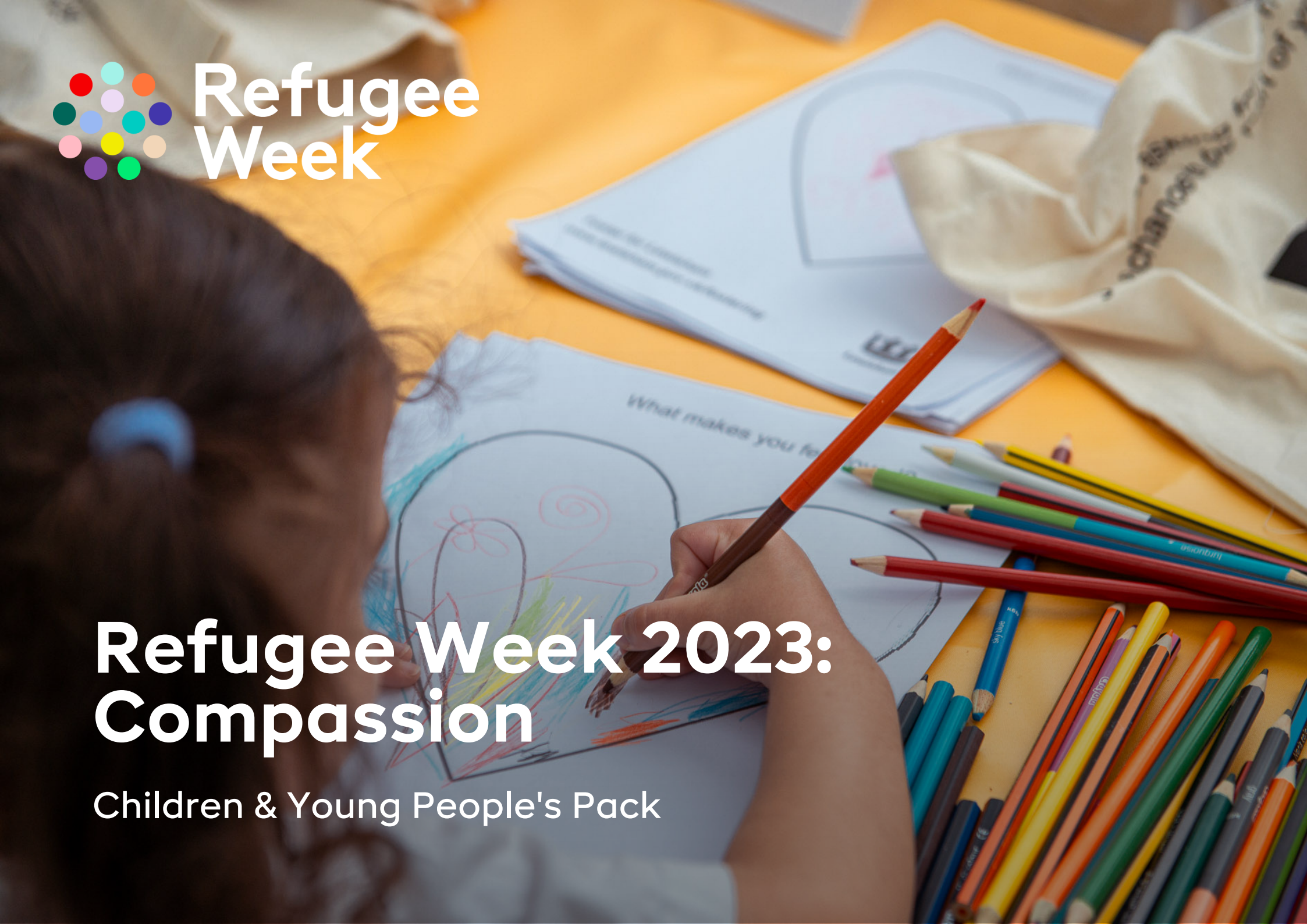




Refugee
Week

Refugee Week 2023: Compassion

Children & Young People's Pack



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What is Refugee Week?

19th-25th June 2023

Refugee Week is an annual festival that celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of people seeking sanctuary. It's been running in the UK since 1998 and is always the week of World Refugee Day (20 June).

This year is a big one as it's our 25th Anniversary. Our theme is compassion and we invite everyone to celebrate what compassion looks like in action.

Through a programme of arts & culture, sports and educational activities alongside exciting media and creative campaigns, Refugee Week brings people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels, as well as foster a deeper understanding of why people are displaced, and the challenges people face when seeking sanctuary.

Who can take part?

It's an umbrella festival which means anyone can take part no matter where they are. Last year, an estimated 1.6 million people took part in Refugee Week, with over 1000 events all across the UK (including Scotland, Wales and Ireland) as well as 5 new international festivals (Berlin, Greece, Hong Kong, Malta, Taiwan), joining the long standing Refugee Week Australia.

Who is it for?

Refugee Week is for everyone. Anyone can get involved whether you have 5 minutes or 5 months to prepare something. In the past, we've had all sorts of individuals, groups and organisations take part such as: sports clubs, faith groups, schools, businesses, arts organisations, community groups and people at home. Activities have included performances, artistic commissions, creative workshops, school activities, community get togethers, football tournaments, faith events, cooking classes, meals, walks, talks and podcasts – just to name a few!



