



**DR ALEJANDRA
GONZALEZ CAMPANELLA**

Translator, Interpreter,
Academic, Humanitarian

Understanding forced displacement: Essential knowledge for language professionals

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Disclaimer

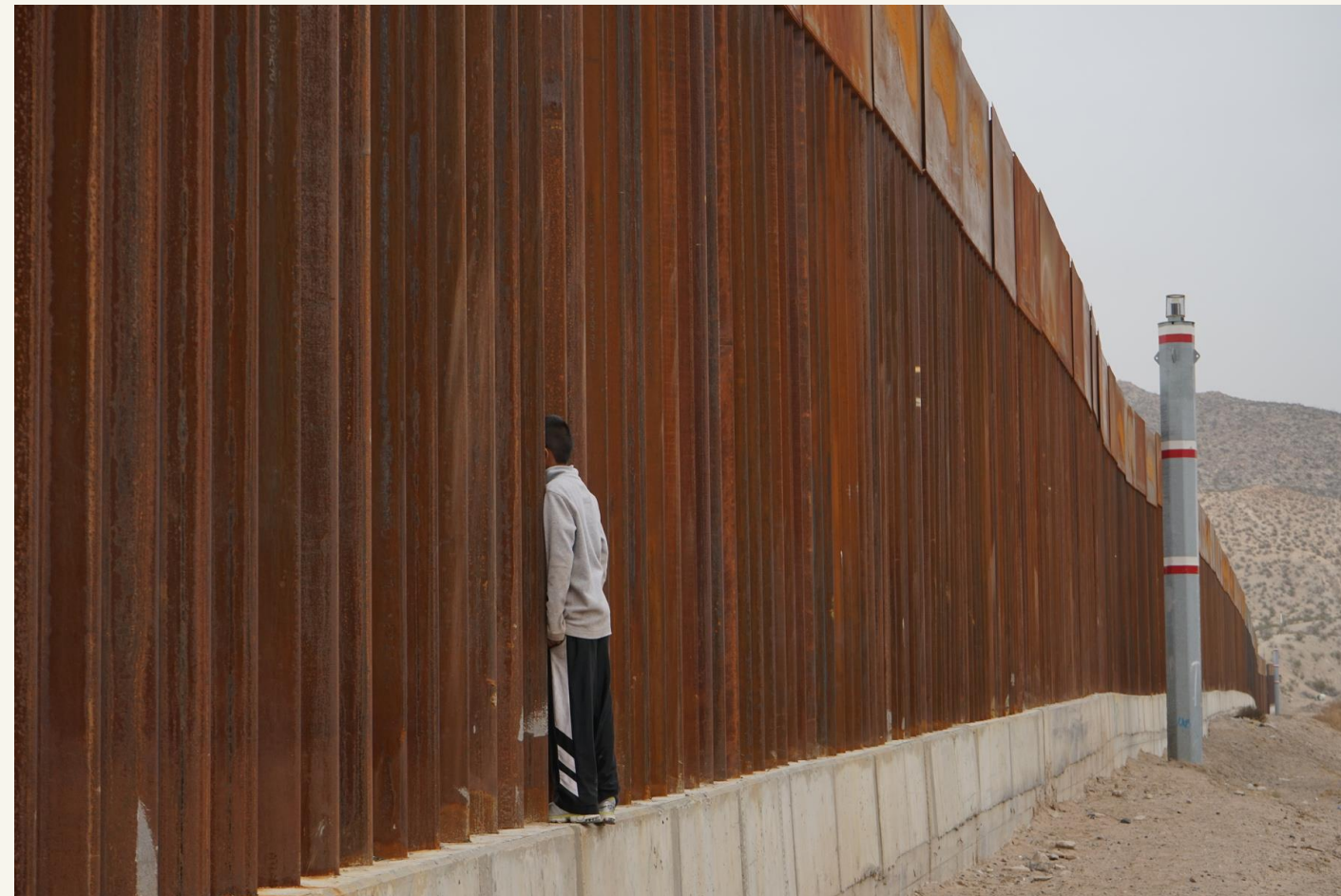
The information shared in this session is only meant to help language professionals provide a more nuanced service and be better humanitarians.

Nothing in the presentation should be considered or used to provide immigration advice to people seeking humanitarian protection.

Presentation Outline

- ✦ Who is considered forcibly displaced?
- ✦ Who decides refugee claims and how?
- ✦ What does it mean for Aotearoa New Zealand?
- ✦ Where do we fit in as language professionals?

Who is considered forcibly displaced?



