

Introduction to Resources: RPL for Refugees, Stateless, and Asylum Seekers in South Africa

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The resources listed below provide essential pathways for refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons seeking access to higher education and recognition of prior learning (RPL) opportunities in South Africa. They represent a combination of policy authorities, government departments, international agencies, advocacy organisations, and specialised support centers that work together to facilitate educational access and protect rights. Each institution or organization plays a distinct role—ranging from evaluating foreign qualifications and issuing legal documentation to offering legal assistance, social support, and advocacy for inclusion. Collectively, these resources not only serve as practical entry points for navigating the often-complex processes of qualification recognition and admission but also embody South Africa's broader commitment to equity, human rights, and social justice in education. Their importance lies in bridging the gap between displaced individuals' prior learning and their future opportunities, thereby supporting integration, empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods.

1. South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Role: Evaluates foreign qualifications, including cases where refugees/asylum seekers lack full documentation.

Policy: *Policy & Criteria for the Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications + Addendum for Refugees & Asylum Seekers.*

Website: www.saqa.org.za

Email: dfqeas@saqa.org.za | saqainfo@saqa.org.za

2. Department of Home Affairs (DHA) – Refugee Reception Offices (RROs)

Role: Provides official refugee/asylum documentation needed for RPL and SAQA applications.

Website: www.dha.gov.za

3. UNHCR South Africa (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

Role: Protection, advocacy, and referral to legal aid.

Website: <https://www.unhcr.org/where-we-work/countries/south-africa>

4. UCT Refugee Rights Unit (Cape Town)

Website: www.refugeelawclinic.org

Tel: +27 21 650 5581

Email: refugeelawclinic@uct.ac.za

5. Nelson Mandela University Refugee Rights Centre (Gqeberha)

Website: <https://law.mandela.ac.za/>

Tel: +27 41 504 1111 | **Emergency:** +27 73 176 2239

Email: refugeerights@mandela.ac.za

6. Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town

Website: www.scalabrini.org.za

Tel: +27 21 465 6433

Email: info@scalabrini.org.za

7. CoRMSA – Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa

Website: www.cormsa.org.za

Tel: +27 11 403 7560

Email: communications@cormsa.org.za