About this year's theme:

Compassion

For Refugee Week's 25th anniversary we invite you to celebrate what compassion looks like in action. Together we can create a shared understanding of compassion to ensure we are extending it widely to all.

“Our task must be to free ourselves – by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”- Albert Einstein

Compassion

Why Compassion?

The last few years have been challenging for all of us. We are still adjusting to new realities post-lockdown as well as responding to new crises. In the UK, dangerous anti-migration government rhetoric continues, along with inhumane conditions for asylum seekers.

But, none of these things happen in isolation. We know how interconnected our world is: how something seemingly “far away” impacts everyone. All of this makes us even more aware of the need to widen our circles of compassion.

Within our own experiences are all the tools we need to be compassionate, not just to ourselves and those in our immediate circle but to all our human neighbours and our one shared home, planet earth.



Call to Action!

We invite you to take part in Refugee Week 2023 and show us how arts and culture can help widen our circles of compassion.

We cannot wait to see all of your creative responses!

Refugee Week 2023 is 19–25 June, join us!



Getting Started

Every year hundreds of schools across UK take part in Refugee Week. Teachers and educators help children and young people develop a greater understanding of refugee experiences that they carry into their adult lives.

There are lots of ways schools and educators can take part, from holding assemblies and dedicated lessons to create activities and launching longer term projects.

This pack has a range of activity ideas and resources for children of all ages that can be explored at school, home or community settings. There is also a range of family-friendly events taking place around the country. Find out what's near you!



Here are 3 key ways to get involved in Refugee Week:

1

On your doorstep

The Refugee Week network is really widespread so find out what's happening locally. Support by getting involved or attending local events!

2

Be inspired by Simple Acts

The Simple Acts campaign is about inspiring people to take small actions towards positive change. Simple Acts consists of a series of actions that anyone can do to help us show solidarity with refugees, learn more about refugee experiences and make new connections in our communities.

3

Be part of a Day of Welcome

On Friday 16th June Join over 200 schools already involved in A Day of Welcome, an initiative by Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary that invites schools everywhere to help build a culture of welcome during Refugee Week. Sign up via the Day of Welcome website to receive resources and suggested activities for primary and secondary schools, including a teacher's guide. [Find out more.](#)



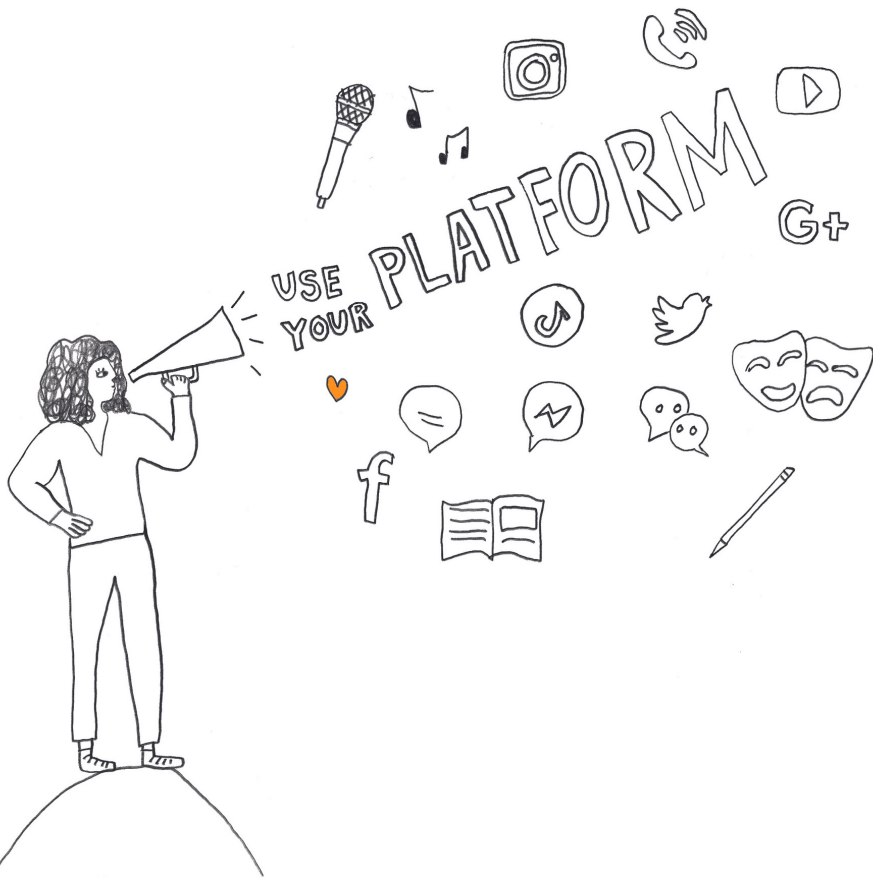
Simple Acts

Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities.

We invite you to do a simple act yourself or build your own Refugee Week event or activity around a Simple Act. By taking part you'll be part of a movement of people everywhere taking small steps to create a big change.

