



Status of Resettled Refugees – Family Reunification

EU Resettlement
Skill Share day –
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Status of Resettled Refugees – Family Reunification

- Have resettled refugees right to family reunification?

Not always



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- Does it matter?
**Yes - if the whole family could not be submitted together
- if the whole family was not accepted**





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- UNHCR considers all dependent family members should be submitted together in one resettlement file.





Status of Resettled Refugees – Family Reunification

Family members!

- Nuclear family
- Dependent due to psychological, physical, economic, and/or emotional bonds





Status of Resettled Refugees – Family Reunification

- Countries have varied practice when it comes to granting family reunification rights to resettled refugees

- All countries, except Ireland, give right to family reunification to resettled refugees in law
- In many countries the conditions are less favourable than those of other refugees (depending on status of resettled refugees)
- The definition of family is more restrictive than that of UNHCR



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- In some cases additional resettlement referral is necessary using the family reunification criteria

- Only if family reunification is not otherwise attainable
- UNHCR's definition of family is guiding
- The family members must be refugees
- Often additional resettlement criteria is applicable
- General challenges to family reunification may persist



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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vgVfqsHqhQ&feature=BFa&list=PLD11D1DD6D2DF49F9&lf=plcp>

Refugee story telling – Congolese
refugee in Kakuma



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Good practice

- ✓ Accept all dependent family members for resettlement
- ✓ Allow follow up family reunification where all family could not be submitted
- ✓ Facilitate family re-unification processes (see UNHCR's observations to the Commission Green Paper)