

World Refugee Day 2020: 80 million people are displaced worldwide

On 20 June 2020, the international community celebrates the World Refugee Day. Currently, 80 million people are displaced globally. The need for a fairer and more inclusive refugee response has never been more pressing, [UN's General-Secretary states](#). The EU-funded research project PROTECT The Right to International Protection studies ways of advancing the current international protection frameworks for refugees.

In the past year alone 10 million people have been forced to flee their homes. At the start of 2020 nearly 80 million people worldwide were displaced. Over 26 million of these are refugees.

Not only does the 2020 World Refugee Day coincide with a global pandemic [where vulnerable refugees and migrants have been particularly exposed](#), this year also marks the nearly 70-year anniversary of the 1951 UN Convention, which spells out refugees' basic rights and states' obligations to respect these.

85 percent of the world's refugees are hosted by too few countries and the need for more robust and fairer solutions has never been more pressing.

In 2018, several UN states signed two new agreements that seek to consolidate the goals of the 1951 Convention, although not legally-binding, the [UN Compacts on Migrants and Refugees](#) lays out a framework to handle the increasing flow of people on the move worldwide.

PROTECT [studies how the two UN compacts can contribute to advancing the current international protection frameworks for refugees](#).

Our project leader, [Professor Hakan G. Sicakkan from the University of Bergen, Norway](#) has been named a member of the UN's Global Academic Network of Migration Experts by the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which will evaluate states' implementation of the two global compacts in the years to come.

How will the future of refugee protection look? Are the world's nations able to agree on a common protection system and accept their share of the responsibility? [PROTECT's researchers](#) from eleven universities in nine different countries can offer their reflections and insight.

Facts about global displacement:

- Nearly 80 million people were displaced at the end of 2019, an increase of 10 million from the previous year.
- For the 7th consecutive year there has been an increase in the number of people fleeing their homes.
- Most of the world's displaced populations are from Syria, Myanmar, South-Sudan, Afghanistan and Venezuela.
- Of the world's 26 million refugees, half are under the age of 18.

Facts about PROTECT:

- Full Name: PROTECT. The Right to International Protection. A Pendulum between Globalization and Nativization?

- Studies international refugee protection and is led from the University of Bergen, Norway.
- The project is financed by Horizon 2020 with almost EUR 3.3 million and was launched on 1 February 2020.
- The partner institutions in the project are: Queen Mary University of London (UK), Justus Liebig Universität Giessen (Germany), Universiteit Ghent (Belgium), University of Surrey (UK), Università degli Studi di Catania (Italy), Ryerson University (Canada), Univerza v Ljubljani (Slovenia), Lund University (Sweden), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa) and Universität Stuttgart (Germany).

Useful sources:

<https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/refugee-day>

<https://www.unhcr.org/5ee9db2e4?>