Who is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

53%

of refugees are school-aged children under the age of 18

Today, more than ever, we need a global movement to demand the safety and rights of refugees are protected. In Australia, it is the responsibility of our Government, and each one of us to ensure people forced to flee from their homes can live with dignity and with hope.

A Safe Place to Live

Governments must do more so that people can rebuild their lives in safety – by humanely hosting more refugees, providing legal and safe routes for travel and admission, increasing resettlement places or fulfilling funding appeals.
Shared global solutions are needed to provide refugees with the protection and rights due to them. These are not special rights, they are simply human rights such as safe shelter, food and water, the opportunity to work, access to education and legal assistance.

Below are a few Australians, that arrived here as a refugee. Look at them now…

DENG THIAK ADUT is a defence lawyer and refugee advocate in Western Sydney, Australia, and a former child soldier from South Sudan.

HUY TRUONG A Vietnamese refugee who arrived in Australia as a child and went on to become one of the country's most successful IT entrepreneurs. Truong founded online retailer Wishlist.

DR KARL KRUSZELNICKI (Radio DJ, Author and science guru)

Karl Came on a boat from a Swedish refugee camp in 1950, after his Polish parents escaped Nazi concentration camps

"I came by a boat and my father was a refugee smuggler ... Refugees are not coming here because we have really good TV shows ... They're coming here because people are shooting at them."

MAJAK DAW (AFL) Born 11 March 1991 in Khartoum, Sudan, Majak is a professional Australian rules footballer playing for the North Melbourne Football Club in the Australian Football League (AFL). Daw and his family in Australia are refugees from the civil wars in Sudan.

ANH DO (Comedian/ Author). Do and his family fled to Australia as refugees in 1980

has won many awards, including the 2011 Australian Book of the Year, Biography of the Year and Newcomer of the Year, as well as the Indie Book of the Year Award 2011, Non-fiction Indie Book of the Year 2011, and it was shortlisted for the 2011 NSW Premier's Literary Awards