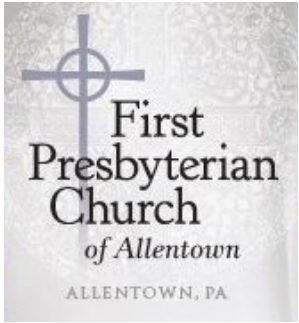


Refugee Resettlement Program

FPC Adult Education Seminar

January 16, 23, & 30th 2011

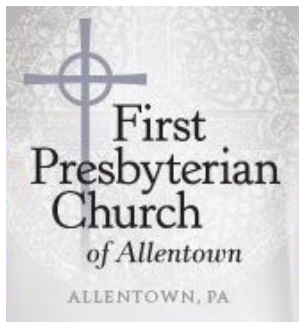




Seminar Overview

- Week 1
 - The global refugee situation
 - U.S. Resettlement
 - Guilaine's Story
- Week 2
 - More Personal Stories
- Week 3
 - FPC's Refugee support programs



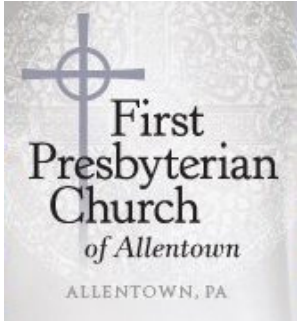


Who is a Refugee?*

A refugee is someone who “owing to a 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 his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country ...”

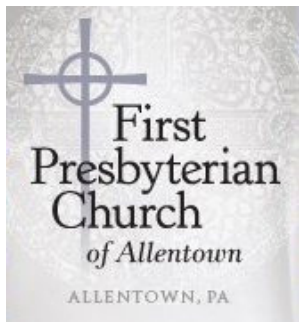


* 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees



Other Categories of Concern

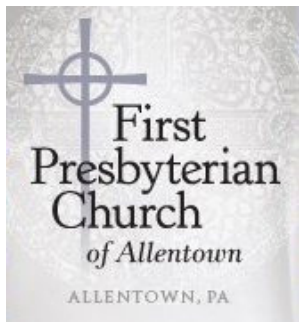
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)
 - Displaced from their homes, but still residing in their home country
 - Reasons may be similar to those with refugee status
 - Fleeing armed conflict, violence, human rights violations
 - May also be dislocated by natural disasters
 - Volcano, Tsunami, etc.
- Asylum Seekers
 - Someone who has requested refugee status but whose claim has not been definitively evaluated
 - May be sent back to their home country if determined not to meet refugee criteria



Refugee Populations*

	Refugees	Asylum Seekers	IDPs
Africa	2,498,300	272,300	5,888,800
Asia	6,300,800	69,300	4,285,800
Europe	1,569,200	234,200	565,600
Latin America	530,600	41,200	3,000,000
North America	457,000	121,400	
Oceania	34,900	1,700	
Total	11,390,700	740,100	13,740,200

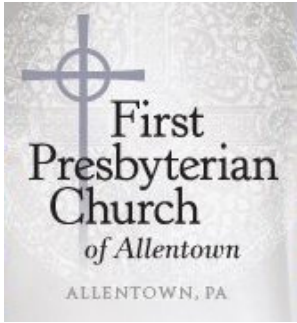
*Source: UNHCR "Protecting Refugees 2008-09"



Top 10 Countries of Origin and Asylum (1/1/08)

Top 10 Countries of Origin	
Country	Refugees
Afghanistan	3,058,000
Iraq	2,310,000
Columbia	552,000
Sudan	523,000
Somalia	457,000
Burundi	376,000
DR Congo	370,000
Viet Nam	328,000
Turkey	222,000
Eritrea	209,000

Top 10 Countries of Asylum	
Country	Refugees
Pakistan	2,035,000
Syria	1,504,000
Iran	964,000
Germany	579,000
Jordan	500,000
Tanzania	436,000
China	301,000
United Kingdom	300,000
Chad	294,000
United States	281,000

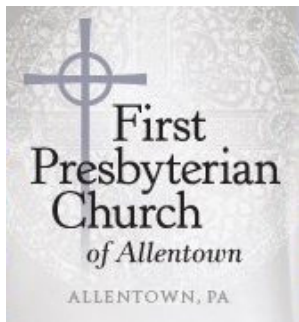


Repatriation and Resettlement

- Long term Options:
 - Voluntary repatriation
 - Typically the preferred option if conditions permit
 - Resettlement in country of Asylum
 - Few countries willing to offer this option
 - Resettlement in a third Country
 - Relatively small number of participating countries
 - 49,868 people resettled to 25 countries in 2007

Top 5 Repatriations in 2007	
Afghanistan	374,000
Sudan	131,100
DR Congo	60,000
Iraq	45,000
Liberia	44,000

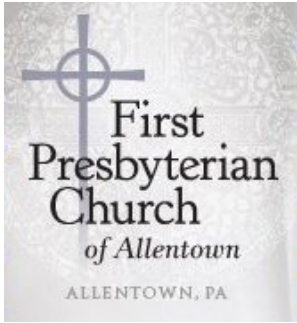
Top 5 Resettlements in 2007	
United States	32,007
Australia	6,056
Canada	5,998
Sweden	1,772
Norway	978



Resettlement in the U.S.

