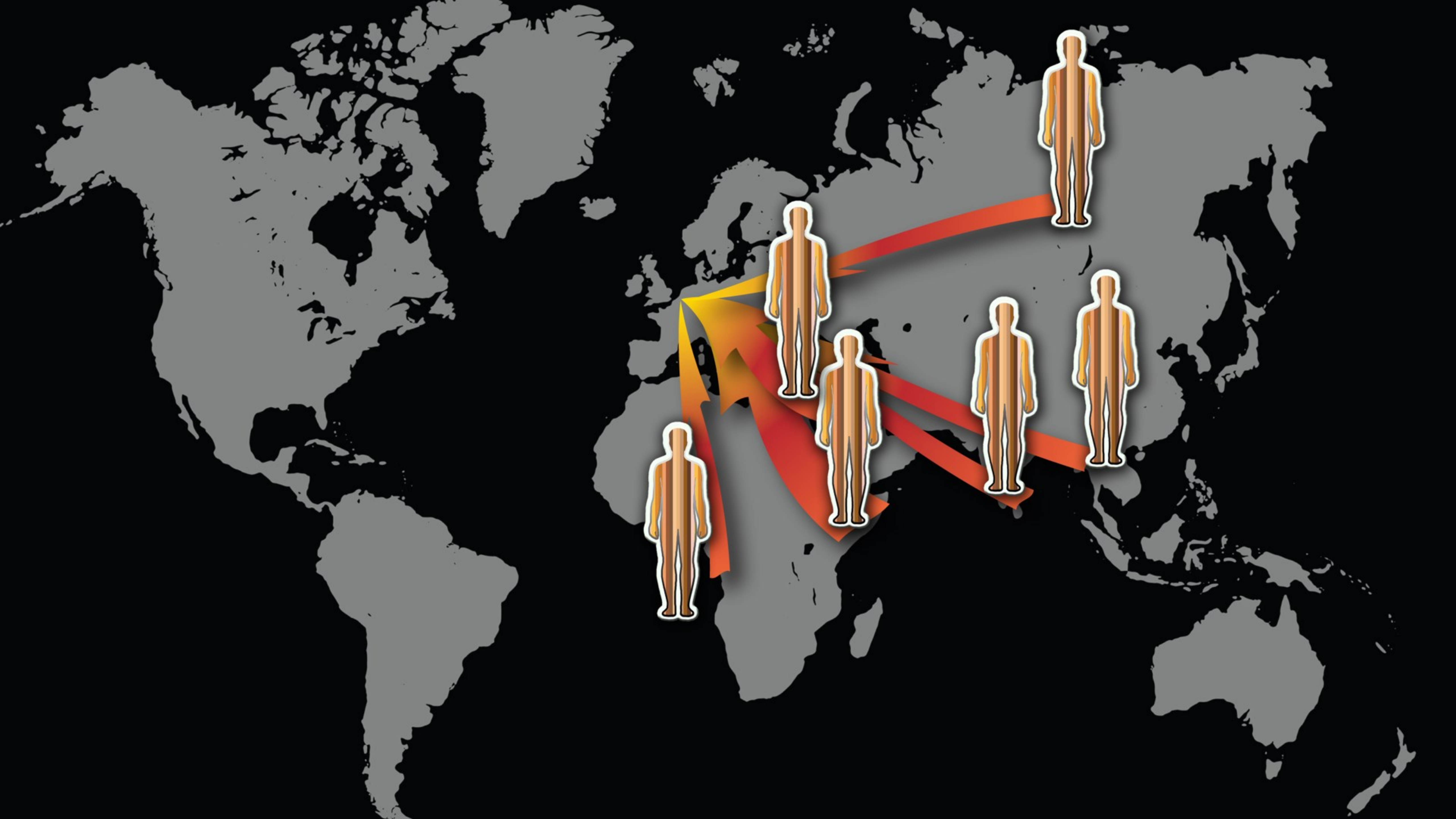




‘Reimagining integration’



What happens on the way to become a refugee?



