



MIGRATION & REFUGEES: KEY TERMS

- **affidavit:** a written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation. In the context of migration, an affidavit is a document in which a sponsor guarantees that they will financially support an immigrant.
- **amnesty:** an official pardon for violation of immigration law (e.g. if a person did not enter a country through legal channels, they may gain permanent residency if they are granted amnesty).
- **asylum:** protection granted to a foreign person, inside the United States or at a U.S. point of entry, who meets the legal definition of a “refugee.”
- **asylum-seeker:** a person who flees their country and is seeking international protection.
- **deportation:** the act of deporting (removing) a foreign person from a country.
- **detention:** the act of detaining (holding) someone in official custody; imprisonment.
- **displacement:** the forced movement of people from one place to another.
- **emigration:** the act of leaving one State with the goal of settling in another permanently.
- **immigrant:** a person who moves to a different country, usually permanently.
- **internally displaced person:** a person who flees their home due to conflict, violence, or disasters, but who remains within their country’s borders.
- **migrant:** someone who chooses to leave their home country and live in another, but not for reasons of fear or persecution. Migrants often leave their countries to pursue economic or educational opportunities elsewhere.
- **non-refoulement (*non ray-fool-mon*):** a principle in international law that bans countries from sending refugees and asylum-seekers back to countries where they may be harmed or persecuted.
- **quota:** a restriction on the number of migrants or asylum seekers that a country will accept in a certain period of time.
- **refugee:** a person who flees their country of origin and is unwilling or unable to return based on a well-founded fear of persecution due to: race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a social group.
- **stateless person:** a person who is not considered a national of any country.
- **undocumented immigrant:** a person who enters or stays in a country without the appropriate documentation (e.g. a visa).