

Symposium | Imigrant, Refugee : [Symposium 97] Support to refugees. From clinical support to systematic consideration.

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[Symposium 97] Support to refugees. From clinical support to systematic consideration.

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[SY-97-03] Support of North Korean Refugees in Korea : Cultural and Psychiatric Aspect

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After the Korean War, Korea was divided into North Korea and South Korea. In the 1990s, North Korea experienced a severe famine, prompting some people to flee the country. While North Korean refugees have resettled in various countries, many have settled in South Korea. These refugees often suffer from psychiatric conditions such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and they also face challenges adapting to life in South Korea.

North Korean refugees experience similar mental health and adaptation difficulties as other refugee populations. However, despite sharing a common language and cultural background with South Koreans, these similarities can sometimes act as unexpected barriers to successful integration. The mental health of North Korean refugees is also influenced by the political relationship between North and South Korea. Although the South Korean government and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide support to North Korean refugees, many still require ongoing psychological care. A systemic approach that considers both psychiatric and cultural aspects is necessary to effectively support North Korean refugees in South Korea.