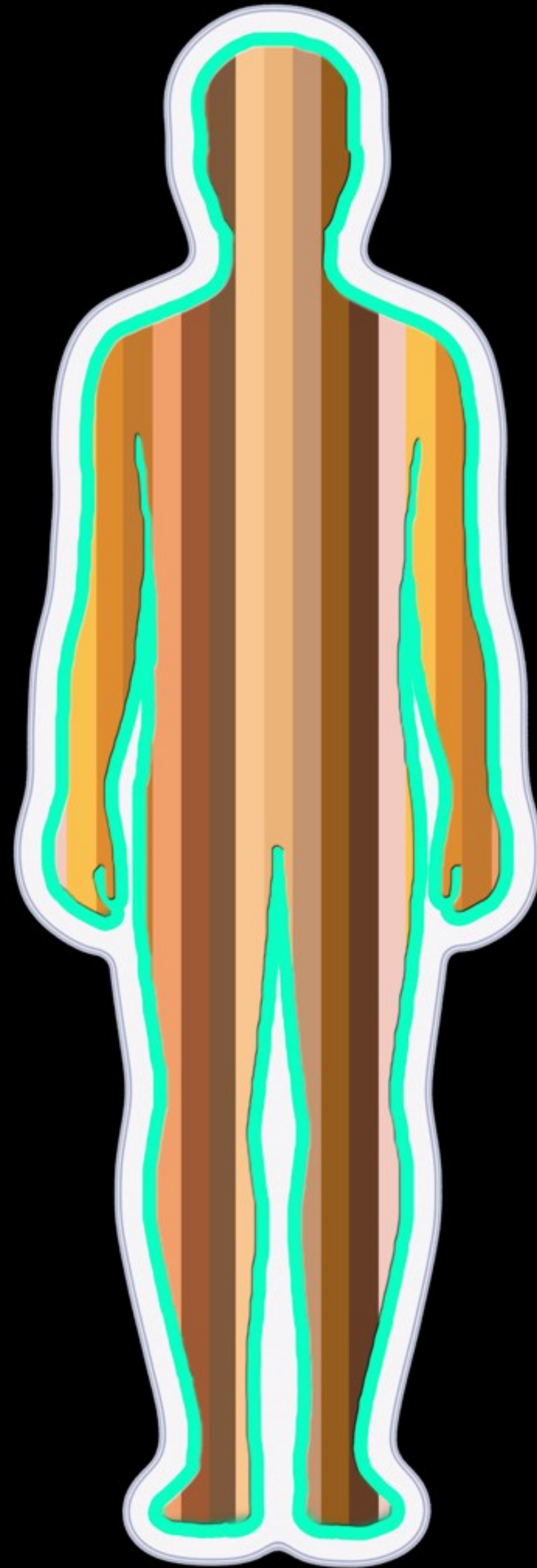
Every refugee had a life before

A life before making the extreme difficult decision to flee

**During travel and procedures becoming a refugee life changes
drastically**

**The process of leaving till acquiring a status of refugee
extends from several months to years**

