



Ideas for Children and Young People

Here are some examples and ideas of ways you can get involved in Refugee Week:

- **Welcoming new class members** – Do you remember how scary it was on your first day of school? For all new students, whether refugees or not, the first days in a new school can be difficult. Think about what you can do to make new students feel more welcome. **What would have made your first week in school easier?**
- **Assemblies** – You could organise an assembly on the theme of Refugee Week.
- **Art projects** – You could create a display of artwork, combined with information about refugees in a prominent place in the school; you could invite a local refugee artist to come into school.
- **Competitions** – You could decide what issues you think are important and organise a competition around them. This could be to design a T-shirt or a poster, write a poem or even write and perform a play.
- **Performing arts** – You could ask your teacher or youth worker to help you to:
 - have a world music day; learn songs or dance from different countries
 - invite local refugee musicians to perform at the school or run a workshop with students
 - hold a poetry reading
 - show films about refugee stories or issues, or make your own;
 - contact local theatre companies to see if they can work with the school during Refugee Week
 - use role-play activities from this pack as a basis for developing a short drama.
- **Speakers** – contact a local refugee community organisation and invite a speaker in to talk to your class. Hearing personal stories at first hand can be incredibly powerful.
- **Food fair** – try food from different countries: invite parents, both refugee and non-refugee to come into the school and cook or bring different kinds of food typical of their home country; have a 'masterchef' competition, in which people must cook something which has come from another country.

- **Fashion** – hold a fashion show featuring clothes from different cultures (including Britain).
- **Balloons for peace** – one of the major reasons people are forced to leave their homes is conflict. You could write a message or prayer for peace. These could then be attached to helium balloons and launched all together during Refugee Week. Put the school or youth group address on the messages; you may get some responses, which will show you how far the balloons travelled! *(This idea was originally used at George Dixon Junior and Infant School in Birmingham to celebrate Martin Luther King Day.)*
- **Sport** – learn a sport played in another country and see what is different and what is similar between sports from around the world
- hold a mini World Cup football tournament, with all the different nationalities at your school represented.