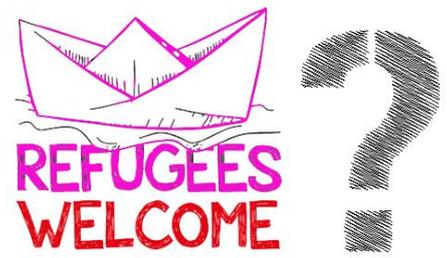


# Safe and legal access

The death of three year old Aylan Kurdi last September shocked many people and brought home the reality that faces many refugees. Many more people have died since, including young children. The initial outpouring of grief and regret, still felt by many, has not been translated into action; instead more and more barriers are going up.



## Safe and legal access to protection

**Question to GE16 candidates:** Do you support safe and legal access to Ireland for people in need of protection, to avoid more deaths at sea?

- Most refugees require visas to enter an EU country due to their nationality.
- There is no such thing as a “refugee visa.” People fleeing persecution are forced to rely on smugglers to get take them across borders or to get here on student or tourist visas.
- People recognised as refugees outside the EU face lengthy waits for resettlement.
- Ireland has committed to take just over 1000 refugees from outside the EU.
- Lebanon, a country with the same population as Ireland, has 1.2 million Syrian refugees.

**Commitment needed from GE16 candidates:** Support the issue of humanitarian visas for asylum seekers, particularly from countries in which many refugees have already been displaced (e.g. Turkey) and increase the numbers of programme refugees that Ireland will accept.



(This graphic was made on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. The number of lives lost or missing at sea has since risen to 357)

## The right to asylum

**Question to GE16 candidates:** Should people have a right to claim asylum in Ireland?

- Over 3,000 people were refused permission to enter into Ireland between April 2014 and April 2015. It is not known how many needed international protection.
- The new International Protection Act 2015 (Section 81(b)) actually broadens the grounds for refusing permission to enter Ireland.

**Commitment needed from GE16 candidates:** Call for independent oversight at our ports of entry and for an independent enquiry into refusals of permission to enter Ireland. Section 81(b) of the International Protection Act 2015 should not be brought in until the inquiry has been completed.

**In 2015:**

-  59 Syrians
-  139 Afghans
-  11 Eritreans
-  30 Iraqis
-  44 Iranians

were refused at Ireland's borders/ ports.