We have chosen for one single sexless human image to illustrate the individual transformation every refugee is dealing with

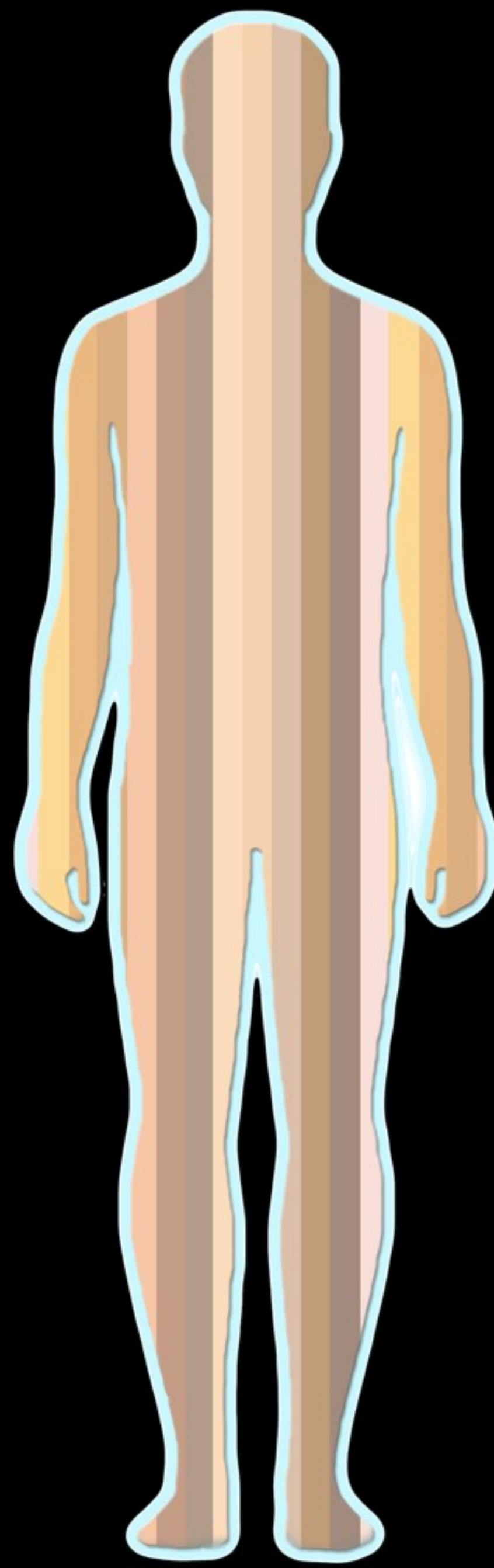
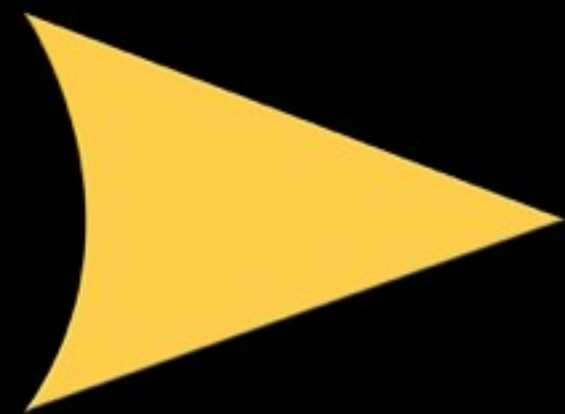
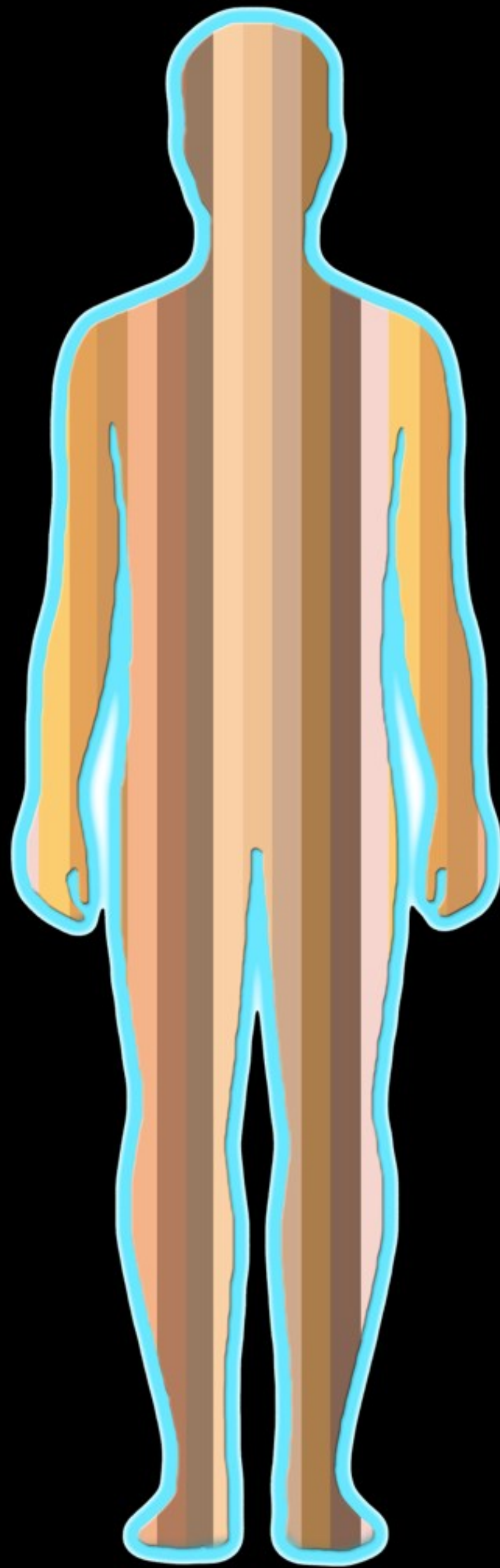


