

The convention governing UNHCR's activities excludes, however, people guilty of crimes against peace, war crimes or crimes against humanity. Also excluded from any UNHCR assistance are people who have committed serious non-political crimes outside the country in which refuge is sought, as well as those who are guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the UN.

According to conservative estimates, there are currently over 15 million refugees within the meaning of the Convention on the Status of Refugees ("Convention refugees"). Canada is a prime destination for those seeking refuge and asylum. Since 1959, it is estimated that Canada has accepted slightly over 500 000 refugees from around the world. In recent years, however, Canada has tightened its admission criteria to allow only true Convention refugees.

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Established in 1980 by the General Assembly, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is mandated to carry out independent research on disarmament and other questions

dealing with international security. By means of this research, the Institute provides the international community with complete data on problems associated with international security, the arms race and disarmament, with a particular emphasis on nuclear weapons, so as to strengthen the movement toward enhanced security for all states. The Institute is also responsible for supporting the negotiations on disarmament by providing the participants with factual studies and objective analyses.



CIDA photo: Virginia Boyd