**A CALL TO ACTION – REFUGEE WEEK**

The Refugee Week website has some ‘[Simple Acts’](https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/), quick and easy ideas to help get communities started to stand with refugees. Additionally there are three other key ways below:

* Start by widening your **knowledge and seeking out information** on the refugee experience:
* Learn more about the facts and terminology around refugees and asylum seekers. There are some helpful [explainer videos from the UNHCR](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9g_yp_6cf6rO6P9WuoS1ArPG1qkDVkXb) and you can read more about the current displacement trends in the [UNHCR’s publicly shared data](https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/#:~:text=While%20a%20full%20picture%20is,103%20million%20at%20mid%2D2022.).
* Learn about the systems which asylum seekers and refugees must navigate. One good place to start understanding the asylum system is the [‘Right to Remain’ website](https://righttoremain.org.uk/).
* Learn about the refugee and asylum seeker experience from stories that people have shared. The [We Are Voices podcast: Series 2](https://the-kind-place.captivate.fm/) from the [Red Cross VOICES Network](https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-support-refugees/voices-network) could be a good place to start.
* Widen your **circle of compassion, engage** with refugees and asylum seekers.
* Are there existing ways your church or community serves refugees and asylum seekers? How could you support these?
* You may want to join [The Salvation Army UKI Refugee Response Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SARefugeeResponse) and speak to others involved in this field of mission.
* How could you influence the national conversation and response to refugees and asylum seekers to make it more compassionate? How can you safely and wisely respond to un-compassionate voices? Could you join [a national campaign such as #LiftTheBan](https://lifttheban.co.uk/), to which The Salvation Army has subscribed?
* Widen your **prayer life, pray** for those impacted globally.
* Pray for those regions around the world where people have been displaced from and to. You may wish to have a world map or globe available for people to engage with. You could write on it, place stickers or candles, or push pins into the locations you are praying about.

NOTE: When engaging with refugees and asylum seekers, please DO NOT ask them to share the details of their story. This could retraumatise them and may result in secondary trauma for you. They may choose to share some of their story with you, on their terms, when you have a relationship with them. If so, please seek help if anything you hear causes you distress.

**Resources for Children (Website)**

* [Children and young people’s packs](https://refugeeweek.org.uk/get-involved/children-and-young-people/) are available from the Refugee Week website.
* [Educational teaching resources for children](https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/build-better-futures/education/teaching-about-refugees) (6-18) about refugees from the UNHCR, including videos.
* [Church of England: Faith at Home](https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/collective-worship-primary-schools-refugees-s3e3) collective worship video helping children understand what a refugee is and think about how it may feel to be a refugee.