In order to cover all ethnic origins
we gave our human being an all
skin-tones-striped bodysuit

We will take you on a journey

A journey of a human being

**We want you to become aware of what happens
on the way to become a refugee**



Before fleeing and seeking asylum our human being used to be:



Family, mother, father, children, relatives
Economically stable & independent
Hopeful & creative in life
Skilled in work or studying
Innovative & ambitious
Social status
Cautious and concerned
Aware of dangerous developments
Caring for loved ones
Dedicated
Desperate for a future
Willing to take great risks at great costs
Able & capable to flee

doctor, surgeon, lawyer, security,
politician, nurse, architect, builder,
baker, hairdresser, teacher, student,
mechanic, ICT, writer, journalist,
fisherman, farmer, business owner,
factory worker, therapist, specialist,
cook, musician, performer, beautician,
translator, director, customer service,
cleaner, health-carer, driver, accountant,
human resources, caretaker, manager,
professor, filmmaker, dancer, designer,
electrician, florist, photographer, nursery,
pilot, gardener, soldier, plumber

**A human with full
identity elements:**

Social status

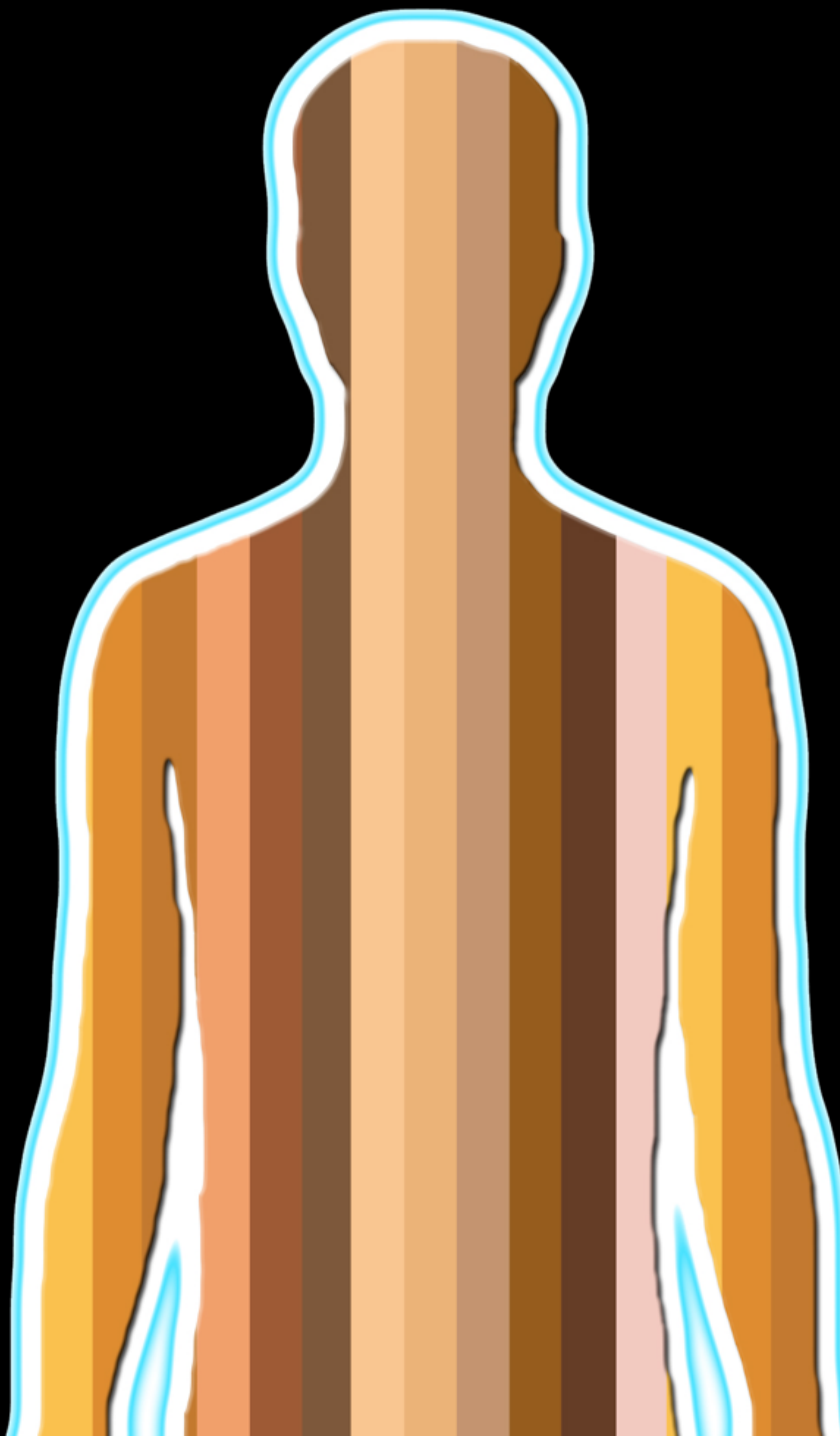
Economic status

Marital status

Ethnic status

Religious or not

Sexual orientation



**A human with
experiences:**

War

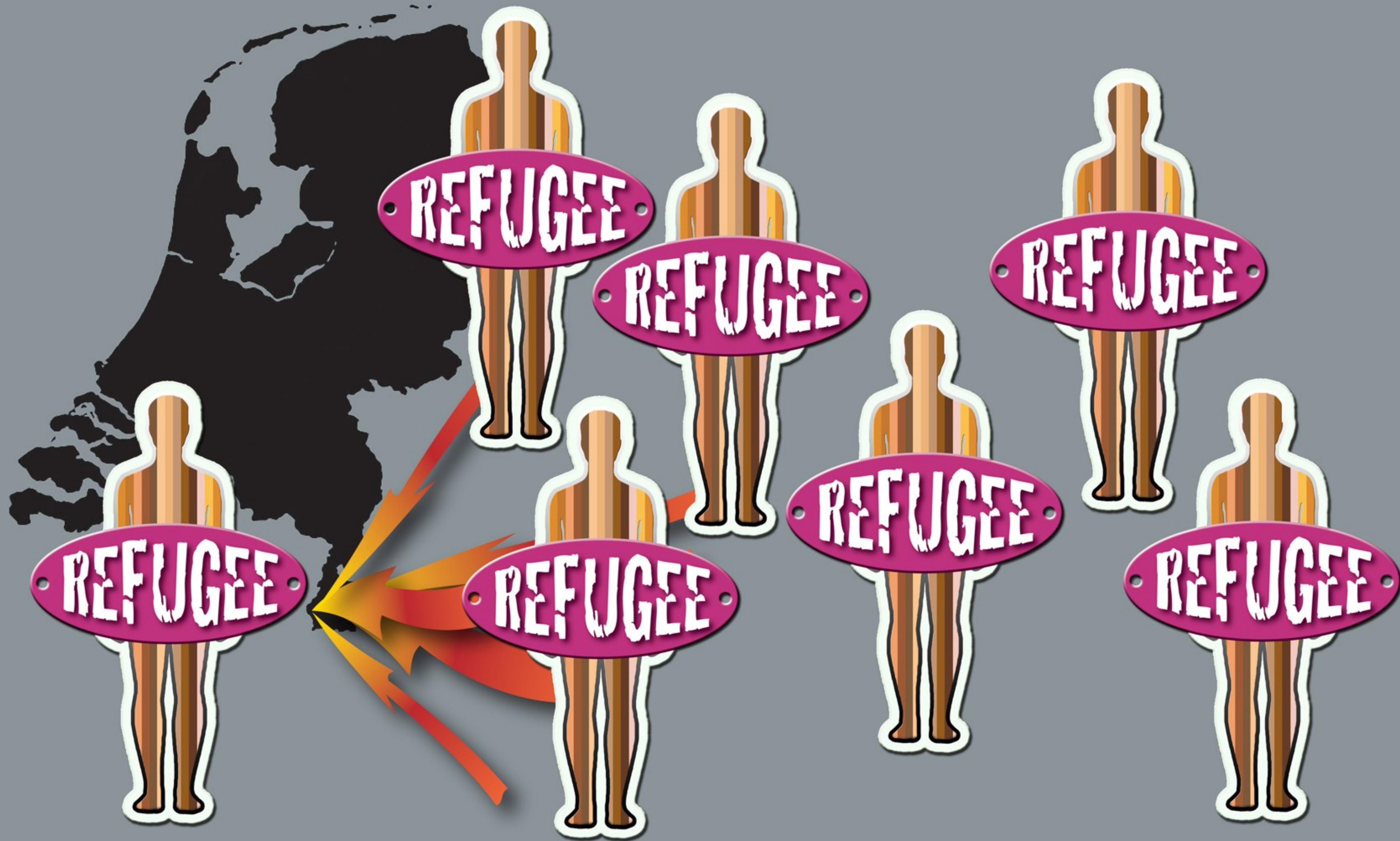
Discrimination

Prosecution