Share with us on social media by using #SimpleActs #CompassionIntoAction #RefugeeWeek

To discover all 10 Simple Acts visit:
www.refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts

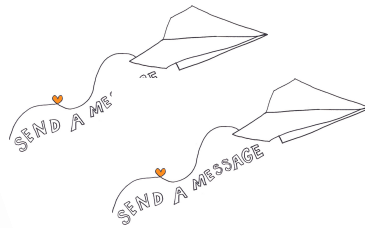
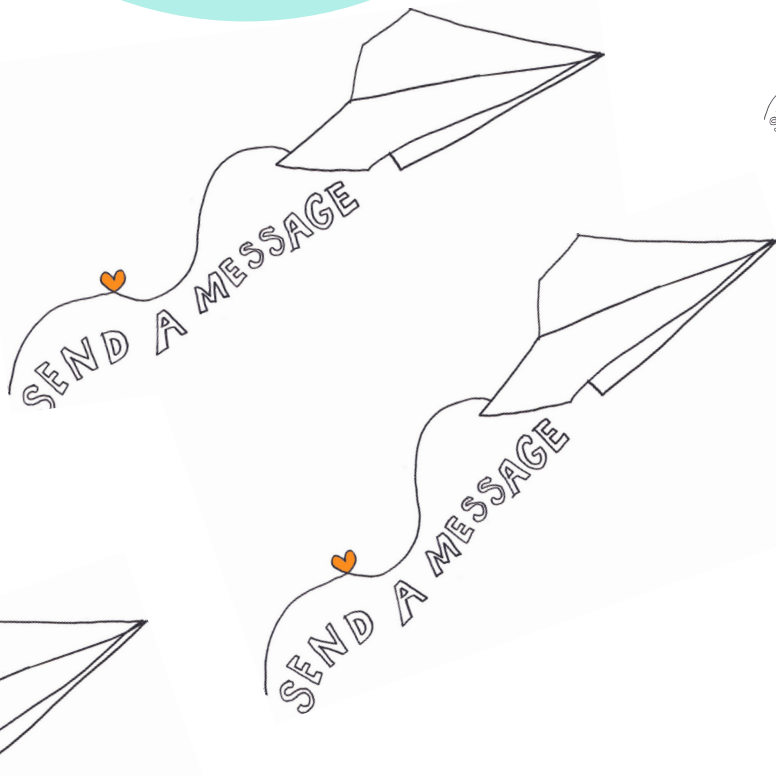




Activity ideas inspired by Simple Acts:

Simple acts can be a starting point to develop activities and lesson plans to engage children & young people with Refugee Week and this year's theme of Compassion.

Here are some ideas to help get you started. We can't wait to see what you do! To view all 10 Simple Acts, visit refugeeweek.org.uk



Send a Message:



Idea 1: In a group write a banner welcoming refugees & put it on display

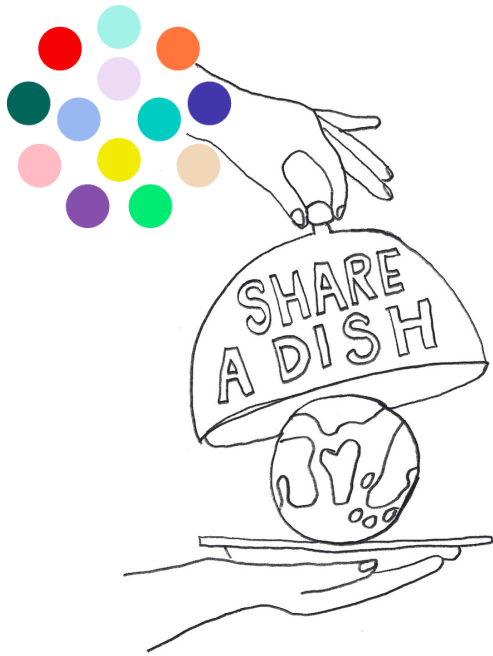
Idea 2: Write a letter to a refugee who has recently arrived in the UK. What would you want to tell them to make them feel welcome?

Idea 3: Write a message to your imagined descendants or someone in the future. What are your hopes for the world they are living in? What might we do today to bring it about?

Idea 4: Write a short story. Everyone has a story of migration. Whether directly or indirectly. Whether that's from across land or across oceans. We invite you to wonder and then write, where does your story begin?

[This idea is inspired by @thehumanitariannetwork @migueelbermudez]

Idea 5: Write a letter as a class to your local MP or local newspaper telling them why and how people seeking safety should be treated with compassion.



Share a dish:



Idea: Make a cookbook with all your classmates using everyone's favourite recipes from home and your family.

Are there any similarities? Differences? How many different heritages are part of your cookbook?

Want to take it one step further?: Research the origins of each of the dishes and ingredients. Were you surprised by anything?



Use Your Platform:



Idea: Spend some time thinking about what your platform is and what are your spheres of influence? (hint: think about this as an individual, as a class, as a school etc).

Then map these (this could be anything from: assemblies, notice boards, family dinners, social media etc.)

