



Welcoming more refugees

For a fairer society

We can change the lives of thousands of people who are forced to flee their homes because of conflict, persecution, and climate change.

New Zealanders want to do more to help people who have been displaced by the global refugee crisis. When people are forced to flee their homes for no fault of their own, we welcome them into ours. The Green Party will:

1. Progressively increase New Zealand's refugee quota over six years to 4,000 people per year, and properly fund asylum seeker and refugee services.
2. Establish a programme for church and community groups to sponsor an additional 1,000 refugees per year.
3. Create a new humanitarian visa category for people displaced by climate change in the Pacific.

New Zealand currently accepts just 750 refugees a year (rising to 1,000 in 2018), far fewer per capita than many other countries like Canada and Australia. Since 2009, the National Government has largely refused people from the Middle East and Africa, who are most in need of a safe place to call home. National's current meagre refugee quota stops us from living up to our morals and our reputation as a caring country – but we can change that.

Communities, churches, and NGOs across New Zealand have pledged their support to welcome more refugees, and the Green Party in Government will work with those communities to help them play their part. They know, and we know, that diversity is strength. In an unstable world, together we can make a difference.

Climate change will only make the global refugee crisis worse. We're committed to providing new homes for some of the people who are forced out of their own communities and countries by rising seas and extreme droughts, particularly in the Pacific.

Accepting more refugees now, from the regions where the need is greatest, will make a significant difference for thousands of families. At this moment in global history, it is a reflection of the strength of our values. It is the right thing to do.

Raising the quota

The Green Party will immediately double New Zealand's refugee quota to 2,000. Then, we will progressively increase the quota to 4,000 over the next six years. Over that time we will establish new resettlement locations across New Zealand and work with communities to build up the capacity of organisations that support new refugees, family reunification, and asylum seekers. It's estimated this will cost an additional \$66 million in 2018, rising to \$350 million when the quota reaches 4,000 places per year. We will also reverse National's heartless decision to drastically cut refugee resettlement from the Middle East and Africa, where tragedies like the Syrian crisis are occurring.

A new refugee settlement centre

Welcoming more refugees will require a new refugee resettlement centre, like the one in Mangere. Working with community groups and local councils, we will identify a suitable location that's not in Auckland and build a second resettlement centre within two years.

Some of the cost of this new resettlement centre will be covered by requiring high net worth immigrants who gain New Zealand residency under the Investor and Investor Plus categories to invest a portion of their required investments into building, maintaining, and running the resettlement centre. Based on the last five years, a conservative estimate suggests using 10 percent of the minimum investments would raise \$67.5 million a year.

Community resettlement

There has been an outpouring of support from churches, faith groups, and communities across New Zealand, who want to play a part supporting refugees. The Green Party will expand the community sponsorship category to 1,000 places per year over the next three years. Community groups and families will be able to sponsor refugees in their community by providing housing and support with work, education, and learning English (or Te Reo). In Canada, tens of thousands of refugees are helped to resettle this way every year.

People displaced by climate change

Rising sea levels and more extreme weather events are putting the lives and livelihoods of many people from Pacific nations at risk. Climate change is not currently recognised through the official United Nations refugee process. In government, we will create a new humanitarian visa for people displaced by climate change in the Pacific, initially with a maximum of 100 places per year.

[www.greens.org.nz/
refugees](http://www.greens.org.nz/refugees)

The logo for the Green Party, featuring a stylized green leaf above the word "Green" in a white serif font.

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