

Module 1: What Is Refugee Protection?

Objectives

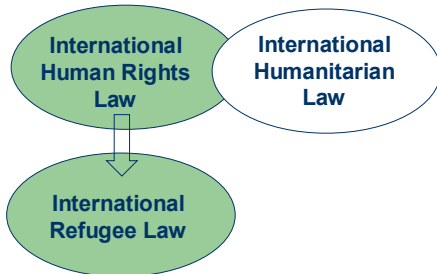
- Identify the international standards that form the framework for the international protection of refugees;
- Outline refugee rights in international refugee and human rights law;
- Articulate how assistance programmes can also enhance refugee protection.

Defining refugee protection

The phrase *international protection* covers the gamut of activities through which refugees' rights are secured.

Source: *Protecting Refugees: A Field Guide for NGOs*

International legal instruments



International refugee law

- 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

Regional treaties:

- 1969 Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Convention;
- 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

International human rights law

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights;
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Refugee rights

The right to:

- Seek and enjoy asylum;
- *Non-refoulement*;
- Non-discrimination;
- Freedom of movement;
- Work.

Additional refugee rights

The right to:

- Housing;
- Education;
- Public relief and assistance.

The obligation to:

- Not engage in activities that pose a threat to national security or public order.

Group questions

- What is the threat?
- Who/what is the protector?
- What does this object suggest to you about protection?

Five main modes of action

- Persuasion
- Denunciation
- Mobilisation
- Substitution
- Support
