

REFUGEE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Who We Are?

Refugee Rights Association is a non-governmental organization established in 2009 to combat the lack of asylum rights and violations of asylum rights in the northern part of Cyprus. As the Refugee Rights Association, we support the legal and social needs of refugees living in the northern part of Cyprus and carry out advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the basis of refugee rights. In addition to this, the Association has expanded its field of work over the years to include the fight against human trafficking and racism/discrimination and carries out legal, social and societal activities.

What We Do?

- We carry out awareness and information activities on refugee rights and rights violations in the northern part of Cyprus.
- We manage the flow of solidarity towards the needs of refugees living in the northern part of Cyprus.
- We provide social and legal support to refugees, victims of human trafficking and racism/discrimination.
- We carry out advocacy work on refugee rights, human trafficking and combating racism.
- We collect and analyse data and prepare research reports on refugee rights, human trafficking and racism/discrimination (you can access our publications on our website).

What Can You Do?

- You can become an RRA Volunteer
www.mhdkibris.com



- You Can Donate to RRA
www.mhdkibris.com



+90 392 22 84 910

rracyprus@gmail.com
info@mhdkibris.com

[/rracyprus](https://www.instagram.com/rracyprus)

[/MulteciHaklariDerneği](https://www.facebook.com/MulteciHaklariDerneği)

[/mhdkibris](https://www.twitter.com/mhdkibris)

[/rracyprus](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rracyprus)



This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Refugee Rights Association and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



REFUGEE RIGHTS



Funded by
the European Union

What Is Asylum?

When a state offers protection within its territory to persons from another state who are fleeing persecution or serious danger. Asylum encompasses several elements, including non-refoulement, permission to remain within the country of asylum's territory, and standards of humanitarian treatment.

Who Is Asylum Seeker?

Refers to an individual seeking international protection.

It is a term applied to individuals whose application for international protection has not yet been completed or adjudicated or whose status has not yet been officially recognised. The term often refers to individuals awaiting a decision by the UNHCR on their application for refugee status.

What Is a Refugee? Who Is a Refugee?

An individual who is outside one's country of nationality and unable or unwilling to return to one's country of nationality because of a **"well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, ethnic origin, membership of a particular social group or political opinion"**.

(United Nations Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951) Refugee status is granted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or the relevant state, and brings with it a number of fundamental rights.

What Is the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)?

In 1950, the United Nations General Assembly authorised the UN to organise and lead international action to protect refugees worldwide and to resolve refugee problems.

The UNHCR was established on January 1st, 1951, by the United Nations General Assembly for a 5-year mandate and began its work by assisting more than one million European refugees after the Second World War. Its purpose is to oversee States' compliance with the 1951 Geneva Convention and provide international protection and durable solutions for refugees.

The Subject of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the northern part of Cyprus:

States are obliged to provide individuals with access to fundamental human rights. Human rights are defined as **"the right of all human beings, without distinction of any kind, to live in equality, freedom and dignity solely by virtue of their humanity"**. For this reason, human rights not only refer to the rights and freedoms recognised by a set of constitutions and laws for people living in a certain country at a certain time, but also to the rights and freedoms that should be recognised for all people.

Due to its geographical location, the island of Cyprus has been a secure bridge between Asia, Europe and the Middle East from past to present. For this reason, refugees and asylum seekers leaving areas of war, conflict and violence prefer coming to Cyprus to access safe areas. However, due to the legal mechanism's deficiencies in the northern part of Cyprus, systematic violations of rights are experienced.

In order to prevent these violations of rights, the Refugee Rights Association has been carrying out various activities since 2009 to protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the northern part of Cyprus, to prevent and improve the violations of rights.



However, it should not be forgotten that each individual should be considered as a value and treasure in his/her own right. Supporting refugees fleeing war, conflict and violence in their efforts to establish a new order, understanding them and integrating them into our society should be seen as a humanitarian value.

