

# THE REFUGEE AND ASYLUM EXPERIENCE

2014



Foundation  
House

# Refugees and Asylum Seekers Experiences

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- War
- Torture
- Dangerous flight
- Refugee camp
- Urban living in transit countries
- Detention center



# Refugees and Asylum Seekers

## A Refugee

- Is outside their country
- Cannot return to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution...  
...for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

## An asylum seeker:

- Is **outside their country**
- Is a person who has **applied for refugee protection** and is awaiting a decision

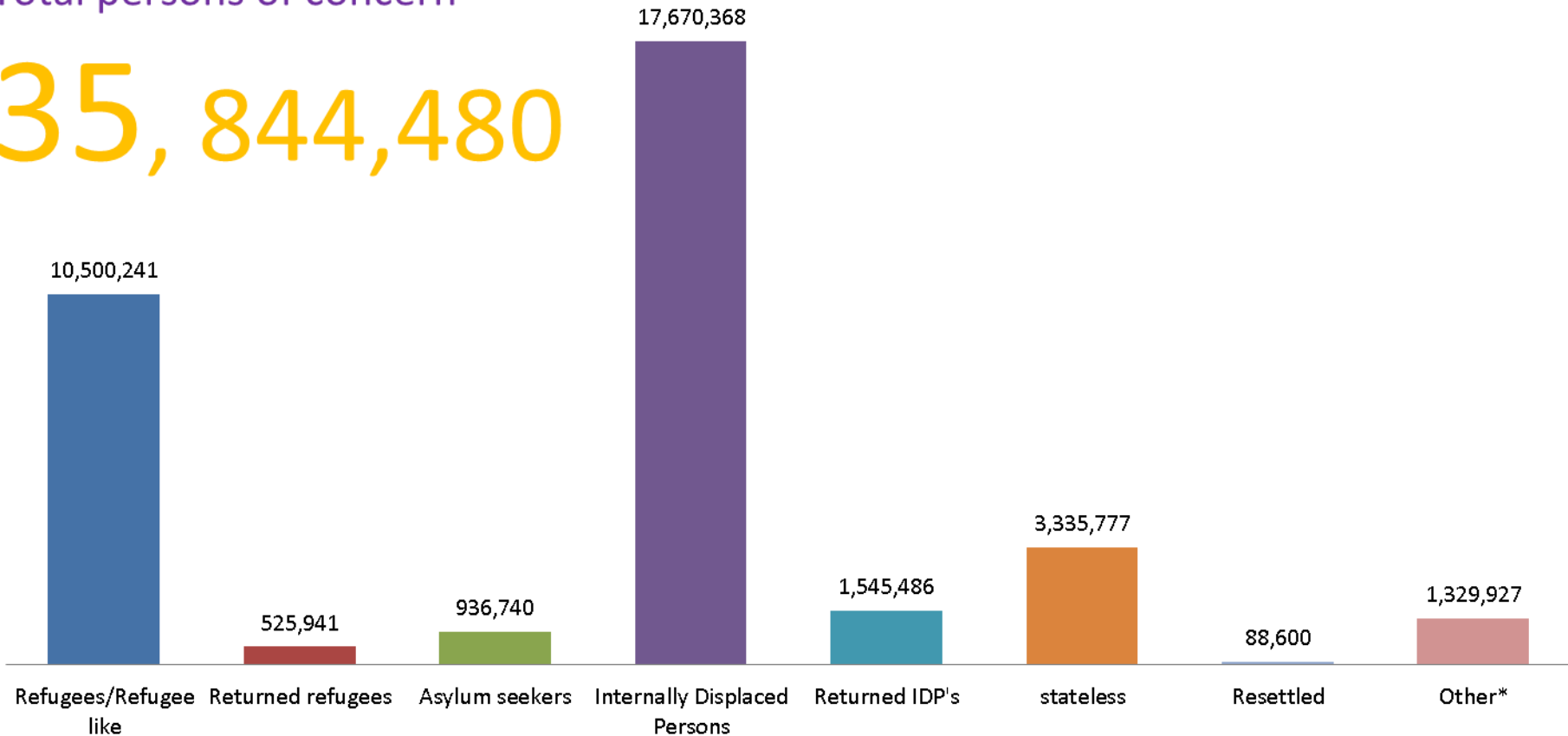
*UNHCR Convention on Refugees 1951*



# UNHCR Global Trends 2012

Total persons of concern

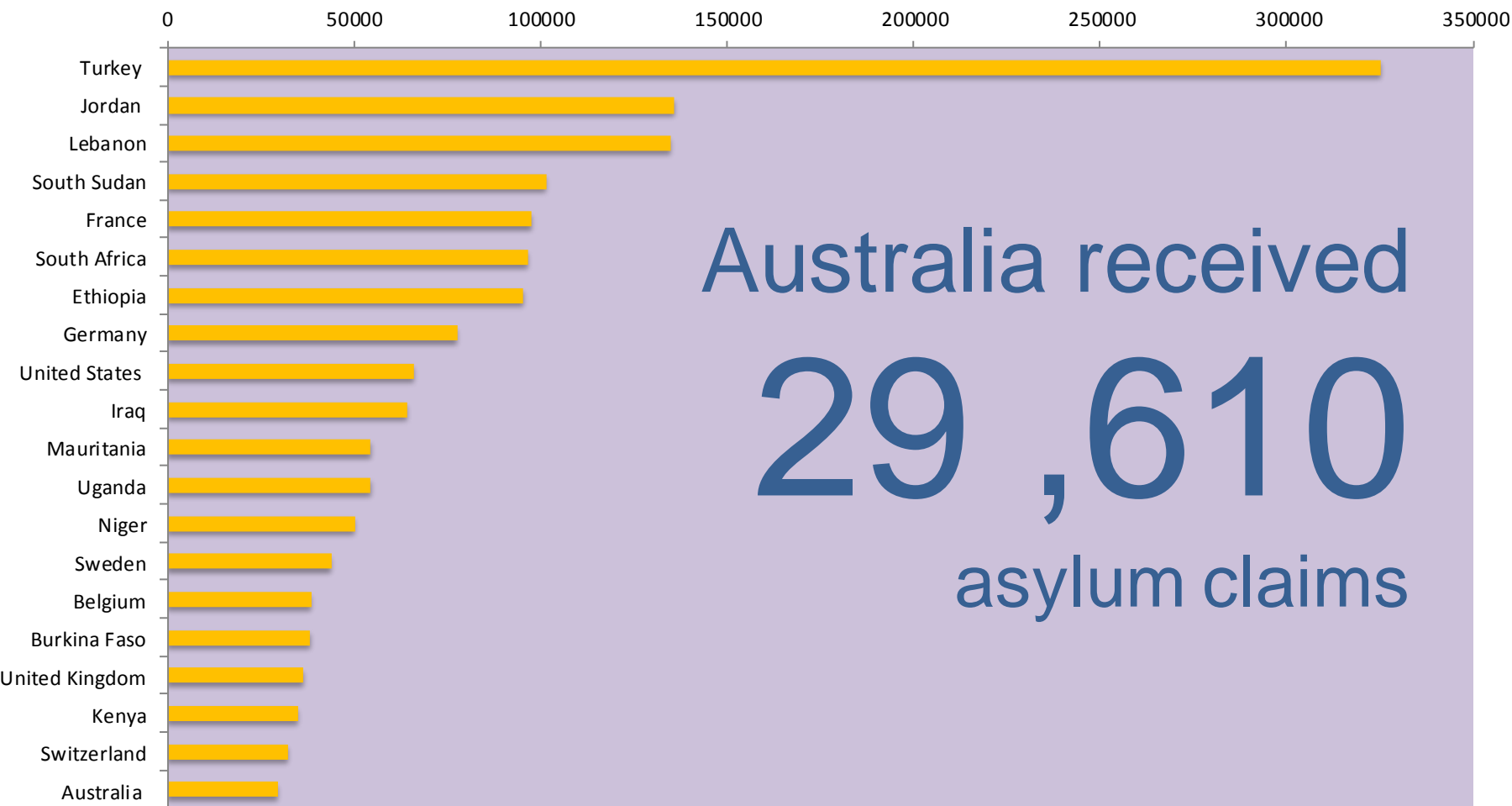
35,844,480



UNHCR global Trends 2012 – Published 19 July 2013



# Global Asylum Applications - 2012



UNHCR global Trends 2012 – Published 19 July 2013



# Annual Migration to Australia

**Migration Program**  
**190,000**

**General Migration**  
Skilled migration, family migration etc.

**Offshore Program**  
**13,750**

**Refugee Resettlement**  
UNHCR program  
(200, 204...)

**Special Humanitarian Program**  
Split family (202)

**Onshore Program (Asylum Seekers)**

**With a valid visa**  
Eligible to apply for permanent protection (866)

**Without a Valid Visa**  
Transferred Offshore / Temporary visa (BVE, THCV)

\* Note: rapid policy changes .



# Rights and Access

## Abdul

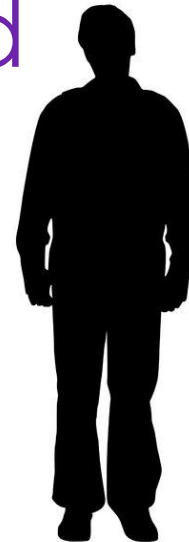


Arrived by  
Plane\*  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
2012

\* With a valid visa

Not detained  
Has work rights  
Can apply for permanent protection  
Funded legal representation  
Able to sponsor family if PPV successful  
Processed in Australia  
Does not sign 'code of behaviour'

## Ahmed



Arrived by  
Boat  
September 9<sup>th</sup>  
2013

Detained on arrival  
No work rights  
No family reunion  
No chance of settlement in Australia  
No funded legal representation  
Must sign 'code of behaviour'  
May be sent to Manus or Nauru