Then, brainstorm ideas for all the different platforms you have access to and imagine how you could celebrate Refugee Week and this year's theme of compassion on each one e.g. a themed assembly, newsletter, a fundraising event, a dance, a music event, community event or even decorate your class, school or local area with orange hearts.



Have a Chat!

Refugee Week is proud partners of NaTakallam who run "Refugee Voices"

"Refugee Voices" is an interactive experience aimed at changing the narrative around refugees, inspiring workforces with stories of resilience & creating team bonding

You can choose a topic and NaTakallam will connect you with one of their speakers to visit you either virtually or in a physical event space!

1. Choose the topic(s) and NaTakallam will connect you with one or more speakers.

- Personal Stories
- Technology & humanitarianism
- What's behind the headlines
- A gender lens on displacement
- Ten words to get to know someone
- How arts and culture transcend borders

Or, feature a panel moderated by our founder, Aline Sara

2. Customizable setting for your space

A) NaTakallam present virtually, your team is in a physical event space

B) Full Remote (your team attend remotely, and RV speaker)

3. Start a conversation!

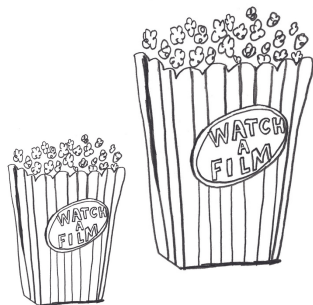
Please note: there may be a fee associated with booking a speaker and pricing depends on audience and number of speakers. Each session contributes directly to refugee livelihoods.

For more information or to register interest please follow this link:

https://shortened-link.com/1SJsL_287bef93

NaTakallam ("we speak" in Arabic) is a social enterprise that offers high-quality, curated language services delivered by refugees & their host communities through the digital economy. To date, refugee tutors & translators have self-generated over \$1.5 million through NaTakallam and connected with 12,000+ learners. Catch a glimpse of NaTakallam in action in [this video](#) by the UNHCR.

Go further with [their language services for organizations.](#)



Watch a film

Here are some recommendations for what to watch!
Got any more? Get in touch.

Matar, by Hassan Akkad

25 mins, age 11+. Additional 20 mins 'Making of...'

Based on the lived experience of co-writer Ayman Alhussein, this film follows the story of an asylum seeker in England who is forced to live on the fringes of society and rely on his bike to survive. [Watch film.](#)

[Here](#), you'll find more resources such as the 'the First Drop Of Rain: Making Matar', as well as a photographic series called 'Limbo' by Aida Silvestri.

If you'd like to screen Matar at your school or within your organisation, please fill in the form [here](#).

Refugees film list, IntoFilm

Features, 5+, 11+, 14+

Wide-ranging selection of 18 feature-length films for different ages.

[Browse films.](#)

More films!

Curated by Refugee Week:

[More short films for young people.](#)

Home, by Aardman Studio

This short film collaboration between Save the Children and Aardman Animation (the creators of Wallace and Gromit) marks one year since the war began in Ukraine and explores the challenges experienced by young refugees faced with displacement. This colourful animation, inspired by real life experiences of the young people Save the Children have worked with, encourages discussions around migration and isolation in a gentle and accessible way for young age groups. [View film.](#)

Help them Feel at Home, Kazzum

3 mins, age 5+

Animated poem for younger learners with creative activities by Kazzum Arts, with learning resource.

[View film](#) + learning resource.

Seeking Refuge, BBC

3-5 mins, age 7-14, discretion recommended

Five animated shorts about young people who have sought refuge in the UK, told by the children themselves, with teachers notes.

[Browse films.](#)

Read a Book

Here are some recommendations for what to read:!