Loss of life loved ones

Loss of a realistic future

Loss of faith



This is my story:

In **1998** I finished my secondary school education, with the ambition to be a doctor who relieves sufferings of people

In **2007** I received my medical degree in Syria
I worked as physician in training for 4 years

In **2011** my medical specialization – internal medicine – was fulfilled. I worked as a specialist in intensive care units of hospitals

The war started... but I **refused** to leave

In **2013** I was **forced** to leave under threats

In 2013 I tried to work in **Jordan**... I was not recognized

I left to **Yemen**... there I was **recognized**... I was stable, working, with a family, and a future...

In **2015** I left Yemen because of the war, I entered **Saudi Arabia**, hoping to be able to work...
Again, I was not recognized

I took a scholarship to study global health in **the Netherlands**, it was my only way out of a warzone



Sculpture of Bruno Catalano

In 2016, I finished a MSc global health... I tried to find work...
I was not recognized

I applied for refugee status because I cannot go back to Syria...

With a refugee status... a whole new life began... not only my
education was not recognized, **my whole identity was not recognized**

I have to learn a new language, a new culture, new education, new
medical training...etc...

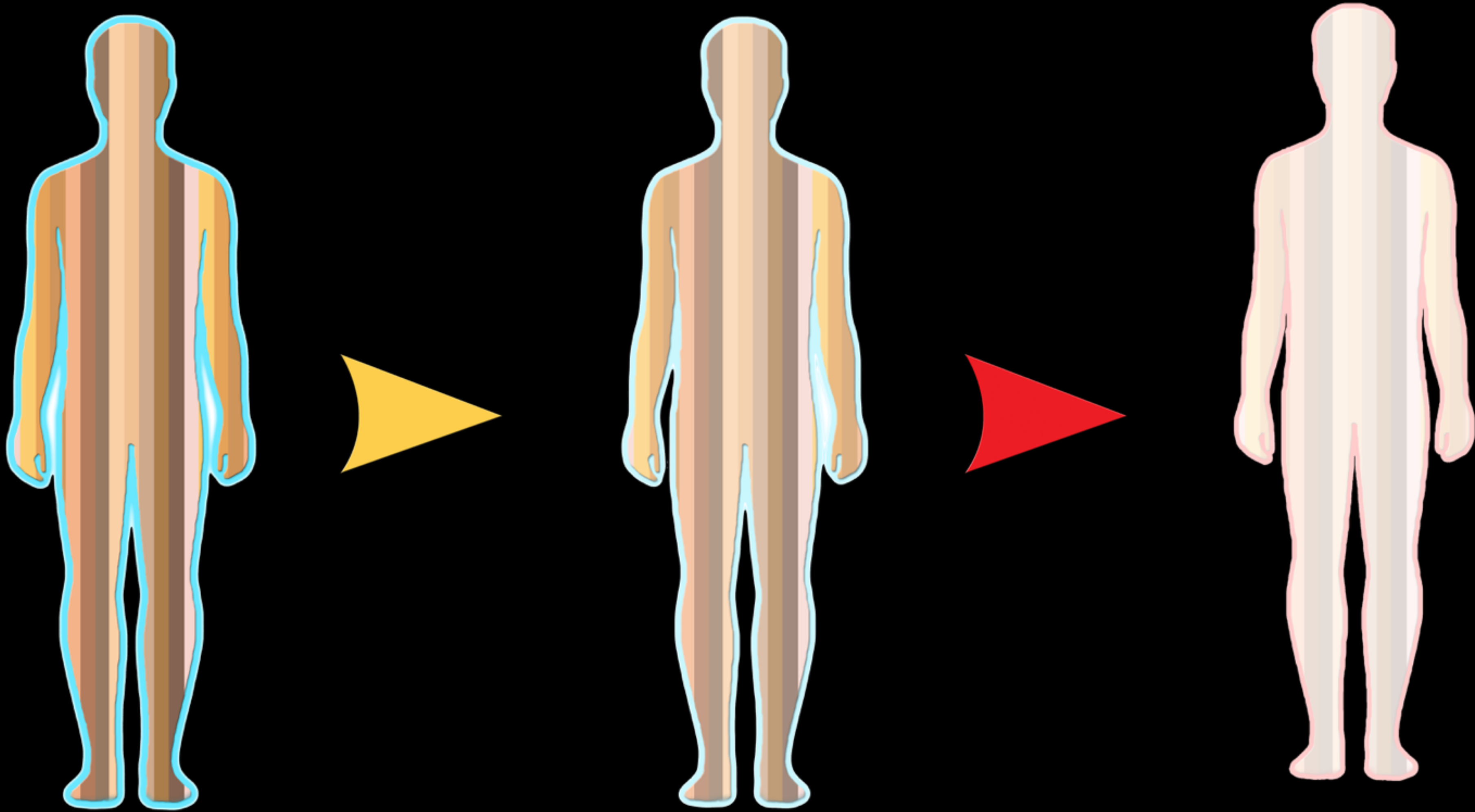
Is there something wrong with me?