# Trauma

Traumatic events call into question basic human relationships. They breach the attachments of family, friendship, love, and community. They shatter the construction of the self that is formed and sustained in relation to others. They undermine the belief systems that give meaning to human experience. They violate the victims faith in a natural or divine order and cast the victim into a state of existential crisis.

Judith Herman, *Trauma and Recovery* 1992.





# Detention

## Detention Environment

Confinement and deprivation

Injustice and inhumanity

Isolation and fractured relationships

Hopelessness and demoralization

## Post detention environment

Insecurity and Injustice

Relationship difficulties

Profound changes to view of self

Ongoing mental health issues



# Identifying people from a refugee background

- Country of origin?
- Country of transit?
- Refugee camp?
- Age combined with knowledge of country indicates likely period of exposure to violence, hardship, and displacement
- Terrible things have happened to people who have been forced to leave their country. You do not have to go into any detail, but if I can understand a little about your background history it can help me know how I can best help you.



# Questions to Identify Survivors of Torture & Trauma

- When did you leave your country?
- How long have you been in Australia?
- Have you spent time in a refugee camp?
- What was the journey to Australia like?
- Terrible things have happened to people who have been forced to leave their country. You do not have to go into any detail, but if I can understand a little about your background history it can help me know how I can best help you.



# More information

Refugee health Network [www.refugeehealthnetwork.org.au](http://www.refugeehealthnetwork.org.au)

Foundation House [www.foundationhouse.org.au](http://www.foundationhouse.org.au)

Department of Immigration [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

UNHCR [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)



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