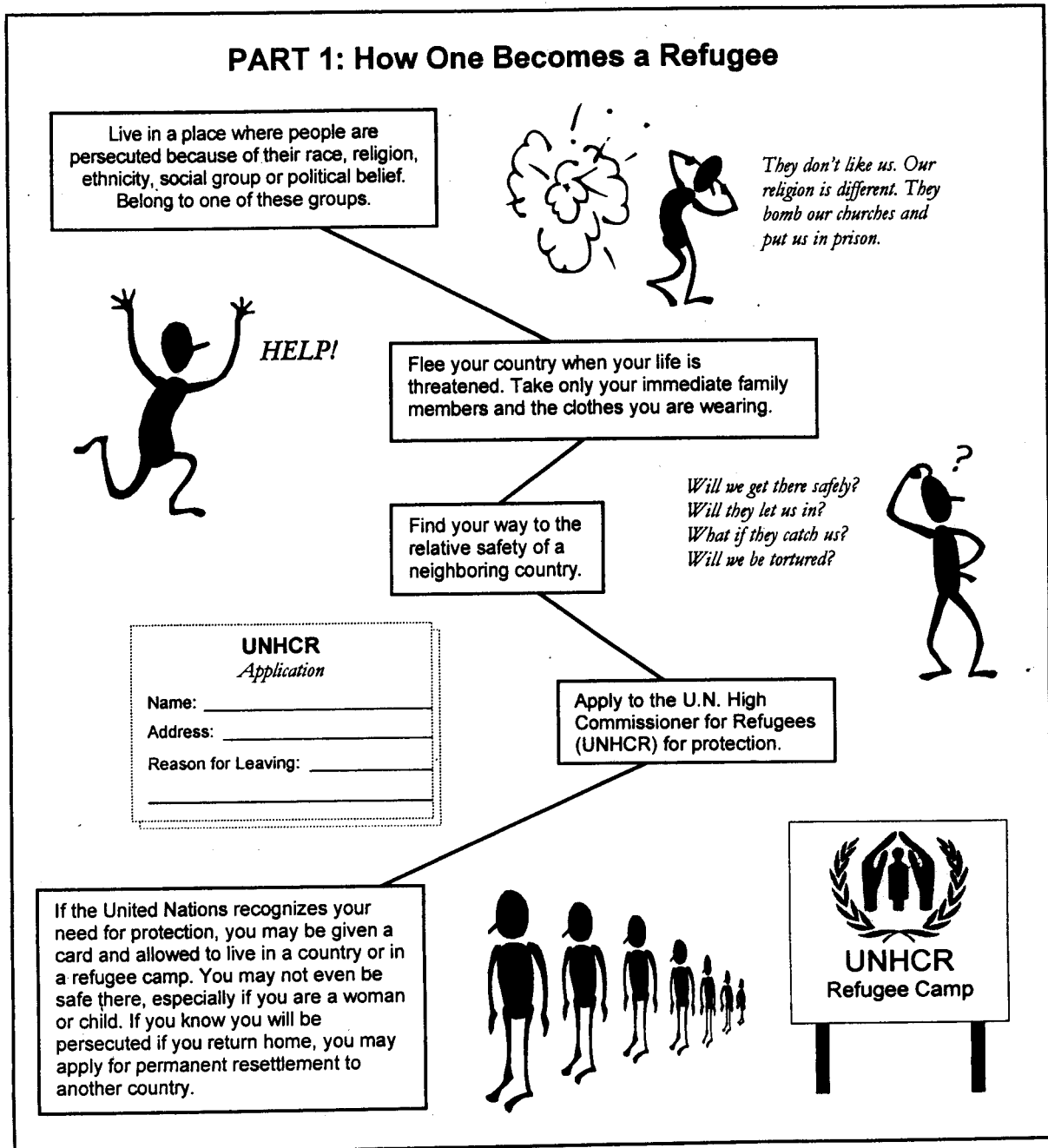


1:2 The Refugee's Road: From Home to the United States

On the following three pages we have reproduced a simple handout that illustrates how people become refugees and how refugees are admitted to the United States for resettlement. Many thanks to Maurine Huang of Sacramento Refugee Ministry for developing and sharing the concept of this handout.



PART 2a: How a Refugee Is Admitted to the United States

Ask UNHCR to refer you to the nearest Processing Post which can be a Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) or a United States Embassy.

*Where is the Embassy?
 Where is the JVA?
 Will they let me in?
 I'm scared!*



I've been here six months. There is nothing to do. They don't give us enough food and it tastes awful. We don't get medical care.



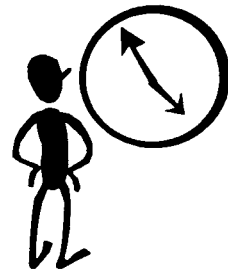
Assemble necessary documents

WAIT

Assemble more documents

WAIT AGAIN

This is really getting to be tedious. I have been here two years. My kids haven't been in school for all that time.



I'm so scared!!! What if they say NO? Where will we go? What will become of us?

Interview with the U.S. government official. Convince that person that you should have refugee status.

If the answer is no, you have other options:

- Return home.
- Stay where you are.
- Try another country.



We can't go home. They will kill us! And there is no life for us in this country.

PART 2b: How a Refugee Is Admitted to the United States

If the answer is yes, your application becomes a "case" and is assigned to a national voluntary agency such as LIRS.

The agency will find a sponsor. If you have relatives you become an *anchor case* and the agency and your relative will help you. If not, you are a *free case*, and a church, a civic group or a local affiliate will be your co-sponsor.

HOORAY!!



The co-sponsor promises to do certain things to help you once you come to the United States.

Again? I have spent half of my life waiting!

YOU WAIT

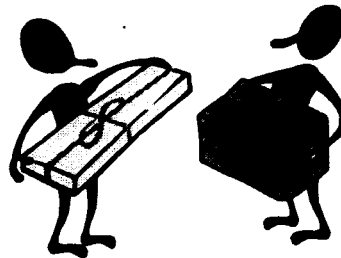


Finally, the time comes for you to travel to the United States.

Am I really here? I'm so excited!



Now let's see...who can help with housing? How about clothing, food...?



What a Co-Sponsor Does

- Meet new family at airport.
- Provide safe, sanitary, furnished housing.
- Provide food or food allowance.
- Provide any necessary clothing.
- Apply for Social Security cards within seven working days.
- Enroll children in public school within first 30 days.
- Help adults learn English.
- Help employable adults become job ready and find employment.
- Maintain contact with LIRS.

Many thanks to Maurine Huang of Sacramento Refugee Ministry for developing and sharing the concept of this chart.