

October 2015

## **Who is a Refugee?**

A Refugee is a person forced to flee his or her country and unable to return due to persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

- Most refugees are women and children.

## **The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) determines who is a refugee.**

- There are more than 20,000,000 refugees in the world.

## **Durable solutions**

1. Voluntary repatriation: refugees can return to their home country because situation has improved (this never happens quickly)
2. Local integration: refugees resettle in a nearby host country with an ability to work legally (this almost never happens)
3. Resettlement in a third country: refugees resettle in a third country (this only benefits about 120,000 people a year, or less than 0.5% of refugees)

## **70,000 refugees were resettled in the United States in 2015**

- The U.S. Dept. of State chooses which 70,000 refugees will enter the United States
- After being selected refugees are vetted for security purposes and receive a health screening

## **Approximately 1,100 refugees are resettled in Utah each year**

### **Resettlement Agencies in Utah**

- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
  - <http://www.rescue.org/us-program/us-salt-lake-city-ut>
- Catholic Community Services (CCS)
  - <https://www.ccsutah.org/programs/refugee-resettlement>

**Refugees are authorized to work immediately and can apply for citizenship 5 years from date of arrival.**

**In Utah, refugees receive:**

- Reception and placement upon arrival:
  - Airport pickup
  - Housing
  - Food
  - One time \$1,100 resettlement funds
  - Orientation
  - Health screening
  - School enrollment
  - Utah Department of Workforce Services assistance
  
- After the initial 3 months, refugees receive:
  - Case Management
  - Job Placement
  - English classes

**Utah's refugees speak more than 20 different languages.**

**We encourage integration!**

"Integration" is different than "assimilation" or "acculturation" because it emphasizes respect for — and incorporation of — differences, the need for mutual adaptation, and an appreciation of diversity.

Integration involves incorporating resettled refugees as equals into a welcoming community. Both the refugees and the welcoming community need to learn to adapt and work together.

"Integration means to me to feel in a new country like at home."  
—Resettled Refugee

"The best thing you can do to help a refugee is to befriend a refugee."  
—Gerald Brown, Director, Refugee Services Office

**Volunteer Resources:**

- Utah Refugee Services Office  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/refugee/volunteer/index.html>

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