



I AM HERE.

I stand before you as me.
I simply am me.

The travels of my past
are the places i have been
reflected by the experiences of those times.

The fortunes and misfortunes of my life,
the stories i have heard and known,
as well as those that I tell today.

My abilities and or my disabilities, these do not become a prefix
to my name,
nor do they replace my name.

I may have left home to travel here as a migrant or
I may have been a refugee as part of my journey.
These too are things of my past.

Just as a passenger does not retain the name 'passenger' once
they alight from their vehicle,
I choose not to retain the name 'refugee'
once I reach my welcome destination.

I AM HERE.

I stand before you as me.
Defined by who I am now,
not by the road I took or the vehicle that got me here.

It is true I have a refugee background.
I welcome and accept this context.
But I am not a refugee once I am accepted legally into Australia.

I am a person who has a refugee background
who just prefers to be as I am.