



LEGAL ASPECTS AND INTEGRATION POLICY



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Legal aspects and integration policy – introduction

Who is a refugee?

– international definition



According to the Geneva Convention (1951):

A refugee is a person who:

- is outside their country of origin
- fears persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political views or membership of a social group
- cannot or does not want to avail themselves of the protection of their country

Refugee ≠ economic migrant

International protection in the EU

Based on Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council:

- Refugee status – fulfilment of persecution criteria
- Subsidiary protection – real risk of serious harm

The system is based on common standards for qualification and scope of protection.



The scale of forced migration

According to UNHCR:

- In 2025, over 120 million people will be forcibly displaced.
- Over 40 million refugees.

Forced displacement is migration without choice – caused by war, persecution, violence or disasters.

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Sources of protection for refugees' rights

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International law:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights – right to asylum (Article 14)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Principle of non-refoulement – prohibition of return to a country of danger

EU law:

- Dublin III Regulation
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union





National law – the example of Poland

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1

**The Constitution
of the Republic of
Poland**

2

**Act on Granting
Protection to
Foreigners (2003)**

3

**Special Act on
Assistance to
Ukrainian Citizens
(2022)**

What rights do refugees have?

**protection against
forced return**

fair asylum procedure

**legal, medical and
social assistance**

**education and work
(under specific
conditions)**

**decent living
conditions**

The right to education – the foundation of integration

Education:

- enables rebuilding one's life
- supports social integration
- reduces the risk of exclusion
- helps overcome trauma

International guarantees:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 22, 28)
- Geneva Convention (Article 22)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26)



Barriers and good practices in refugee education

Barriers:

- lack of language skills
- trauma and stress
- lack of documents
- discrimination
- overburdened education systems

Good practices:

- language support
- teacher training
- intercultural integration
- recognition of foreign certificates
- cooperation with NGOs

Integration and psychosocial support – summary

Refugees need:

- legal and administrative assistance
- housing and financial support
- psychological care
- access to education and the labour market

Conclusion:

- Protecting the rights of refugees is a legal and moral obligation of states.
- Education and integration are an investment in social stability and the future of society as a whole.



**Thank you for
your attention**