A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson

Azzi in Between by Sarah Garland

My Name is Not Refugee by Kate Milner

The Journey by Francesca Sanna

The Journey Home by Frank Preston-Gannon

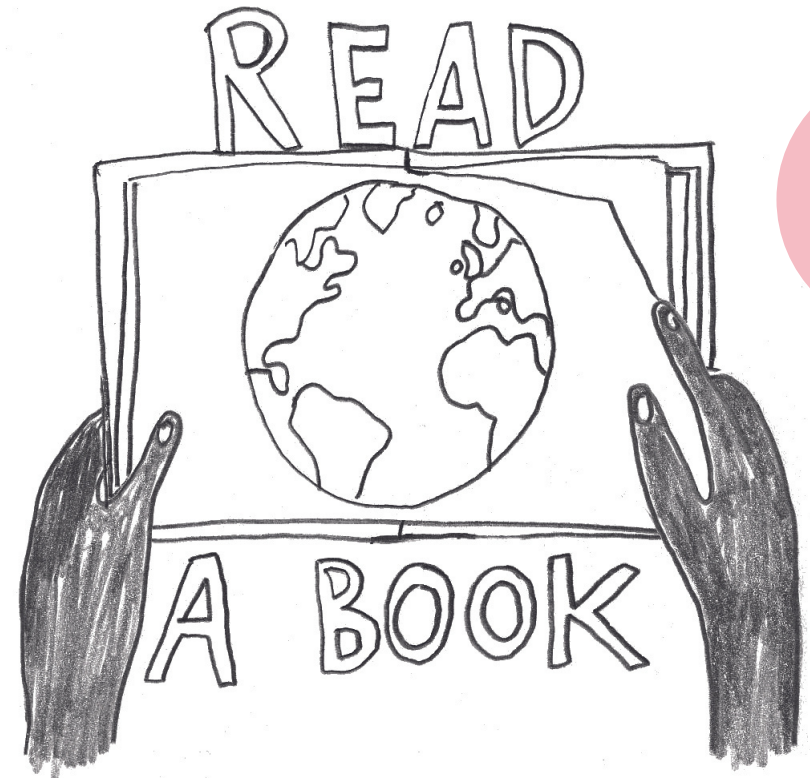
The Place Where I Belong

The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad

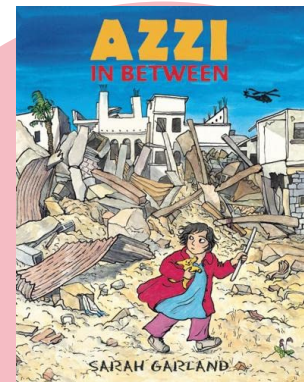
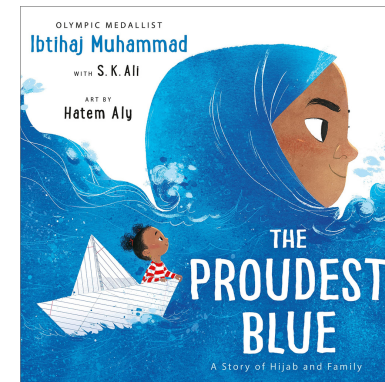
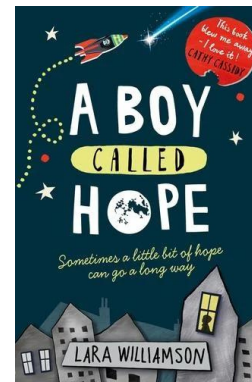
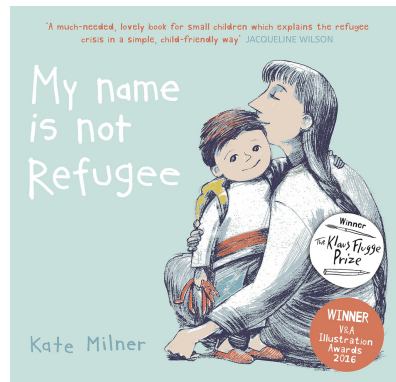
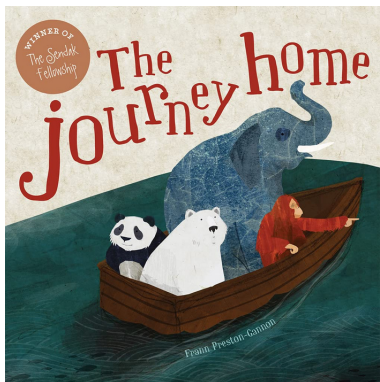
The Waiting Place by Dina Nayeri

The Queendom of Colours by Seenaryo

When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed



Got any more recommendations? Get in touch.



Free Materials & Shop

This year's poster by Murugiah is inspired by the theme of 'Compassion'. It is available for you to use to promote your Refugee Week event and raise awareness of the festival.

Our social media toolkit has ready-made posts as well as lots of free-to-use Refugee Week branded graphics, illustrations and of course, Murugiah's gorgeous poster [here](#).

What's available?

- Order free 'Compassion' posters and postcards to display in your local area from our [online shop](#)
- Buy Refugee Week t-shirts and other merchandise from the [online shop](#)
- Download Murugiah's artwork to use in your Refugee Week materials from our [social media toolkit](#)
- Download the Refugee Week logo, graphic templates and stickers to use in your publicity from our [social media toolkit](#)



From Our Friends

There's so many fantastic resources about having better conversations about migration and displacement as well as ways to grow our compassion. Here are a few:

British Red Cross

For conversations around refugees and migration BRC have [a series of teaching resources](#), as well as a facilitated workshop called '[Empathy plus migration](#)'.

For the theme of 'Compassion', they have a series of wellbeing and kindness resources for both adults and youth, including new: [Self-kindness toolkits](#) or [Kindness packs](#).

National Education Union

The National Education Union (NEU) has resources to support schools to [develop an anti-racist approach](#) and [welcome refugee children all year round](#).

[Welcoming Refugee Children to Your School](#): Information about ways in which you can create a refugee-friendly school, make an accessible curriculum and think about some principles of effective practice.

[Anti-racism charter](#): A framework to help you explore ideas around race equality and plan how to tackle racism with children, young people and staff.

Day of Welcome- 16 June

A Day of Welcome is a day of solidarity and learning in schools, that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for refugees and asylum seekers. The celebration is designed to support schools and families in marking Refugee Week (19-25 June) and to send a clear message that our communities are welcoming places.

Schools across the UK are invited to join us for A Day of Welcome on Friday 16th June. As refugee migration continues to dominate the news, your support and involvement in spreading our message of welcome is more crucial than ever. So if you haven't already registered, then click this [link](#) or visit the [website](#) to find out more.