- Quotas for refugee resettlement in the U.S. are set annually by the President in consultation with Congress
- Since 1975 the U.S. has resettled over 3 million refugees
 - High: 207,000 in 1980
 - Low: 27,110 in 2002
- Admission of up to 80,000 refugees authorized for fiscal 2010
 - Africa: 15,500
 - East Asia: 17,000
 - Europe/Central Asia: 2,500
 - Latin America/Caribbean: 5,000
 - Near East/South Asia: 35,000
 - Unallocated Reserve: 5,000



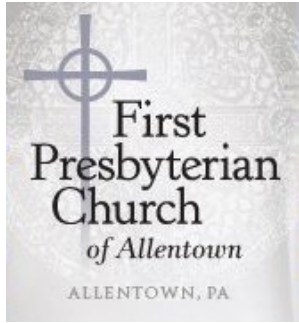


Eligibility for U.S. Resettlement

- To qualify for resettlement a refugee must normally:
 - Be of a designated nationality and fall within the priority categories for that nationality in that region
 - OR be referred by a U.S. Embassy, UNHCR, or NGO
 - Meet the legal definition of a refugee as determined by DHS*/USCIS**
 - Not be excludable under applicable immigration laws
- Examples of designated groups (not exhaustive)
 - Ethnic Minorities and others from Burma in camps in Thailand
 - Ethnic Minorities and others from Burma in Malaysia
 - Bhutanese in Nepal
 - Iranian Religious Minorities
 - Iraqis Associated with the U.S. Government
 - Eritreans in Shimeleba

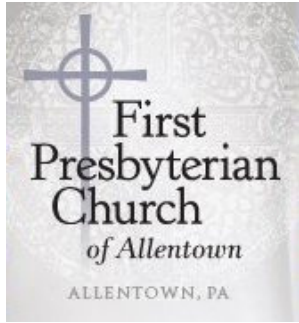
* DHS=Department of Homeland Security

** USCIS= U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



Resettlement Process

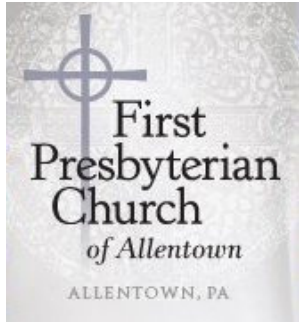
- For most refugees applying under a U.S. group designation, the process starts with contact with an Overseas Processing Entity (OPE)
- OPEs are NGOs that assist in pre-screening for eligibility and preparing an Application for Refugee Status
- If the application is accepted, the next steps are interviews with DHS/USCIS and medical exams.
 - No appeal process for a failed DHS/USCIS interview
 - Can request reconsideration based on new information
- If a refugee is approved for resettlement in the U.S., the OPEs help arrange transportation and coordinate with local resettlement agencies to arrange placement.
 - Refugees are entitled to interest free loans to pay for their transportation



Resettlement Agencies

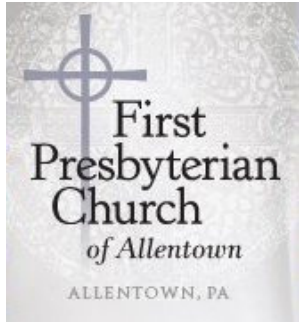
- Local resettlement in the U.S. is facilitated by 10 Refugee Resettlement agencies (also called Voluntary Agencies or volags)
 - Church World Service
 - Ethiopian Community Development Council
 - Episcopal Migration Ministries
 - Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
 - International Rescue Committee
 - Kurdish Human Rights Watch
 - Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
 - U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - World Relief
- The agency for our area is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (Catholic Charities)





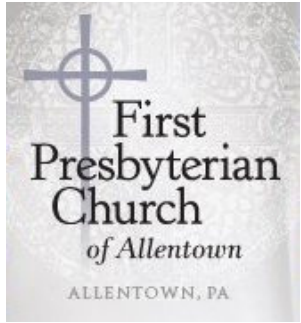
Post Arrival Assistance

- Arriving refugees are placed with one of the resettlement volunteer agencies
- These operate under contract with the State Department to provide basic resettlement services
 - Limited government funding is provided which is expected to be augmented with private resources
 - Arrange for food, housing, clothing, employment, and medical care
 - Most services are provided in the first 90 days, after which the refugee is expected to be largely self sufficient
- Refugees also have access to some forms of government assistance
 - Medicaid for 8 months following arrival
 - Food stamps based on income
- While the volunteer agencies will maintain contact after the initial 90 day period, most support beyond that point falls to other groups in the community



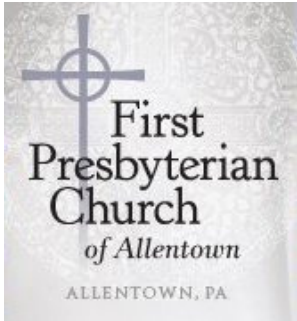
Resources

- There are many good resources on the internet if you want to learn more
- Some good places to start are:
 - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: www.unhcr.org
 - Refugee Council USA: www.rcusa.org



Guliane's Story





Guilaine comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The **Second Congo War**, also known as **Africa's World War** and the **Great War of Africa**, began in August 1998 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly called Zaire), and officially ended in July 2003 when the transitional government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo took power (though hostilities continue to this day).



The largest war in modern African history, it directly involved eight African nations, as well as about 25 armed groups. By 2008 the war and its aftermath had killed 5.4 million people, mostly from disease and starvation, making the Second Congo War the deadliest conflict worldwide since World War II. Millions more were displaced from their homes or sought asylum in neighboring countries.

Despite a formal end to the war in July 2003 and an agreement by the former belligerents to create a government of national unity, 1,000 people died daily in 2004 from easily preventable cases of malnutrition and disease. The war and the conflicts afterwards are, among other things, driven by the trade and mining of valuable minerals (gold and other minerals used in electronics manufacturing).





The victims in Democratic Republic of the Congo are the hundreds of thousands of civilians who have died, and the millions of civilians who have been displaced as a result of the conflict.





Displaced People carry their belongings on a road leading away from the north-east Congolese town of Goma



Kala refugee camp, Zambia