



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits New Zealand

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres arrives in Wellington tonight for discussions with the Government and non-governmental organisations on refugee issues in New Zealand.

Mr Guterres said he was looking forward to discussing with the new Government New Zealand's asylum system and resettlement programme, and to explore ways in which UNHCR and New Zealand can work more closely on humanitarian projects in the region and globally.

"New Zealand has an excellent reputation for supporting refugees, and I am looking forward to discussing ways in which we can enhance our cooperation in the future," Mr Guterres said.

Mr Guterres said he has been urging governments all around the world to maintain generous funding and other humanitarian support in this time of global financial crisis.

"By supporting programmes to provide humanitarian relief and durable solutions for displaced people, countries such as New Zealand are also helping to contribute to peace and security in often volatile regions around the world."

Mr Guterres said he was also looking forward to meeting representatives of refugee communities and service providers in Auckland on Friday.

"New Zealand resettles around 750 refugees and provides additional sponsored family reunification for 300 family members of refugees each year. New Zealand has an excellent reputation for welcoming refugees and assisting them with the education, health and other services they need to make a new and successful life in NZ," he said.

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