



# Refugees

Quick Facts from *Zealous Love: A Practical Guide to Social Justice*

## Overview

Imagine a war or famine broke out in your country and you were forced to flee your home with nothing but what you could carry on your back. Refugees are often poor and hungry, having been stripped of just about everything except what they can carry. They are driven from their former homes, often because of war, genocide, or some other horrid conflict in their country.

Perhaps a better question than “*What* do you think of when you hear the word refugee” is “*Who* do you think of when you hear the word refugee?” Do you know anyone who is or was a refugee? Many refugees from around the world are seeking asylum in other countries. By connecting with the *people* who are refugees, we extend hospitality and can perhaps help make a difficult situation a little easier.

## Quick Facts:

- Most organizations that work with refugees estimate that the total number (excluding those who have been resettled and granted official asylum or people displaced within their own countries) is approximately fifteen million.<sup>1</sup>
- The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) considers well over twenty million people to be “people of concern,” which includes refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, stateless people, and some of the world’s internally displaced persons (IDPs).<sup>2</sup>
- Countries with a per capita GDP<sup>3</sup> of less than \$2000 host roughly 65 percent of the world’s refugees, while those with per capita GDPs over \$10,000 host approximately 5 percent of the refugee population.<sup>4</sup>



For more information, or to join in the conversation, please visit:

**[www.ZealousLove.org](http://www.ZealousLove.org)**

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1 US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, World Refugee Survey 2007, “Key Statistics,” table 1, [http://www.refugees.org/uploadedFiles/Investigate/Publications\\_&\\_Archives/WRS\\_Archives/2007/Key%20Statistics.pdf](http://www.refugees.org/uploadedFiles/Investigate/Publications_&_Archives/WRS_Archives/2007/Key%20Statistics.pdf).

2UNHCR Publication, “Measuring Protection by Numbers,” November 2004, p. 4.

3Per capita GDP (gross domestic product) is a useful tool for comparing the economic output of different countries. It is the per-person average for goods and services produced by a nation during a given year.

4 US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, World Refugee Survey 2007, “Ratio of Refugees to Host Country Populations and Distribution by Host Income,” tables 12–13,

[http://www.refugees.org/uploadedFiles/Investigate/Publications\\_&\\_Archives/WRS\\_Archives/2007/table%20112-13.pdf](http://www.refugees.org/uploadedFiles/Investigate/Publications_&_Archives/WRS_Archives/2007/table%20112-13.pdf).