✦ MIGRANT

✦ INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON

✦ REFUGEE

✦ ASYLUM SEEKER

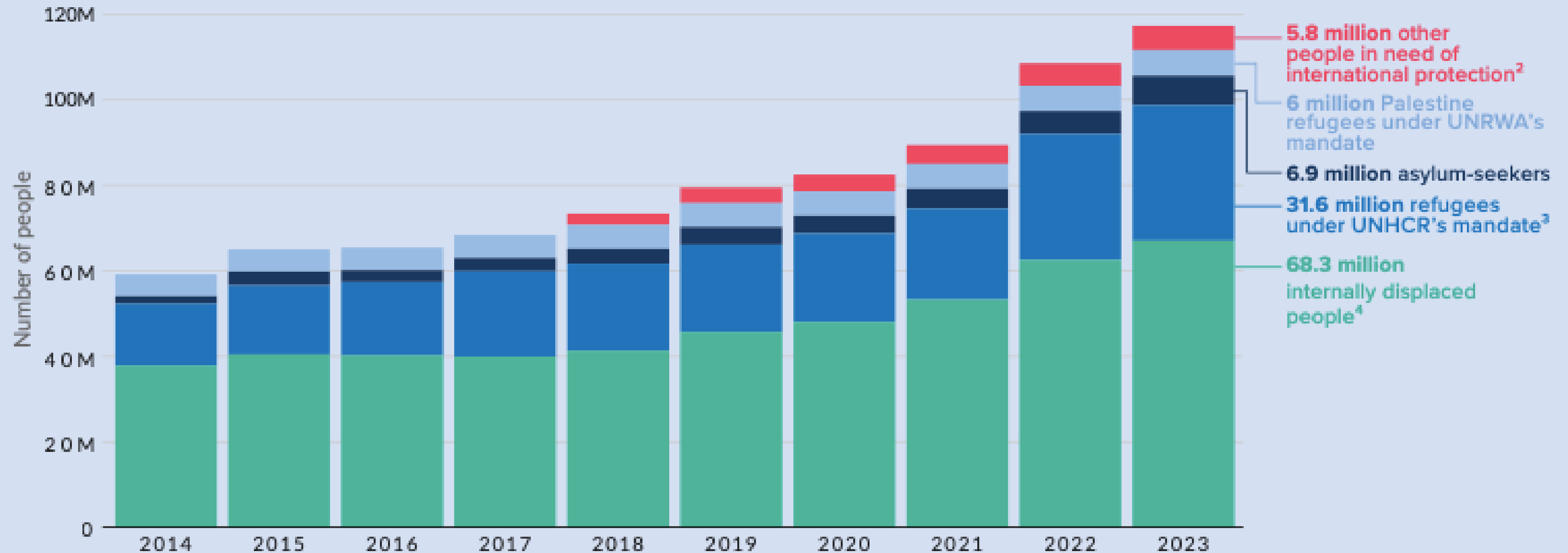
A **refugee** is

Someone who owing to **well-founded fear** of being **persecuted** for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion** is **outside the country of their nationality** and is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the **protection** of that country...

117.3 MILLION

FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE¹

at the end of 2023 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.



Refugees by country of origin:



Source: UNHCR

Who decides refugee claims and how?



✦ United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees
(UNHCR)