[Live Webcasts for KS2: When Stars are Scattered, The Waiting Place & Edmund De Waal](#)

Day of Welcome have worked with VNET, Young Norfolk Arts Festival & English PEN to offer three fully-funded, live events. We will be exploring two brilliant books, When Stars are Scattered and The Waiting Place, and will also be interviewing renowned artist and author Edmund De Waal. These sessions are aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils and are a perfect way to participate in A Day of Welcome and get involved with Refugee Week. See the [Teacher Guide](#) to find out more and register.



Phoenix Group

Welcome to School: Resource aimed at children recently arrived to England to explain some of the processes in attending school.

Schools of Sanctuary

Schools of Sanctuary is a national network of over 300 primary and secondary schools committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Schools as Place of Healing: Refugee Week workshop by Schools of Sanctuary on how teachers and school staff can support the psycho-emotional needs of students from sanctuary seeking backgrounds.

The Schools of Sanctuary resource pack has information and inspiration for schools interested in becoming a School of Sanctuary. Plus, lot's of amazing teaching resources about Migration can be found here




Our Migration Story

Our Migration Story was designed explicitly with teachers in mind; to understand and appreciate the range of peoples, from all places, who have journeyed to and helped to shape the British Isles. The site brings together a range of migration stories and supporting sources to make it as easy as possible for you to find material for the classroom and top up your own understanding. Available here

Kazzum Arts

Kazzum Arts uses creativity to enable children and young people who have been impacted by trauma and adversity to feel seen, heard and valued. They do this by providing opportunities to explore creative expression and agency through multidisciplinary arts activities. They have an excellent collection of resources including lesson plans, animations, facts and figures, posters and activities for Primary and Secondary level students. Find all their resources here!



Kazzum Arts

Key Terms and Myth Busting Quiz: Key information about refugees and asylum seekers, including key terms, facts, myth busters and a quiz!

Kazzum also has a series of animations called 'Grounded' which have been developed to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. These animations are available in English, but have also been translated into Vietnamese, Arabic, French and Pashto to reflect the languages commonly found in the communities that they work in.

Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures supports young people facing immigration issues to have a voice. Membership is open to young migrants aged 18-30 and they meet weekly at Praxis to share their thoughts, get creative, plan campaigns and events, play games, have fun and eat delicious food together.

Self Help Activities for Young Migrants: Packs for three mental health and coping techniques for young migrants.

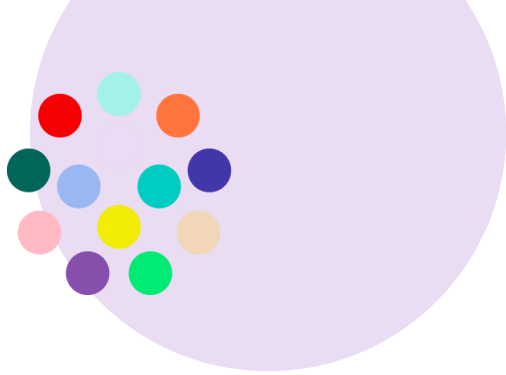
Doors of Compassion: The Rescuers and the Story of the Kindertransport

This resource invites students to connect with the theme of compassion and explore the concept of the Circle of Influence. The resource enables students to reflect on how our words and actions have an impact on others as well as ourselves. View the resource [here](#). Using the ukholocaustmap.org.uk students will learn about the Rescuers and the story of the Kindertransport, individuals whose actions enabled hundreds of refugee children to travel to the UK during World War II.

Students will respond and be guided to create Doors of compassion. These doors are a symbol of welcome and sanctuary, and invite us to reflect on how we can build a culture of welcome, in our schools and the wider community, for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. View resource [here](#).

Created by Donna Thompson (@deedeecreate)

Donna is an experienced freelance creative practitioner and a qualified teacher, working in education for over 14 years. She currently designs and delivers creative workshops and arts engagement projects for audiences of any age, for arts and heritage organisations, schools and community groups. She writes educational and arts-based resources and joined the team at Norfolk Day of Welcome in 2018 to support educators and schools. Donna has a passion for using creativity to inspire and empower others to use art as a voice for conversation, reflection and action.

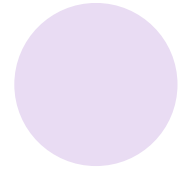


Ground Work

Culture Club is a primary education resource exploring the cultural heritage and traditions of refugees living in London. Made by teachers for teachers, this pack links to the national primary school curriculum, enabling pupils from ages 4-11 to discover the joys of various cultures through videos, storytelling, crafts and recipes from different backgrounds. Whether pupils are home-learning or in the classroom, Culture Clubs takes students on a journey of cultural experiences from the kitchen to the garden.

Culture Club Resource Pack: A primary resource exploring the cultural heritage and traditions of refugees living in the UK

Further optional activities including natural dyeing, paper marbling, planting and growing, puppet making, instrument making, songs and games are available to download [here](#).

