

MEETING NEEDS & UPHOLDING RIGHTS



MERCY
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Seeking asylum is a legal right for all individuals. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

Refugee, migrant, asylum-seeker, undocumented, citizen, or stateless does not reflect a person's whole identity.

What Contributes to a Person's Legal Migration Status?

Many factors influence a person's decision to start a journey to build a life in a new country. Some factors encourage a person to leave a place of origin, and others that draw a person to a particular destination.

A person's migration status is complex. It can be determined by:

- Who they are, why they move, or how they migrate.
- A person's migration status is also not fixed – it can change over time

The Need for Regular Pathways and Paths to Permanency

Many migrants remain limited in their options to migrate safely, regularize their status, or in an irregular situation. Without safe and dignified regular pathways, migrants are often left with only precarious and irregular migration options. Others may be granted a temporary stay in a country and then be left unable to adjust to permanent status, leaving them in limbo and unable to access education and employment opportunities.

The Importance of Documentation in Accessing Rights

Although the question of identification and documentation is conceptually distinct from legal status in a country, it is increasingly inseparable in practice. At the most basic level, a person lacking identity documents cannot travel through legal channels, which increases a person's vulnerability.

If registration and identification procedures are not implemented with rigor and integrity, people may face greater difficulties proving their entitlement to nationality or refugee status.

Take Action!

Consider the needs of migrants and people on the move in your country
Raise your voice to ensure policies and practices are human-rights based and non-discriminatory. Call on governments to:

- **Improve access to legal identity and adequate documents**
- **Ensure access to basic services**
- **Address the negative drivers of migration and forced displacement**
- **Expand regular migration pathways**
- **Create alternatives for people on never-ending temporary visa status**