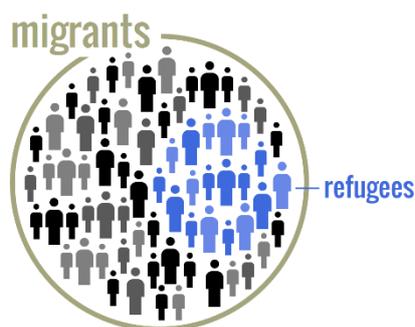


There's no specific, correct meaning of 'migrants'. In fact, the term is widely used in two different ways. The difference is often muddled in policy debates and public relations material, but the table below outlines the two prevailing views. For in-depth explanations and further readings, see meaningofmigrants.org.

THE INCLUSIVIST VIEW



Migrants are people who have moved from their usual place of residence, regardless of their legal status and their motivations for moving. Refugees are a particular group of migrants.

Identifying someone as a migrant simply means that they have left their usual home. They might be vulnerable and require assistance, including protection as a refugee.

Just 'migrants' is possible, since that would include any refugees. Alternatively, 'refugees and other migrants' can be used.

The United Nations system has traditionally taken an inclusivist view. The definition of migrants used by the UN Migration Agency (IOM) implicitly includes refugees.

What does 'migrants' mean?

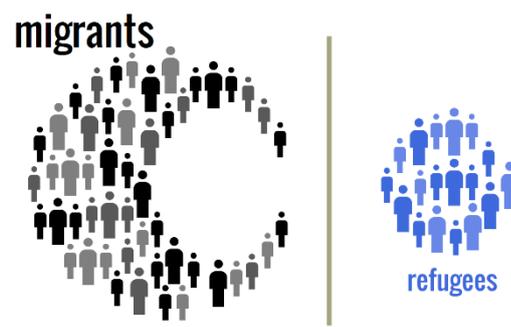
How are migrants defined within this view?

What are the implications of labelling people 'migrants'?

What can we call mixed groups of people on the move?

Who promotes this approach to the meaning of migrants?

THE RESIDUALIST VIEW



Migrants are people who have moved from their usual place of residence for any reason *other than* fleeing persecution. They are a diverse, residual category of people who are not refugees.

Identifying someone as a migrant means that they do not need or qualify for international protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

'Refugees and migrants' must be used if there is a possibility that the group includes at least one person from each category.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) actively promotes a residualist view. The *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* implicitly suggests that migrants do not include refugees.

Both approaches recognize the specific vulnerabilities and rights of refugees. meaningofmigrants.org makes the case that an inclusivist definition is the best foundation for analyses, debate and policy that safeguard the rights of all migrants—including protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention for those who need it. An inclusivist definition also helps prevent stereotyping on the basis of nationality.