

## Permission to work for refugees in the UK

**Refugees in the UK are permitted to work without any restrictions.**

A person given leave to remain as a refugee has been assessed by the Home Office and issued with a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) showing their entitlement to work and their photograph. They have also been given a National Insurance number.

**Employers can use the free Government ‘Check a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)’ service to check the BRP of a refugee seeking employment with them:**

<https://www.gov.uk/check-biometric-residence-permit>

**Employers can also check that the individual has permission to work by using the free Government ‘Employer Checking Service’:**

<https://www.gov.uk/employee-immigration-employment-status>

Individuals given refugee status are usually granted leave to remain in the UK for five years. Towards the end of the the five years the individual can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR.)

### **Who is a refugee?**

A UK refugee is someone who has been offered protection from persecution and has been resettled in the UK.

Refugee status means that a person has been granted leave to remain in the UK after applying for asylum under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (the Refugee Convention).

A refugee is not an ‘asylum seeker’. A refugee is someone who was previously seeking asylum (safety) and who has since been granted Refugee status and leave to remain in the UK. Asylum seekers may not be employed in the UK except in exceptional circumstances. Refugees can.

Refugees are **not** economic migrants and are **not** subject to the points-based system where migrants are required to meet particular skill and experience levels and employers given sponsorship duties.