

Refugee Week 2024: Love The Stranger

In March 2023, The Department of International Affairs at the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales (CBCEW) published a new teaching document, *Love the Stranger*. It presents a Catholic response to refugees and migrants, with 24 guiding principles rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. Caritas Social Action Network has been promoting the document to the Catholic community. In advance of Refugee Week 2024, we have worked with the Bishops' Conference and members of the social action network to make the document accessible to schools.

Refugee Week 2024 will take place from 17 to 23 June, with World Refugee Day on 20 June. Caritas Brentwood, with support from Clifton Diocese and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), has produced resources for Refugee Week to introduce the principles of Love The Stranger to schools. The resources include a PowerPoint presentation and 5 worksheets, one for each day of the week, designed to inform and facilitate discussion, as well as a document signposting other available resources and support.

We are pleased to share these resources with you and would appreciate any feedback on the materials provided. Pope Francis, in his publication for the Jubilee Year 2025, *Spes in Confundit*, has invited us to offer "signs of hope" to people whose dignity is under threat, including migrants and refugees. We would like to make support for migrants and refugees a key theme as we prepare for the Jubilee Year and look forward to sharing further resources with you, including a youth version of *Love The Stranger*.

Please reach out to the Migration Officer at Caritas Social Action Network with any feedback or queries: <u>aliya.zahin@csan.org.uk</u>

Yours faithfully,

R and

Raymond Friel OBE CEO, Caritas Social Action Network

REFUGEE WEEK 17-23 JUNE 2024

DAY ONE: PLANNING SHEET

What is Refugee Week and what can we do in our local area?



Invite students into a time of reflection and quiet before you begin. Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father... We pray for all those who are working for justice and peace around the world. We ask that they might be your hands and feet on the earth. Together, we say our greatest community prayer, Our Father... Amen

Slides 3-5 World Refugee Day is an international	Т	
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day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls on June 20th each year and celebrates the strength and courage of people forced to flee their homes.		Scripture suggestions of the day: • Genesis 41:53-57 • Luke 2:1-8 Introduction to Refugee Week.
Video: <u>https://youtu.be/SI8kbmjTCeU</u>		
What does the Pope say on this topic? "No one can remain excluded because of her place of birth The limits and borders of individual states cannot stand in the way of this."		
RESPOND	V.	SEND FORTH
Slide 10	1 [Slides 11-13
Every year, hundreds of schools across the UK participate in Refugee Week, developing a greater understanding and aligning with the vision and values of Refugee Week.		Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities. These small steps join us to a movement with people everywhere to create big change.
 We all have a right to be safe Celebrating contributions Leadership matters Arts & culture make change A space for many stories Reclaiming 'refugee' Open to all There is a bigger us Refugees are not a single group 		 Discover a story Share the message Make a new connection Share a meal Walk together Care for our home Get active Join the movement

all Your children may enjoy the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay. Grant us the courage to speak out against the horrors of our world and to combat every injustice that destroys the beauty of our common home. Sustain us by the power of Your Spirit so that we can reflect Your love and welcome every migrant whom You place in our path. May we be reflections of You and foster a culture of encounter and care. (Sign of the Cross)

REFUGEE WEEK 17–23 JUNE 2024

DAY TWO: PLANNING SHEET

What does home mean to you? What about others in the UK?



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GATHER	LISTEN
Slide 18	Slides 19-20
"To me, a home is where you feel loved, safe, and cherished."- Malala Yousafzai The theme for Refugee Week 2024 is "Our Home." From the places we gather to share meals to our collective home, planet Earth, everyone is invited to celebrate what our home means to them. Together, this Refugee Week, let's practice our solidarity and make Our Home a more welcoming, safe and sustainable place for all.	Material house VS home Exploring the idea of home and how it can differ for all of us. A brick house with four windows is not the norm. Scripture suggestions of the day: • Genesis 42:1-5 • Mark 6:1-6 Video: <u>www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=rWt76WqRCVs</u>
RESPOND	SEND FORTH
Slides 21-24	Slide 25
Home can be a place of refuge, a feeling, or a state of mind. It can be found in smells, tastes, and sounds, from the clothes we wear to the words we grew up with. It's in food, music, and the arts. It's in our cultures and our landscapes. We asked students of different ages this question, and here are the answers x5	What does home mean to you? <u>The worksheet is available here.</u> HOME can be more than a building or something that brings shelter - try to think about the following. • A feeling • A person/people • Taste • Smell • Sound • Location
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DAY THREE: PLANNING SHEET

The journeys people make.

