



# Refugees and Asylum Seekers in East Africa: Legal Status Across South African Jurisdictions

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**Published:** 03 October 2004 | **Received:** 15 May 2004 | **Accepted:** 10 August 2004

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18805294](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18805294)

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## Abstract

The legal status of refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa is a complex issue with varying interpretations across different jurisdictions. A qualitative review of relevant legislation, case laws, and scholarly articles from various South African courts and legal authorities is employed to understand the differing approaches to refugee status determination. Findings indicate a significant variation in how asylum seekers are treated across different provinces, with some regions providing more comprehensive support than others. The study highlights inconsistencies in the application of refugee law within South Africa and underscores the need for harmonization efforts among jurisdictions to ensure uniformity in legal protections. Policy recommendations include advocating for national legislation that aligns regional approaches, promoting inter-jurisdictional cooperation on refugee issues, and enhancing public awareness campaigns about available rights.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, jurisprudence, sovereignty, human rights, reconciliation, migration, legitimacy*

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