

Reading Ex. > Refugees

A. Read an article about a social issue that afflicts our societies.



A refugee, defined by the United Nations, is a person who is unable or unwilling to return to their country be-

cause of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or because they belong to a particular social group.

Most refugees flee their country to escape armed conflict. They often leave with their families and apply for asylum in another country. Many of them do not want to leave their own country but have no choice. The journeys they undertake to reach a safe place may be almost as risky as staying in their own country. They would do anything to escape their suffering: crossing deserts, mountains, seas, and rivers, sometimes using dangerous means of transport. They also hide in parts of ships that are too cramped, too hot, and too smelly for anyone to check. Many never arrive alive to their destination.



On the 20th of June each year people celebrate World Refugee Day. An important part of this celebration is the award given to a person or group who excels in helping refugee causes. Although there is an estimate of 14 million refugees and asylum seekers in the world, some countries in the world, especially the rich, are adamant against allowing too many refugees coming into their country. One concern is that there may be too many of them seeking asylum therefore causing a great problem for these developed countries. Their next worry is resources. These refugees may fill their hospitals, their schools, take over their jobs as well as abusing their social welfare system. At the end of the day, some fear there could be no more resources left for the people of these developed nations.

Another worry is the thought that the refugees might not be genuine. Also, the fact that the country they flee to is culturally different from their own makes the citizens of these developed nations feel that their culture is being stolen from them. Criminal activity seems to be a growing concern. People worry that asylum seekers who arrive penniless and without any documents might be criminals or involved in acts of terrorism. In many countries, new anti-terrorism laws have made migration legislation much stricter. Increasingly, governments are locking asylum seekers in detention centers regardless of their status. Unfortunately, this causes further criminalization as genuine asylum seekers resist what they see as injustice. However, protests and riots lead to criminal charges and prison sentences.

These negative assumptions are not true. First, numbers indicate that Asia and Africa have the world's highest influx of refugees. Secondly, most rich or developed countries' economies rely on these refugees as they are the ones who are often more than willing to do the kind of work that no one else would even think of. Furthermore, the migrants tend to be very hardworking and highly motivated at their jobs and are the backbone of agricultural labor. Thirdly, governments like to play with words such as 'crime' and 'immigration' to gain popularity with their citizens during elections. Moreover, after all the problems a refugee has faced fleeing his own country, the last thing he wants is to be mistrusted. Finally, it is absurd for the rich nations to claim that their culture is being swamped by refugees, considering that the refugees are in a minority there. Perhaps politicians should remind themselves of the fact that, whether they are dealing with genuine asylum seekers or economic migrants, they are dealing with human beings, not numbers, and the people should be treated humanely.

A. Based on the text, circle the answer that fits best.

1. A refugee can be described as someone who ____.

- a. is not willing to go back to their country because of social inconveniences
- b. holds the fear of returning to their homeland
- c. spreads the fear of persecution among their community



Text taken and adapted from https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/sites/podcasts/files/LearnEnglish_MagazineArticle_Refugees.pdf

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2. A great number of refugees have left their hometowns since _____.
 - a. there is no cessation of hostilities in their territories
 - b. their families find asylum in neighboring nations
 - c. the choice of living abroad would be much less risky
3. Which reason is suggested as one explanation for why people don't want to help refugees?
 - a. People suggest that refugees struggle to integrate into their host culture
 - b. Refugees take advantage of the system to get free benefits
 - c. People believe refugees will use up all the country's supplies
4. It has turned into a hectic task to seek asylum since _____.
 - a. new regulations to sanction terrorism were introduced
 - b. stricter controls were applied after acts of terrorism
 - c. more detention centers impede the entrance of illegal immigrants
5. Rich, developed countries benefit from asylum seekers because _____.
 - a. refugees could highly enrich the cultural diversity of their homely new countries
 - b. refugees might be enthusiastic to be employed doing anything
 - c. refugees bring high motivation, skills, and knowledge from their countries at work
6. Politicians in rich, developed countries _____.
 - a. encourage refugees to settle and vote for their projects
 - b. promote initiatives to stop the entrance of refugees to their territories
 - c. use people's fear of refugees to win political support

B. Based on the text, write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER in each blank.

- a. Those people who have devoted their efforts to the cause of assisting refugees are awarded on ⁽⁷⁾ _____.
- b. Even if escaping from their reality can be hard, it is more concerning that many refugees may end up ⁽⁸⁾ _____ before reaching their journey's end.
- c. Nearly ⁽⁹⁾ _____ people undergo difficult situations that force them to become refugees and asylum seekers.
- d. Refugees' lack of money and ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ has made locals think that these can be involved in criminal activities.
- e. It is thought that the great number of migrants constitute the ⁽¹¹⁾ _____ the agricultural sector.
- f. According to the author, any refugee would like to be considered as a(n) ⁽¹²⁾ _____.



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