

The Combat Genocide Association – a Jewish and Universal Organization

"The opposite of love is not hate, but rather indifference. The opposite of life is not death but rather indifference towards life and death. The opposite of peace is nothing other than apathy towards the ugliness of war and the beauty of peace." - Eli Weise

"A Matter of Life or Death"

Description of the Current Refugee Situation in Israel:

- Between 2006-2013, approximately 60,000 asylum-seekers and labor migrants entered Israel crossing the Egyptian border.
- This phenomenon has been effectively stopped by the erection of a wall on the border.
- Israel is one of the countries that have seen the most immigration of asylum-seekers as a percentage of the pre-existing population over the last few years.

In addition:

- Israel is a country that was founded by and for refugees of a genocide.
- Israel was one of the leaders in writing the protocols of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees because of the lessons learned before and during the Holocaust.
- Since Israel signed onto the convention, no legislation has been passed in Israel to define the way a person can receive the status of a refugee, along with the associated rights and obligations.
- Israel has granted refugee status to no more than 200 people since the establishment of the State. Most of them received the status on a temporary basis and left Israel after a certain number of years.
- For the sake of comparison, in order for Israel to reach 5th or 6th place in the world (in comparison to the size and density of the population and purchasing power), Israel would need to grant asylum and refugee status to approximately 1,750 asylum-seekers per year.
- Israel also does not do her part in contributing to refugee camps outside of Israel (21st place relative to the size of the economy). This is a place where Israel could have partially fulfilled her obligation to save the lives of refugees whose lives are at risk.

Number of asylum-seekers out of total foreigners in Israel

Year of Entry	Until the end of 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (Until June)
Number of Infiltrators	1,700	6,075	14,773	19,600	33,273	54,497	55,195	54,201
Foreigners that are not Infiltrators	184,300	193,925	207,227	199,400	192,113	187,196	153,947	176,148
Total Number of Foreigners	186,000	200,000	222,000	219,000	225,386	241,693	209,142	230,349

- **The "infiltrators" are not a majority of the foreigners in Israel!**
- **Conflating these two phenomena blurs the unique nature of this problem and the moral demand to save people fleeing for their lives.**
- **Even among the asylum-seekers, not all are eligible for protection as refugees.**

The Combat Genocide Association – a Jewish and Universal Organization

"The opposite of love is not hate, but rather indifference. The opposite of life is not death but rather indifference towards life and death. The opposite of peace is nothing other than apathy towards the ugliness of war and the beauty of peace." - Eli Weisz

“A Matter of Life or Death” – Recommended policy for the State of Israel relating to refugees and asylum-seekers in Israel

Guiding Principles:

1. Preserving the State of Israel as a both Jewish and democratic country.
2. Saving refugees who are fleeing for their lives from violence in ways that do not harm principle #1.
3. The Israeli government taking responsibility for asylum-seekers and refugees.

Principles of the Proposal:

1. Keep the border between Israel and Egypt close – we commend the decision to build a fence and close the border with Egypt to prevent illegal immigration, smuggling, and terrorist activity.

2. Determine an annual quota for absorption and rehabilitation for refugees from genocide and those fleeing for their lives:

In order to preserve the character of the State of Israel while providing an appropriate solution for the refugees who will be accepted, an annual quota needs to be determined for absorption and rehabilitation. Determining such a quota is an accepted policy in many developed countries. Israel has a moral responsibility to save refugees, within a scope that it can handle and without putting its existence as a State in danger. As a democratic and developed country bordering Africa, we need to determine a reasonable absorption quota, as put in place in other countries. In an attempt to determine the appropriate quota, the Jewish-democratic character of the state needs to be taken into account, as well as its present sociology.

We recommend an annual quota of 1,750 refugees to be absorbed into Israel. This number would place Israel rather high on the list of Western countries that accept refugees, in terms of both its size and economic capacity.