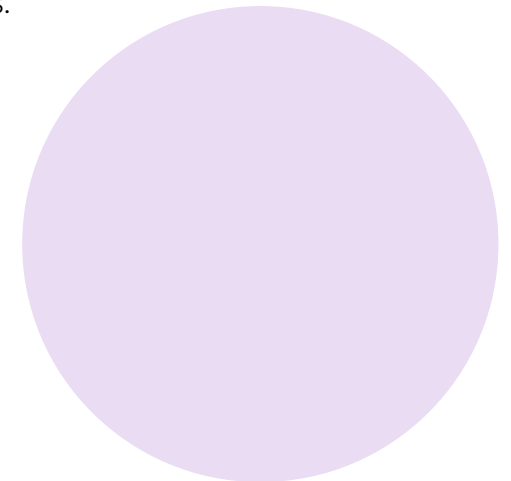


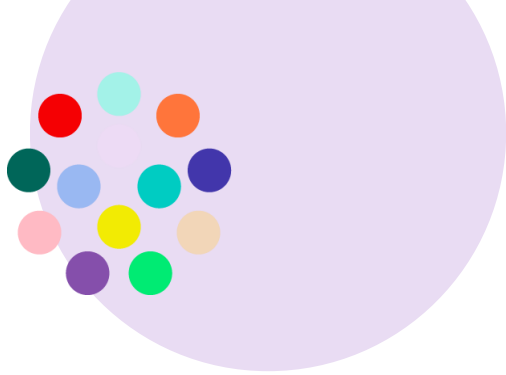
The Visionaries

The Visionaries is a social enterprise established in 2018 to help create nurturing school communities and to support young people into healthy adulthood.

Wellbeing Conversations: Activities and approaches to creating safe, reflective spaces.

Courageous Conversations training: Unlock a healthier school culture by training school staff to facilitate dialogue around conflictual issues. This adaptable 1-day training supports school staff to host Courageous Conversations around sensitive cultural issues such as racial injustice, sex & sexual harassment, bullying, school culture, drugs and mental health into opportunities.





Twinkl Teaching Resources

Since the war started in Ukraine in February 2022, Twinkl Educational Publisher has provided support to Ukrainian children and their families by making lots of resources available in Ukrainian. Earlier in 2023, we also joined forces with the Ukraine-based charity fund [Voices of Children](#) to offer FREE mental health and art therapy resource packs to families who suffered as a result of the war operations, and anyone in need. These [packs](#) are easily accessible and all mental health and art therapy resources have been approved and recommended by the Foundation's psychologists. More information can be found on this [blog](#).

All resources are available during Refugee Week, in both Ukrainian and English, to aid speakers of both languages in accessing them.

[The Five Ways To Wellbeing](#) is also a free resource

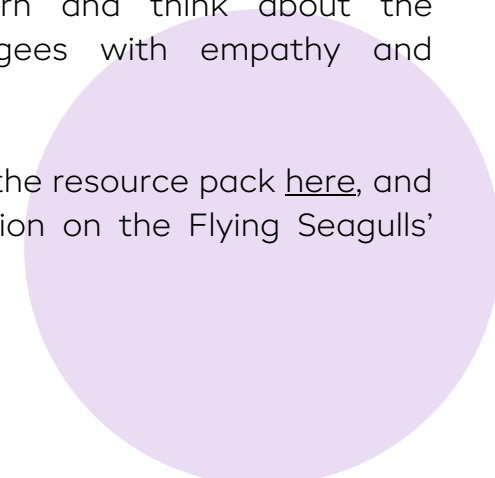




The Flying Seagull Project

The Flying Seagull Project is a children's arts and circus charity that has worked with young people seeking refuge for 15 years. In partnership with Seymour Park Community Primary School and their pupil steering group the Rights Rangers, we've prepared a collection of free Refugee Week learning resources and activities.

The resources are suitable for children from five to 11, and include advice sheets to help you have fun with these activities whatever environment you're learning in. The activities and information draw on our 15 years' experience working with young people of similar ages who've experienced forced displacement, and will encourage children to learn and think about the experiences of child refugees with empathy and compassion.

You can view and download the resource pack [here](#), and you can find more information on the Flying Seagulls' website [here](#).

