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## THE UNITED NATIONS' HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The 1951 United Nations' Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol provide for co-operation between individual states and the office of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR oversees the implementation of the various articles of the Convention and Protocol (which appear as Annexes II and III in the UNHCR Handbook) in signatory countries and seeks to persuade other countries to become signatories or otherwise provide sanctuary for refugees.

A list of states who are party to the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol is attached at [Annex A](#). This list may alter and it might be necessary to check the UNHCR website ([www.unhcr.ch](http://www.unhcr.ch)), or with the Country of Origin Information Service (COIS), to ensure that a country not listed at Annex A has still not signed up to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol. The fact that a state has signed these instruments does not prove that it abides by its obligations.

### 2. UNHCR HANDBOOK

All asylum applications lodged in the UK are determined in accordance with the Convention and Protocol. To assist refugee-determining organisations in their task the UNHCR has produced the "Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status" which is issued to asylum caseworkers. All those caseworkers should read the Handbook and may need to refer to it in dealing with specific cases. Note, however, that if there is a discrepancy between the Handbook and UK law or UK Border Agency policy, law and policy will take precedence.

### 3. CONTACT WITH UNHCR

UNHCR officials, or the Red Cross acting on behalf of the UNHCR, may submit applications for the resettlement of individuals who have been recognised as refugees under UNHCR's Mandate and who are unable to gain the protection of the countries where they currently are. See the API on *Mandate Refugees*. UNHCR may submit applications for the resettlement of individuals under the Gateway Protection Programme. See the API on *The Gateway Protection Programme*.

UNHCR officials may also submit applications for the resettlement of disabled refugees in need of medical attention under the "Ten or More Plan" (see the API on *The Ten or More Plan*), and may contact the UK Border Agency in support of individual applications for asylum or family reunion. UNHCR has the right to participate in appeal hearings that relate to asylum claims.

UNHCR is involved in the administration and monitoring of refugee camps throughout the world.

APU provides the main liaison function between the UK Border Agency and UNHCR/BRC in respect of domestic asylum policy issues. If you have any such issues that you would like raised with the UNHCR, you should put them in writing via a SCW to APU.

UNHCR is able to field enquiries relating to applicants in the UK who may hold Mandate Refugee status or who claim to have been registered in UNHCR camps. Such enquiries can be referred directly to UNHCR's Branch office in London (see address below) or through its staff currently based in Lunar House, Croydon as part of the ongoing Quality Initiative (QI) Project.

The QI Project is a joint UK Border Agency/UNHCR initiative which monitors the quality of asylum decisions at first instance. UNHCR staff members have been based in Lunar House since August 2004 and are involved in the assessment of asylum decisions and interviews.

#### 4. UNHCR DATABASE

The UNHCR database contains country information and is one of the sources used by COIS when compiling country briefs.

#### 5. UNHCR HEADQUARTERS

UNHCR Headquarters is in Geneva. The address of the UK representative is:

UNHCR  
Strand Bridge House  
138-142 Strand  
London  
WC2R 1HH  
Telephone: 020 7759 8090  
Fax: 020 7759 8119

**Enquiries:** Further enquiries should normally be made in writing via a Senior caseworker to APU.

Further advice: see also the UNHCR Handbook and the APIs on *Transfer of Refugee Status, Ten or More Plan, Mandate Refugees* and *The Gateway Protection Programme*.

**ANNEX A. LIST OF STATES PARTY TO THE  
1951 CONVENTION AND/OR 1967 PROTOCOL  
(as of 1 September 2005)**

**Number of States party to one or both instruments:**

1951 Convention 143

1967 Protocol 143

Both 140

One or both 146

**States party to the 1951 Convention only:**

*Madagascar*

*Monaco*

*St Kitts and Nevis*

**States party to the 1967 Protocol only:**

*Cape Verde*

*The United States of America*

*Venezuela*

**STATES PARTY TO ONE OR BOTH**

**AFRICA**

*Algeria*

*Angola*

*Benin*

*Botswana*

*Burkina Faso*

*Burundi*

*Cameroon*

*Cape Verde (P)*

*Central African Republic*

*Chad*

*Congo*

*Congo, Democratic Republic of*

*Cote d'Ivoire*

*Djibouti*

*Gabon*

*Gambia*

*Ghana*

*Guinea*

*Guinea-Bissau*

*Kenya*

*Lesoto*

*Liberia*

*Madagascar (C)*

*Malawi*

*Mali*

*Mauritania*

*Morocco*

*Mozambique*

*Nigeria*

*Rwanda*

*Sao Tome & Principe*

*Senegal*

*Seychelles*

*Sierra Leone*

*Somalia*

*South Africa*

*Sudan*

*Swaziland*

*Tanzania*

*Togo*

*Tunisia*

*Uganda*

<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Namibia</i>	<i>Zambia</i>
<i>Equatorial Guinea</i>	<i>Niger</i>	<i>Zimbabwe</i>
<i>Ethiopia</i>		

#### THE AMERICAS

<i>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</i>	<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>Nicaragua</i>
<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Dominica</i>	<i>Panama</i>
<i>Bahamas</i>	<i>Dominican Republic</i>	<i>Paraguay</i>
<i>Belize</i>	<i>Ecuador</i>	<i>Peru</i>
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>El Salvador</i>	<i>St Kitts &amp; Nevis (C)</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Guatemala</i>	<i>St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</i>
	<i>Haiti</i>	<i>Suriname</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>Honduras</i>	<i>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</i>
<i>Chile</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>United States of America (P)</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Uruguay</i>
		<i>Venezuela (P)</i>

#### ASIA

<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Philippines</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Tajikistan</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Korea</i>	<i>Timor-Leste</i>
<i>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</i>	<i>(Republic of)</i>	
		<i>Yemen</i>

#### EUROPE

<i>Albania</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Norway</i>
<i>Armenia</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Poland</i>
<i>Austria</i>	<i>Holy See</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Romania</i>
<i>Belarus</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Serbia &amp; Montenegro</i>
<i>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Kazakhstan</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>

	<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Liechtenstein</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>
<i>Denmark<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Macedonia,</i>	<i>Turkmenistan</i>
	<i>(Former Yugoslav Republic of)</i>	
<i>Finland</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>
<i>France<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Moldova</i>	<i>United Kingdom<sup>5</sup></i>
	<i>(Republic of)</i>	
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Monaco (C)</i>	
	<i>Netherlands<sup>4</sup></i>	
	<b>OCEANIA</b>	
<i>Australia<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	<i>Tuvalu</i>
<i>Fiji</i>	<i>Samoa</i>	
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Solomon Islands</i>	

Notes

(C) Denotes States parties to the 1951 Convention only.

(P) Denotes States parties to the 1967 Protocol only.

<sup>1</sup> Australia extended application of the Convention to Norfolk Island.

<sup>2</sup> Denmark declared that the convention was also applicable to Greenland.

<sup>3</sup> France declared that the Convention applied to all territories for the international relations of which France was responsible.

<sup>4</sup> The Netherlands extended application of the Protocol to Aruba.

<sup>5</sup> The United Kingdom extended application of the Convention to the following territories for the conduct of whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom is responsible:

*Channel Islands*

*Falkland Islands*

*Isle of Man*

*St. Helena*

This document was archived on 18 July 2018 as it is no longer in use.

*API January 2006 (re-branded Jan 2009)*

**THE UNITED NATIONS'  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES**

The United Kingdom declared that its accession to the *Protocol* did not apply to Jersey, but extended its application to Montserrat.

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