Or is there something wrong with governance systems?



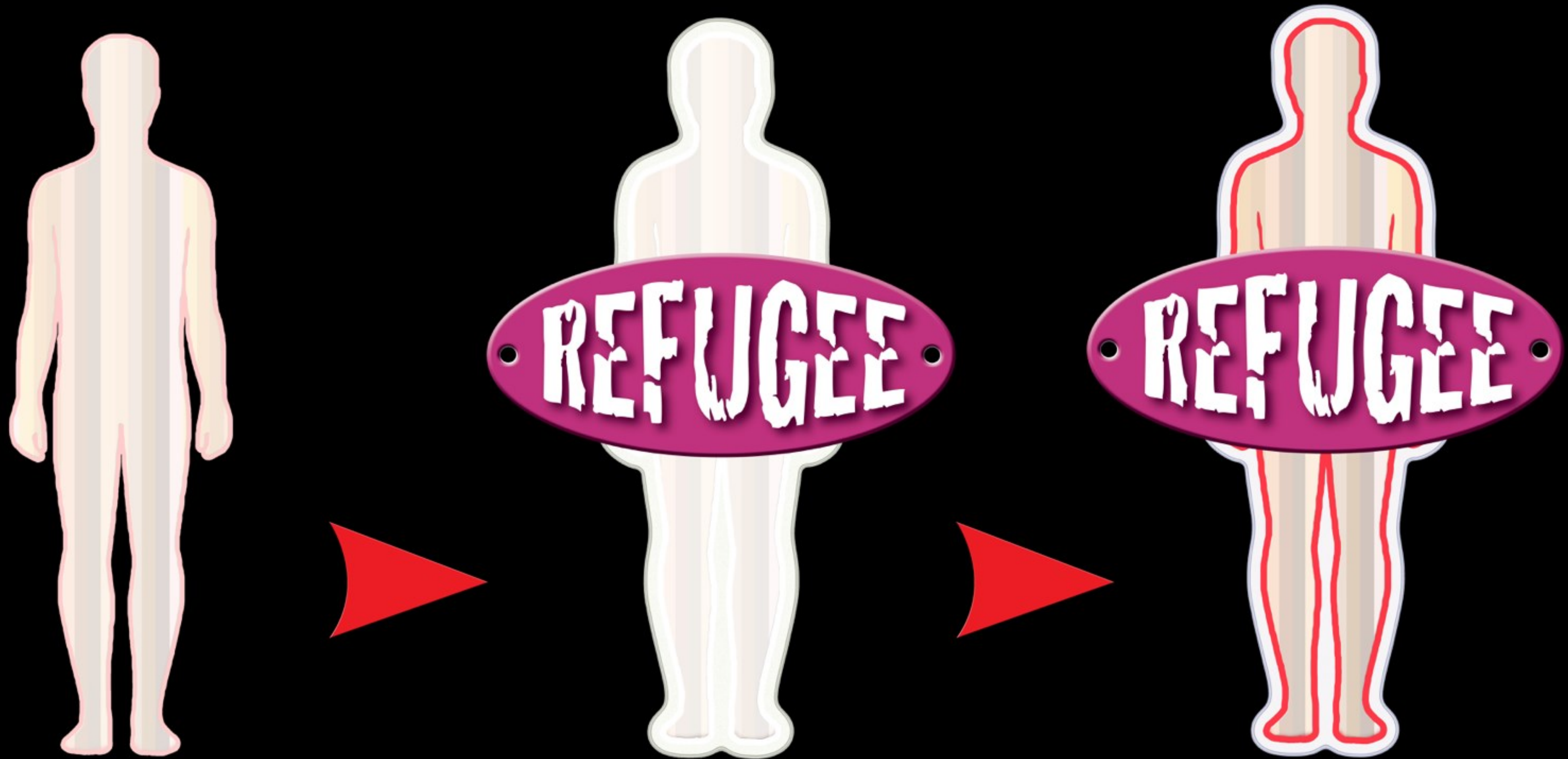
Becoming a legal refugee can be a demoralizing process

