrants?

- Yes. Under U.S. law if an individual is granted refugee status they receive a Social Security card and an Employment Authorization Card issued by the Department of Homeland Security. After a year refugees may apply for permanent residency and a green card.

# Why bring them here now?

- For many refugees later is not an option.
- Many face active persecution with the imminent threat of physical harm or death.
- Often women and children face the brunt of persecution because they are the least able to defend themselves.

# Needs

- Winter Coats
- Shoes and boots (all sizes)
- Bedding (comforters, sheets, quilts, etc.)
- Furnishings (chairs, beds, tables, etc.)
- Household goods (cooking pans, towels, cleaning supplies, dishes, flatware, etc.)
- Detergent
- Language Tutors
- Employment opportunities

# Who is a refugee

