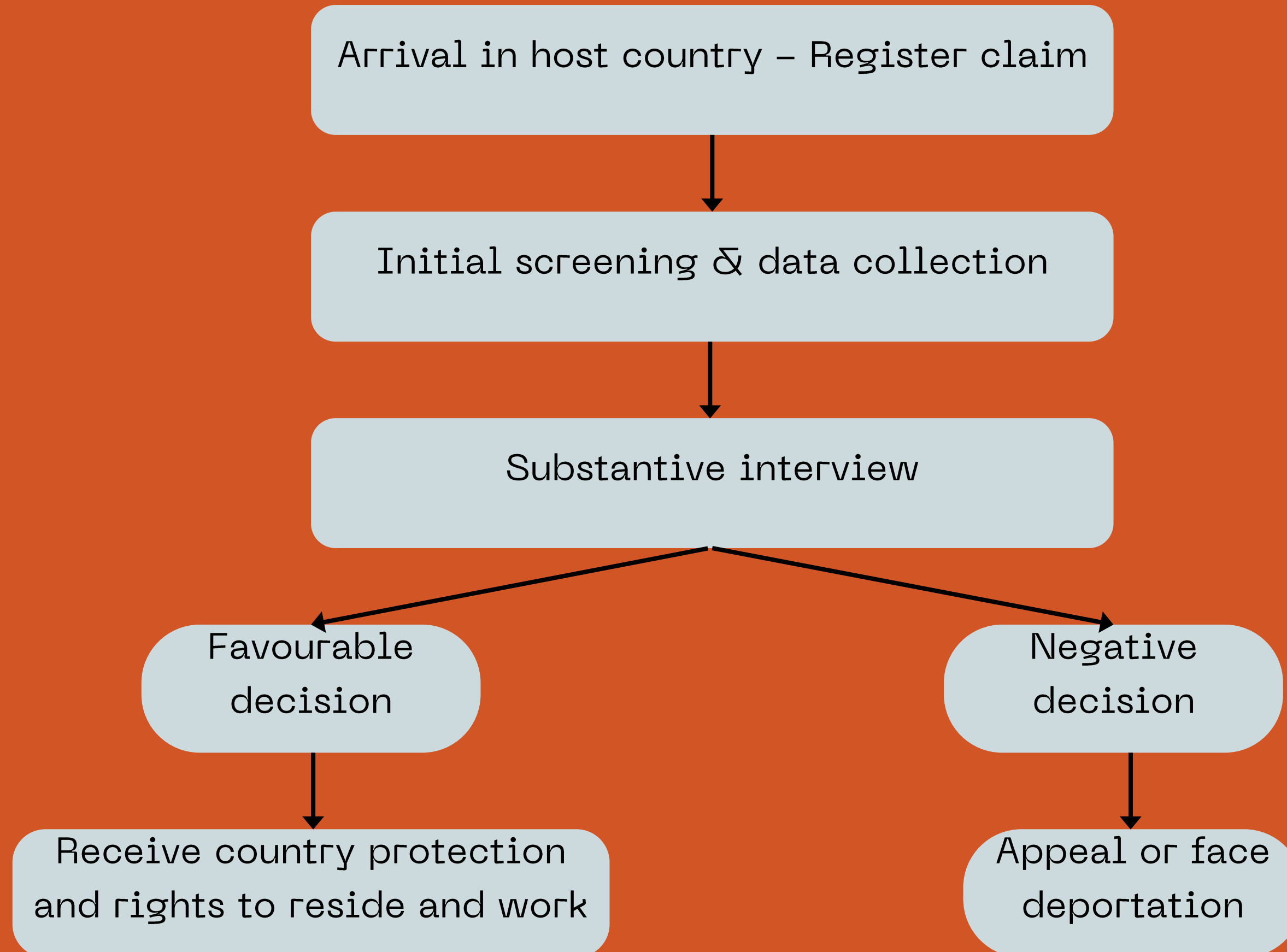
✦ Country authorities

✦ Regional agreements (e.g., EU)

Legal provisions

01. Universal Declaration of human rights (Art. 14) – 1949
02. Convention on the Status of Refugees – 1951
03. Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees – 1967
04. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – 1987
05. Dublin Regulation – 2013/ Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management – 2026 (EU only)

Refugee status claim process (simplified):



What does it mean for Aotearoa New Zealand ?



◆ REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
(QUOTA)

◆ ASYLUM SEEKERS / CONVENTION
REFUGEES

◆ REFUGEE FAMILY
SPONSORSHIP CATEGORY

◆ COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP
CATEGORY

◆ SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN VISAS
(E.G., AFGHANS, UKRANIANS)

QUOTA REFUGEES

*Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa – Māngere Refugee Resettlement
Centre*

New Zealand Red Cross, Kāhui Tū Kaha, Purapura Whetu, HMS Trust

- 1500 places per year.
- Community organisations contracted by government to provide settlement support to entire family for the first 12 months.
- Same entitlements and benefits as any New Zealander.
- Permanent residency issued on arrival.
- Bespoke orientation programme.

- No settlement support for families who reject resettlement offer, i.e., choosing to stay in Auckland/go to a different region.
- Support varies depending on the community organisation.

REFUGEE FAMILY SPONSORSHIP CATEGORY

- 600 places per year in two tiers.
- Costs of medical examinations and flights covered by New Zealand government.
- Permanent residents on arrival.
- Same rights and entitlements as any New Zealander.
- Eligible for essential settlement support from government-contracted settlement providers.

- Demand largely exceeds available visas – long waits.
- Tier system significantly limits eligibility (sponsors can only bring one direct relative, e.g., parent, sibling, adult children and their immediate family.
- Sponsor bears most of the pressure (need to find suitable accommodation, justify financial means, etc.)

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP (CORS)

HOST International

- 50 places for recognised refugees sponsored by communities and individuals.
 - Support for sponsors and former refugees from an umbrella organisation, contracted by the New Zealand government.
 - Two years of settlement support and follow-up.
 - Eligible for permanent residency and same entitlements as any New Zeal
-
- Sponsors carry significant weight in providing settlement support, finding house, etc.
 - Sponsored refugees must meet English language, age, and work experience requirements.

ASYLUM SEEKERS (REFUGEE STATUS CLAIMANTS)

*Refugee Status Unit (RSU) – Refugee & Protection Officers (RPOs)
Immigration & Protection Tribunal (IPT)
Asylum Seekers Support Trust (ASST)*

- Eligible for temporary visa
 - Eligible for basic welfare support from Work and Income.
 - Children considered domestic students.
 - Eligible for public healthcare (from limited list of providers).
 - Considered domestic for tertiary study.
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- Visa refusals result in no entitlements.
 - Limited welfare options.
 - No government-contracted settlement support.
 - Difficulty accessing entitlements due to lack of awareness among frontline staff.
 - Need to apply for permanent residency after claim.

Where do we fit in as language professionals?

- ✦ Translating asylum claims (NZ and overseas).
- ✦ Translating supporting documents (police, birth, marriage certificates, transcripts, etc.)
- ✦ Interpreting at RSU or with lawyers and claimants.
- ✦ Interpreting at the resettlement centre or any government agency.
- ✦ Offering pro bono or volunteer work with NGOs such as ASST and Rainbow Path.



Thank you!



agonzalez.trad@gmail.com



/alejandragonzalezcampanella



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