

SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES

Nassau, The Bahamas

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INTRODUCTION

Mixed movements; mixed motivations

Negative effects (same route, mode, smugglers, fraudulent documents; blurring of distinction between migrants and refugees)

However, human rights standards apply to all



REFUGEES: A SPECIAL CATEGORY

Who is; Who is not; Who ceases to be a refugee

Minimum standards: Access to the territory; Access to the procedures; Non-discrimination; Non-penalisation due to irregular entry; detention as a measure of last resort; *non-refoulement*; due process deportatio



UNHCR MANDATE AND SOLUTIONS

UNHCR's mandate: provide protection and solutions for refugees and other people who are of concern to the Office.

**Solutions: Voluntary repatriation;
Local integration; Resettlement**

**Protection & solutions underpinned by
internat. solidary and burden-sharing**



Solutions for Refugees



**Voluntary
Repatriation**



**Local
Integration**



Resettlement



VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (VOLREP)

**VOLREP: the free and voluntary return
of refugees to their country of
origin in safety and dignity**

**Virtually no requests for VOLREP in
the Caribbean**



Handbook on VOLREP

LOCAL INTEGRATION (LI)

Opportunity offered by countries to refugees to settle and integrate legally, economically and socio-culturally in countries of asylum

LI pending another solution

- **Documentation; education; work & residency permits; self-reliance; naturalisation**



IMPORTANCE OF LI

**Absence of LI: abuse and exploitation;
“survival” activities; detention;
*refoulement***

**Advantages of LI: lawful presence;
opportunity to develop skills, save and
remittances; contributing to host
country; enhancing prospect for
VOLREP or resettlement**



RESETTLEMENT (RST)

RST involves the selection and transfer of refugees from the asylum country to a third State that has agreed to admit them – as refugees – with permanent resident status

Status upon RST



PRECONDITIONS FOR RST

**Applicant determined to be a refugee
by UNHCR**

**All other solutions have been
considered**



RECOMMENDATIONS

Make solutions available to refugees

Consider VOLREP, LI and RST – in that order



Thank you