The fading process



Before arrival the majority of refugees suffered various traumatic experiences

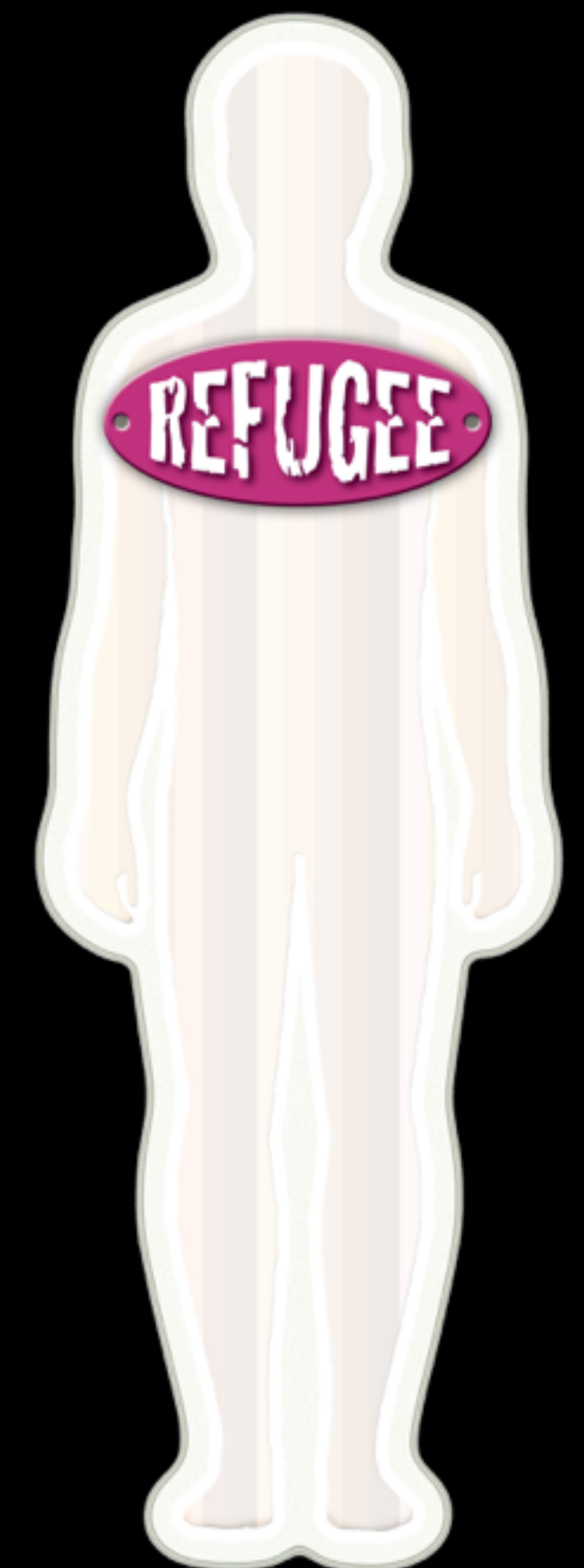
The tagging process



Being seen as just another refugee is very frustrating

A frustrated refugee will fail during integration

1. Lack of **Perspective**
2. Lack of **Hope**
3. **Frustration**
4. Lack of **Individual Evaluation**
5. Lack of **Recognition**
6. Narrow **Possibilities**
7. Loss of **Cultural Identity**
8. Lack of **healthcare**
9. **Untreated** psychological trauma



What does failed integration mean?

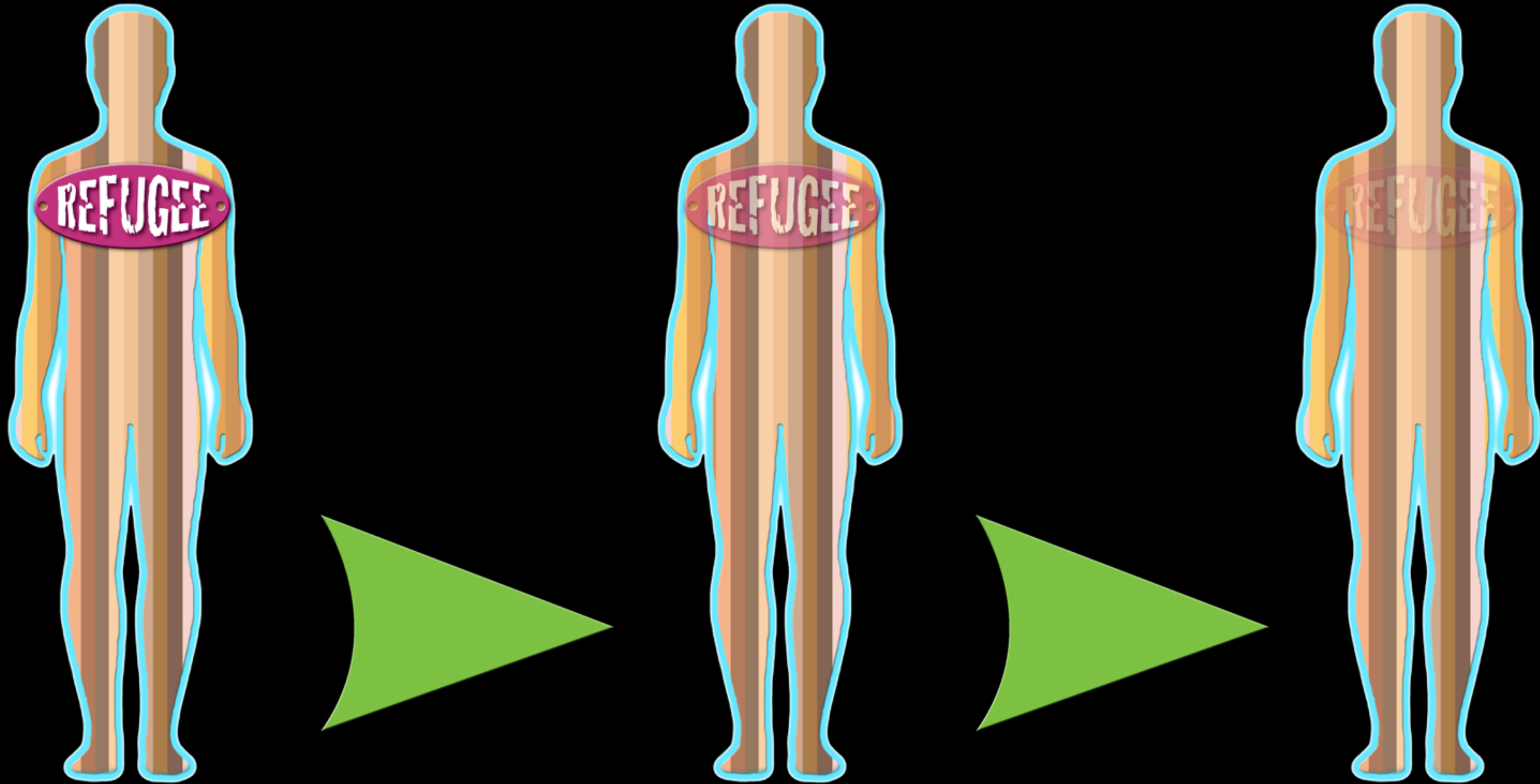
2/3 of the refugees are failing the integration exams