3. Regulation of refugee status, rights, and obligations:

- A. Shortening the status determination period to a maximum of 60 days, and quick action to regulate refugee's status or organize their deportation. The status determination process will clarify which asylum-seekers are indeed facing a threat to their lives and will decide who is entitled to protection. Whoever is entitled to protection will be treated by law as a refugee. Whoever is not entitled to protection will be deported or treated according to the Law of Entry into Israel.
- B. If a person qualifies for refugee status and enters under the quota, s\he will receive refugee status.
- C. A person who receives refugee status will be eligible for all the rights and obligations according to international law.
- D. Refugee status is a temporary status until the danger to the refugee's life in his/her home country has passed.

4. Integrated solution for refugees currently located in Israel:

- A. With the closing of the border on the one hand and determining the annual quota, and a clarification of refugee status on the other, it will be possible to devise appropriate solutions for the high number of refugees already in Israel.
- B. Reaching an international agreement with other developed countries to accept within their quotas refugees and asylum-seekers, whose status has been determined and are currently located in Israel, as well as reaching an agreement with a third country in Africa to accept refugees under its authority or to refugee camps within its territory in exchange for monetary support for the refugee camps.
- C. Absorption of some of the refugees within a quota for a few years, while freezing absorption of new refugees for those same years.
- D. Determining national policy to enforce the Law of Entry into Israel, labor laws, and planning and building laws, thereby reducing the incentive for labor migration, while assisting disadvantaged populations in general and better distributing the refugees throughout different parts of the country.



The Combat Genocide Association – a Jewish and Universal Organization

"The opposite of love is not hate, but rather indifference. The opposite of life is not death but rather indifference towards life and death. The opposite of peace is nothing other than apathy towards the ugliness of war and the beauty of peace." - Eli Weisz

A Fourmula for Calculationg the Quota for Refugee Absorption:

- The Bill suggests determining a quota of 1,750 Refugees Annually [Section 10A]
- This quota would place Israel in the 5th place in refugee absorption in relation with the volume and density of population and GDP.
- The quota shall be updated annually in accordance with changes in the said data [Section 10 B, C]

The Formula – comparing the rate of refugee absorption of the western work countries in relation to the size and density of the population and the GDP in these countries to the required rate in Israel, thus deriving an annual quota.

The Mathematical Formula:

$$\frac{4\sqrt{\text{population density}}}{\text{GDP per Capita}} \times \frac{\text{Refugee Visas}}{\text{Size of Population}} = \text{Index (by state)}$$

State	Refugee Visas 2009	population density Persons per square km	GDP per capita 2009	State's population	Index by state
Switzerland	6,675	190	63,102	7,826,000	50.18300948
Sweden	9,369	21	43,404	9,378,000	49.27289496
Netherlands	7,904	400	48,078	16,615,000	44.25019518
Austria	4,783	100	45,568	8,390,000	39.56201948
Israel (offer)	1,750	332	26,042	7,320,000	39.18656121
Belgium	2,912	356	43,100	10,879,000	26.97662552
Turkey	6,074	93	10,100	72,698,000	25.68926554
Norway	4,938	13	84,500	4,889,000	22.69656727
United Kingdom	12,503	256	36100	62,222,000	22.26501818
Poland	2,591	122	12,300	38,184,000	18.3345746
Italy	9,573	201	34,000	60,483,000	17.52809958
USA	75,122	32	47,200	309,051,000	12.2484881
Germany	9,726	229	40,200	81,776,000	11.50909617
Finland	1,348	16	44,500	5,363,000	11.2967126
Hungary	383	107	12,900	10,000,000	9.548936561
Canada	11,154	3	46,200	34,109,000	9.315367464
Denmark	828	129	55,900	5,545,000	9.002526449
Luxembourg	121	178	105,500	507,000	8.262851581
Ireland	394	64	47,200	4,474,000	5.27719615
Australia	3,441	3	42,100	22,342,000	4.814607001
Israel (today)	2	332	26,042	7,320,000	0.044784641

