UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | 75 Years of the Refugee Convention

75 Years of the 1951 Refugee Convention: Sudan

SOLIDARITY	PROTECTION	INCLUSION
1951 Refugee Convention adopted	**1969** OAU Refugee Convention ratified	**1974** Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol ratified
2014 Sudan Asylum Act	**2018** Global Compact on Refugees	**2026** 75 years of the Convention

On the occasion of the **75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention on 28 July 2026**, there is a renewed global call for solidarity with refugees, asylum-seekers, and other forcibly displaced people. At its core is a **reaffirmation of the fundamental and universal right to seek asylum**, the essential foundation that enables people to find safety, rebuild their lives, and live with dignity. In a rapidly changing and challenging environment, collective commitment is more important than ever to **preserve progress, strengthen inclusive systems, and uphold protection**. As UNHCR continues to deliver life-saving assistance while mobilizing partnerships and public solidarity, we are reminded that this right belongs to all of us—because **until everyone is safe, no one is safe**.

A Long History of Refuge

Sudan has long been a place of refuge and solidarity, where communities have opened their doors to people fleeing conflict and hardship from neighbouring countries. The country acceded to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol ratifying them in 1974. Although the first asylum law was passed in 1974, the 2014 Asylum Act provides a more comprehensive framework that reinforces the right to seek asylum through clearer asylum procedures, stronger protection safeguards, and greater recognition of refugees' rights in accordance with international and regional legal standards, though the practical implementation of some provisions has yet to be fully realised.

Sudan hosts almost 868,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in 23 camps and over 150 settlements and also in host community settings.

A Shared Reality

Today, Sudanese families themselves are experiencing displacement, reflecting a shared reality of loss, resilience, and hope with other forcibly displaced and host communities. Across the country, millions are directly or indirectly affected by displacement, yet communities continue to support one another, demonstrating remarkable resilience and social cohesion. As Sudan endures one of the world's largest displacement crises, protecting access to asylum is both a shared responsibility and a humanitarian imperative. No one fleeing war, persecution, or violence should be denied the opportunity to seek safety and protection.

Building Inclusive Systems

Seventy-five years after the 1951 Refugee Convention came into force, its message is as relevant as ever: **people forced to flee deserve protection, dignity, and the opportunity** to rebuild their lives. In Sudan, important progress was made prior to the conflict in advancing legal inclusion, particularly through the **2014 Asylum Act**, which establishes formal **procedures for refugee status determination** and **affirms the rights and obligations of refugees and asylum-seekers**. This progress is further reflected in ongoing initiatives to expand refugees' access to national systems, including education, health care, and financial services, and efforts to enable the use of refugee documentation to open bank accounts and access basic services. Advancing legal identity and **civil documentation is central to inclusion**, as it enables access to services, rights, and reducing risks of exclusion and protection from statelessness

Together, these efforts **lay the foundation for a more inclusive, rights-based approach** to refugee protection and inclusion in national systems. They expand access to rights and services, promote social cohesion and resilience, reinforce shared responsibility, and reduce the risk of exclusion. Achieving these goals in Sudan will require strengthened legal and policy frameworks, sustained community engagement, and continued partnerships with national institutions and other key stakeholders.

Until everyone is safe, we keep the promise