The financial consequences are enormous

All parties and participants are at loss:

1. Refugees
2. Government
3. Market
4. Civil Society

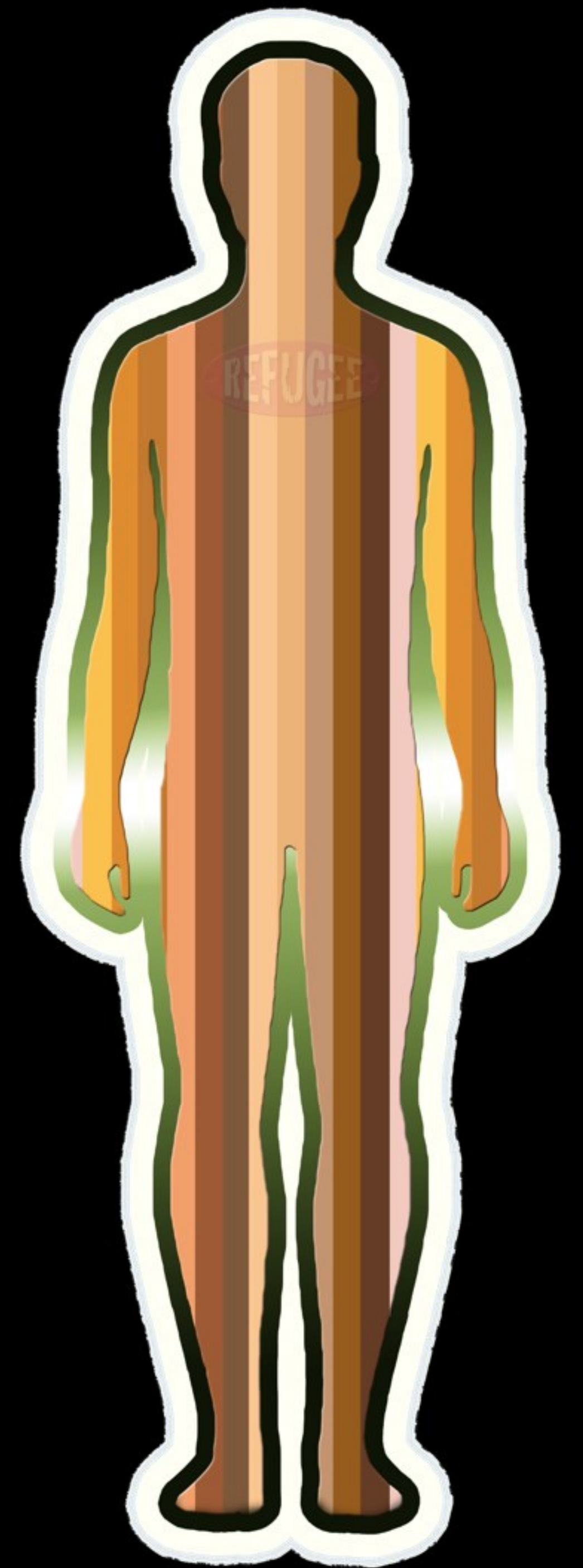
What would be a perfect integration?



The solution must be found in changing the standardized procedures to a more personalized manner of dealing with newcomers

KEY is recognition of individual values of the human being!

Reimagining Integration!



Thank you!

Mohannad Altabban & Esther van de Beek, Draagvlak Maastricht 2017



Reimagining integration