

# Refugee situation in Australia and the world



**Uniya**

JESUIT SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

Handout

## TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ Quiz sheet

- 
1. Refugees are migrants seeking a backdoor entry into Australia. True / False

---

  2. Since refugees have no right to come to Australia, they must rely on our generosity. True / False

---

  3. Refugees arriving in Australia are arbitrarily detained in overseas or private desert camps. True / False

---

  4. Refugees arriving in Australia without a visa are always given proper legal advice. True / False

---

  5. Recognised refugees arriving in Australia without a visa are not given permanent protection and are denied certain basic rights. True / False

---

  6. Since 1989 over 100,000 boat people have landed on Australian shores. True / False

---

  7. Poor countries are the main source of refugees but it is developed countries like Australia that are their destination. True / False

---

  8. War is a major reason refugees flee their homes. True / False

---

  9. Of the world's 50 million refugees and internally displaced people, around 25 million are children. True / False

---

  10. Catholic Social Teaching recognises the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. True / False
-

## Refugee situation in Australia and the world

### TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

#### Answers sheet

#### Statement 1

**False.** Migrants come to Australia by *choice*, and they can return home if they choose to do so. In contrast, refugees are forced to flee their country and they cannot or are not willing to return home because of a well-founded fear of torture or human rights abuses if they return.

**Source:** Mary Crock and Ben Saul (2002) *Future Seekers: Refugees and the Law in Australia*, Sydney: Federation Press

#### Statement 2

**False.** “Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries freedom from persecution” (Article 14 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*). A person exercising this right to enter another country and seek protection is known as an “asylum seeker”. Asylum seekers could be migrants or they could be refugees. Australia has an international obligation to determine asylum seekers’ claims and if they are found to be refugees, afford them protection.

#### Statement 3

**True.** By law people arriving in Australia without a valid visa are liable to be detained. Although not many would question the need for detention for identity, security and health checks, the policy actually goes further to penalise refugees arriving without a visa. Most refugees are held longer than is required for processing in inaccessible foreign-owned private desert detention centres or on islands in poor and desperate countries like Nauru. Such contractual arrangements remove the harsh detention environment from Australian judicial, parliamentary and public scrutiny.

**Source:** Uniya (2002) “Problems with Australia’s Mandatory Detention Policy,” <http://www.uniya.org/policies/problems.html>

#### Statement 4

**False.** People arriving in Australia without a visa are interviewed without proper independent legal advice. Immigration officials are not required to tell people that they have a right to claim refugee status. These people are not told anything about the purpose of the interview or the determination process and may not appreciate the significance of what they say in their interview.

**Source:** Uniya (2003) “Refugee Determination Procedures for Onshore Applicants: Facts and Implications,” [http://www.uniya.org/policies/ref\\_determine.html](http://www.uniya.org/policies/ref_determine.html)

#### Statement 5

**True.** From 1999 Australia enacted a temporary protection visa (or TPV) regime that discriminates against genuine refugees arriving without a visa. It is a policy with the stated aim of deterring would-be refugees arriving by boat. Refugees holding TPVs are denied certain rights and benefits required for settlement and security, such as family reunions,

English language training, settlement and accommodation support services, and in some instances, health benefits, and for at least the first 3 years their protection is temporary and uncertain.

**Source:** Uniya (2002) "The Costs of the TPV Policy," [http://www.uniya.org/policies/tpv\\_policy.html](http://www.uniya.org/policies/tpv_policy.html)

### **Statement 6**

**False.** From 1989 the total boat people arriving on our shores is 13,671 (including Australian birth). At the peak of boat arrivals in 1999-2000, 4175 people arrived without a visa.

**Source:** Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, *Fact Sheets* ([www.immi.gov.au/facts/](http://www.immi.gov.au/facts/))

### **Statement 7**

**False.** Developing countries are both a major source and destination of refugees. During 1992-2001, poor countries provided protection (asylum) to 72% of the global refugee population.

**Source:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Statistical Year Book 2001*, <http://www.unhcr.ch>

### **Statement 8**

**True.** Most refugees flee their homes because of war. In recent decades the proportion of war victims who are civilians rather than soldiers has leaped from 5% to more than 90%. The impact on children is devastating. It is estimated that more than 2 million children were killed in conflict in the last decade. Another 6 million are believed to have been wounded and one million orphaned.

**Source:** UNHCR, *Refugee Children*, <http://www.unhcr.ch/children/index.html>

### **Statement 9**

**True.** There are approximately 50 million uprooted people around the world – refugees who have sought safety in another country, and people displaced within their own country. Around half of this displaced population are children. To put into perspective, for every child in Australia, there are 5 children displaced in the world.

**Source:** UNHCR, *Refugee Children*, <http://www.unhcr.ch/children/index.html>  
UNICEF (2002) "Statistical Data: Australia" [http://www.unicef.org/statis/Country\\_1Page9.html](http://www.unicef.org/statis/Country_1Page9.html), February

### **Statement 10**

**True.** "It is not irrelevant to draw the attention of the world to the fact that these refugees are persons and all their rights as persons must be recognised. Refugees cannot lose these rights simply because they are deprived of citizenship of their own states."

Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, 1963 #105

"The tragedy of groups and even of entire peoples forced to go into exiles is felt today as a constant attack on essential human rights. The condition of refugees that reaches to the very limits of human suffering becomes a pressing appeal to the conscience of all."

Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" *Refugees: a Challenge to Solidarity*, 1992 #35

**Source:** The Vatican website, <http://www.vatican.va>