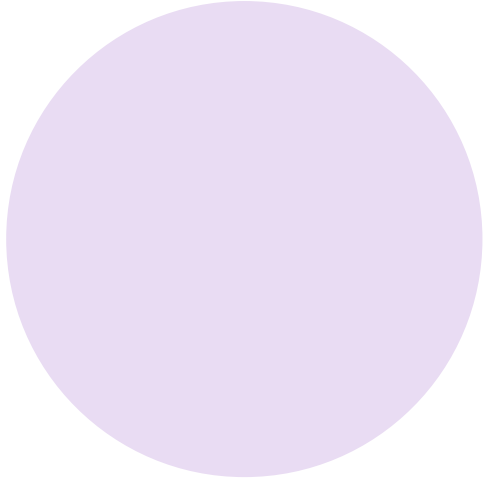


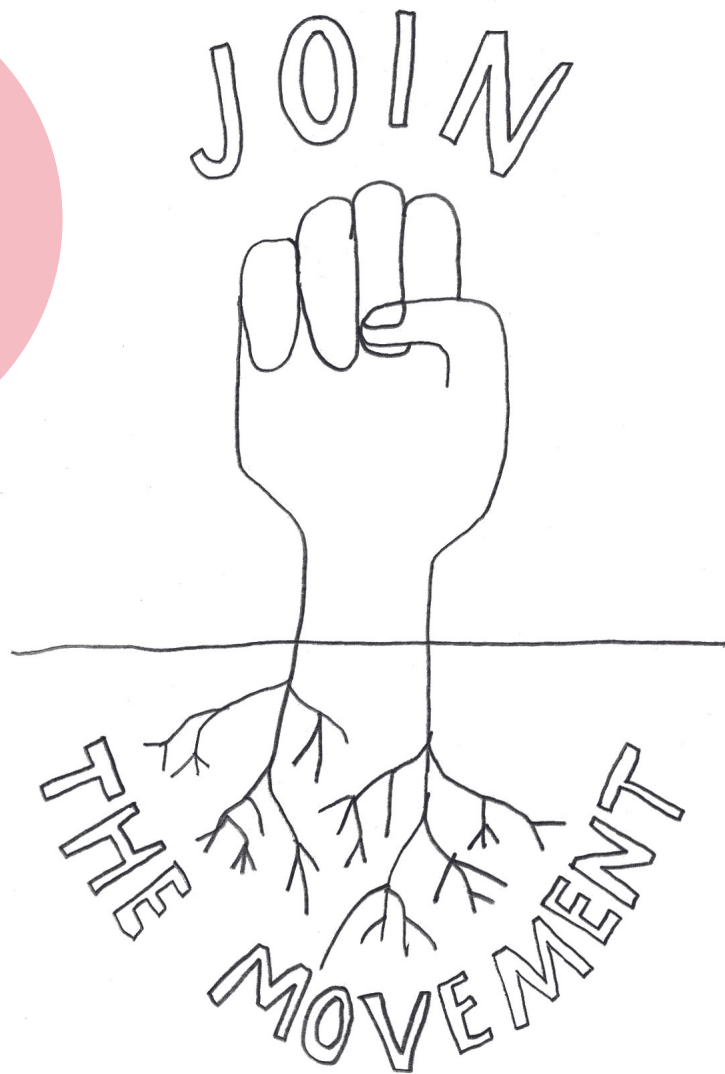


Understanding and Supporting Refugee Children and Young People

Download a [free refugee support plan](#) taken from Tina Rae's latest book [Understanding and Supporting Refugee Children and Young People: A Practical Resource for Teachers, Parents and Carers of Those Exposed to the Trauma of War](#).

This free resource focuses on how to support refugee children and young people, some of whom will have experienced unusually traumatic events in their lives. It includes a range of key tools and strategies and covers the importance of whole school approaches to educating about refugees, tips on setting up a safe space and providing loss and bereavement support.





Refugee Week lasts just seven days, but the movement for a fairer, more compassionate and more joyful world continues all year round. Once June is over, we hope you'll carry the spirit and energy of Refugee Week with you, and continue to walk alongside people on the move.

Every action makes a difference, and when we come together, we are powerful.

Become a School of Sanctuary: Part of City of Sanctuary, Schools of Sanctuary is a growing network with more than 300 primary and secondary schools all committed to supporting the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, creating a culture of welcome, and raising awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers. [Find out](#) how your school can get involved.

[Schools of Sanctuary](#) is a national network of over 300 primary and secondary schools committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum. The [Schools of Sanctuary resource pack](#) has information and inspiration for schools interested in becoming a School of Sanctuary.



Our Other Packs

Event Organiser Pack

This fantastic resource will take you through what Refugee Week is, ways you can get involved, our values and ethos as well as helpful things to consider as you plan your event (from working in partnership to promoting your event!).

Social Media Toolkit

This toolkit has all the Refugee Week text, images, graphics and assets you need to help raise awareness of Refugee Week 2023 and promote your own Refugee Week activities!



Partners

Refugee Week is a partnership project coordinated by Counterpoints Arts. Refugee Festival Scotland is coordinated by Scottish Refugee Council and Refugee Week Wales by Welsh Refugee Council.

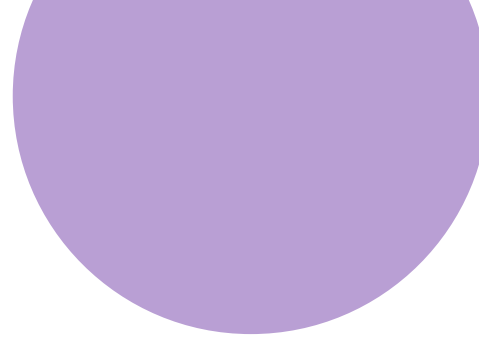
Refugee Week was founded in Australia, and the longstanding programme there is run by Australian Refugee Council.

Refugee Week is growing internationally and will this year take place in Greece, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Malta, coordinated independently, with support from Counterpoints Arts.

Feedback & Questions

What did you think of this pack? Send your questions and feedback to hello@counterpointsarts.org.uk

Coordinated by **COUNTERPOINTS.**



Refugee Week is coordinated by **COUNTERPOINTS.**

