

## CRS Faculty Learning Commons - Migration

### Term Sheet

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**Asylum Seeker (also Sanctuary Seeker):** A person who has left his or her country of origin, in accordance with the definition of “refugee” and formally presented himself or herself at or within the border of another country for asylum.

**Economic Migrant:** An economic migrant is someone moving for financial reasons – to find employment in the absence of opportunities in his or her homeland.

**Forced Migration:** ‘Forced migration’ refers to the movements of people due to natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, political violence or instability.

**Genocide:** A violent process that aims at the liquidation of groups of people for racial, ethnic, religious or other reasons.

**Globalization:** The process whereby the world's goods, communications, services, technologies and peoples are more fully integrated, accessible, and interdependent.

**Human Rights:** Human rights are basic rights and freedoms to which all people are entitled. These are set down in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: ‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.’<sup>1</sup>

The understanding of human rights in the context of Catholic Social Teaching is based on the dignity of the human being – that each one is loved and created by God and as such is of great value and worthy of respect and protection. Thus, each person is entitled to their rights in justice, rather than merely in charity. Human rights are inalienable, i.e. they are ours from birth, and cannot be conferred and removed at the whim of any ruler or another powerful individual. There is also a link with the CST notion of true, or integral, human development: persons have a right not only to the basic needs of life – such as food and shelter – but also have the rights necessary to ensure that authentic development is possible.

**Integral Human Development:** A concept originating from Catholic social teaching, IHD promotes the good of every person and the whole person; it is cultural, economic, political, social and spiritual. IHD is also a process that enables individuals and communities to protect and expand the choices they have to improve their lives, meet their basic human needs, free themselves from oppression and realize their full human potential. The CRS vision for IHD is that the people we serve increasingly realize their full human potential in solidarity with others and in the context of a just and peaceful society that respects the dignity of every person and the integrity of creation.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” 1948, [www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/](http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/).

**Immigrant:** A person who moves to a country other than the one of their birth with the intent of remaining permanently in that new location.

**Internally Displaced-Person (IDP):** A person who is forced to leave their home, but remains within the borders of their homeland, because of war, persecution, or natural disaster, a phenomenon known as forced migration.

**Legal Immigrant:** A person who has been officially admitted to reside on a permanent basis in another country.

**Migrant:** A person who moves from the place of his/her place of birth, particularly to another country, voluntarily or involuntarily.

**Migration:** Migration is the movement of people. This movement of people encompasses any kind of movement, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people, and economic migrants.

**NGOs:** A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a non-profit group which is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for-profit business. Usually set up by ordinary citizens or faith-based institutions, NGOs may be funded by a combination of governments, foundations, businesses, or private persons and are organized on a local, national or international level.

**Non-Immigrant Visa:** A visa allowing entry to a country for a temporary purpose, such as tourism, university study, and other temporary reasons.

**Non-Refoulement:** The legal principle of international law known as non-refoulement provides that "No Contracting State shall expel or return (*refoulé*) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."<sup>2</sup> The principle of non-refoulement forbids the expulsion of refugees not only to their country of origin but to any country in which they might be subject to persecution. The only possible exception provided for by the UN Convention is the case that the person to be expelled constitutes a danger to national security.<sup>3</sup>

**Refoulement:** Refoulement is the legal term that means the expulsion of persons who have the right to be recognized as refugees.

**Refugee:** Any person, who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, owing to a such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country;"<sup>4</sup> or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his or her habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

**Refugee Resettlement:** Refugee resettlement under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) involves the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State that has agreed to admit them - as refugees – with permanent residence status. The status provided by the resettlement State ensures protection against *refoulement* and provides a resettled

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations High Commission for Refugees, "Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees," 1951, [www.unhcr.org/en-us/3b66c2aa10](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/3b66c2aa10).

<sup>3</sup> Idem.

<sup>4</sup> Idem.

refugee and his/her family or dependents with access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, similar to those enjoyed by nationals. Resettlement also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country.

According to the UNHCR, resettlement is not a right, and there is no obligation on States to accept refugees for resettlement. Resettlement under UNHCR's auspices can only be achieved through collaboration with various partners, in particular resettlement States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Whether a refugee may be resettled depends on the admission criteria of the third State as well as the cooperation of the State where they have sought refuge.

**Repatriate:** A person who has returned (either voluntarily or forcibly) to his/her place of origin or citizenship.

**Sanctuary:** A sanctuary is a place of refuge or safety where the process of law, such as arrest, usually is not executed.

**Trafficked Person:** A person who is illegally recruited, coerced and/or forcibly moved within or across national borders, usually for the purposes of some sort of enslavement, by an entity making money off of this process. Individuals who are forced into inhuman, slave-like conditions as workers in the sex trade, sweatshops, and domestic labor industries are victims of human trafficking.

**Unaccompanied Children:** These are minor children, below the age of 18, who "have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult, who by law or custom, is responsible for doing so."<sup>5</sup> Further, they (1) have been forced to flee their homes and are caught up in a migration phenomenon; (2) have lost their families through war, violence, or other causes, or are often forgotten when they arrive in refugee camps, alone, scared and, at times, abused and exploited; or (3) those traveling alone to another State without legal status. (per another USCCB document)

**Undocumented Migrant (also unauthorized migrant):** A person who is in a country without the permission of that country's government. Such persons are called "undocumented" because they lack required paperwork. People enter other countries without permission for reasons such as (1) there are no legal ways to emigrate; (2) they are fleeing persecution and cannot arrange proper documents or are in dire circumstances; or (3) a proper visa may take decades to be processed and they are separated from family

**UNHRC:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (also known as the UN Refugee Agency) is a United Nations agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the United Nations itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

**Victims of Human Trafficking:** See Trafficked Person.

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<sup>5</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, "General Comment No. 6: Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside of their Country of Origin," September 1, 2005, par 7.