



In July 2020, our refugee quota increased from 1000 to 1500 per year. Some people saw this as a long overdue increase, while others were reluctant to increase the number of refugees we accept. The government decides how many refugees we accept and how we support them once they are here. In this activity, you will think, explore and discuss how different policies around refugee resettlement affect the refugees and the communities they become a part of.

→ Go to [policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/migration](https://policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/migration)

→ Find and read the 'Refugees' section

→ Explore answers to these questions and share your ideas and reasoning with others

1. Who are refugees? Why does our government think it's a good idea for us to accept 1500 new refugees every year? Read [this page](#) on the Red Cross NZ website to help you.
2. Some people who believe that we already do enough to help refugees are concerned about the costs of taking in refugees and helping them to get used to life here (called the 'resettlement process'). What do you think these costs include? Do you think [the benefits](#) will outweigh the costs over time? Why or why not?
3. During the Covid-19 pandemic, a side effect of the government closing our borders to non-citizens to help limit the spread of Covid-19 was that no new refugees were able to enter under the refugee quota. Do you think this was fair?

→ Go back to Policy.nz and browse the policies. Click on policies to read more detail

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

4. What are the main differences between the parties' approaches to refugees and resettlement? Do some parties seem more concerned about this issue than others?
5. Some parties have policies that refer to climate change and refugees. What is the connection between climate change and becoming a refugee? Do you think the next government should deal with climate change refugees differently than other refugees? Why or why not?
6. For one of the policies you have saved, think about the advantages and disadvantages of the policy. How would it affect someone who lives in a town or city where refugees settle, such as Auckland, Palmerston North, Levin, Timaru, Dunedin, or Invercargill? How would it affect someone who is a former refugee?
7. If you were in the government, what would your policies on refugees be?