



World Refugee Day 2025 - UN Chief's Message

"Today, we recognize the millions of refugees forced to flee war, persecution, and disaster. Every individual carries a story of profound loss – of a family uprooted and a future upended. Many face closed doors and a rising tide of xenophobia. From Sudan to Ukraine, from Haiti to Myanmar, a record number of people are on the run for their lives – while support is dwindling.

And host communities, often in developing countries, are shouldering the greatest burden. This is unfair and unsustainable.

But even as the world falls short, refugees continue to show extraordinary courage, resilience and determination. And when given the chance, they contribute meaningfully – strengthening economies, enriching cultures, and deepening social bonds.

On this World Refugee Day, solidarity must go beyond words. Solidarity must mean boosting humanitarian and development support, expanding protection and durable solutions such as resettlement, and upholding the right to seek asylum – a pillar of international law.

It must also mean listening to refugees and ensuring they have a voice in shaping their futures. And it must mean investing in long-term integration through education, decent work, and equal rights.

Becoming a refugee is never a choice. But how we respond is. So let us choose solidarity. Let us choose courage. Let us choose humanity."

- - António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
on the World Refugee Day to be observed on 20 June 2025.