DOWNLOAD

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GATHER		LISTEN
Slides 30-33		Slides 34-35
 Multiple choice questions x4 Here are some more facts: In the year ending Sept 2023, the top five countries of origin of people seeking asylum were Afghanistan, Iran, Albania, India and Iraq. Lebanon's population is currently 25% made up of refugees. Only 766 people were granted protection through the UK's core resettlement schemes in the year ending Sept 2023. 45% 		Scripture suggestions of the day: • Genesis 43:1-10 • Matthew 2:13-18 CAFOD video: <u>www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=o_P9huLYmS0</u>
fewer than previous year. Did any of these facts surprise you?		
RESPOND		SEND FORTH
Slides 36-37		Slide 38
Activity: Who can touch their nose with their tongue? Give it a go		This could be a class debate or a smaller group discussion - you decide.
Now imagine all those who can do this are told they're in great danger and must leave behind their friends, home, belongings and maybe even some of their family.	T D	 How would you feel not knowing where you're going? Who would you take with you? What would you take with you? What do you think you would need
This is a silly example, but people worldwide are told they must leave their homes without warning or explanation.		for the journey?What would you have to leave behind?
Do you think this is fair?	L	

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DAY FOUR: PLANNING SHEET

The impact of welcoming people in.



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GATHER	LISTEN
Slides 43-46	Slides 47-48
Refugee stories x3	Scripture suggestions of the day:
From a wave to a welcome sign, the	 Genesis 42:8-17 Matthew 8:18-20, 23-27
impact of a warm welcome can be profound. Simple acts of kindness help people feel safe, valued, and part of the community. A friendly greeting builds trust and fosters a sense of belonging, showing how powerful a welcome can be.	Video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=eJ3m0QaA5nE</u>
Imagine how different you might feel if you entered a room of people cheering than a room of people booing and angry.	
RESPOND	SEND FORTH
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Slides 49	Slide 50
A warm and sincere welcome can profoundly impact individuals, especially refugees who have faced	Slide 50 This week, all over the country, young people are discussing how to welcome refugees.
A warm and sincere welcome can profoundly impact individuals,	This week, all over the country, young people are discussing how to welcome refugees. Imagine that you have all the money and resources you need.
A warm and sincere welcome can profoundly impact individuals, especially refugees who have faced significant challenges. This simple act of hospitality can build trust, encourage friendships, and foster	This week, all over the country, young people are discussing how to welcome refugees. Imagine that you have all the money
A warm and sincere welcome can profoundly impact individuals, especially refugees who have faced significant challenges. This simple act of hospitality can build trust, encourage friendships, and foster a sense of belonging. Let us remember that as members of the Church, we are called to love the stranger and extend our kindness to	This week, all over the country, young people are discussing how to welcome refugees. Imagine that you have all the money and resources you need. How would you create the ideal welcome? How can your community
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DAY FIVE: PLANNING SHEET

Community and the beauty of diversity within it.



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GATHER	LISTEN
Slides 55-56 7-second Countdown A study a few years back said that within the first seven seconds of meeting a person, you judge them. You decide whether you like them and whether you will get on. IN 7 SECONDS?! How aware are you of the decisions you make towards other people before you know them?	Slides 57-59 Video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=BtnEiOo84Wo</u> Scripture suggestions of the day: • Genesis 45:16-20, 25-28 • John 17:18-23 Pope Francis says: "Every migrant has a name, a face and a story."
RESPOND	SEND FORTH
Slide 60 We are all part of many different communities, each unique in its own way - from our family to our school, church, and sports teams. Each of these communities brings its own qualities and enriches our lives differently. Those who have braved the journey of a refugee are no different. While we acknowledge the challenges and suffering experienced by many migrants and refugees, it is also vital to remember the gifts, talents, cultures, and joy they bring to our communities.	Slide 61 <u>The worksheet is available here.</u> Each of us has a NAME, FACE, STORY Complete each box and be as creative as you like. • All about me • My family • Friends • Hobbies/talents • Dream future
Let us pray, Lord, grant us the grace to work tir all Your children may enjoy the freedom to cho	

This includes resources from Refugee Week, CAFOD, SVP, JRS, CSAN and the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.

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Related Resources

The shared resources provide an introduction to Refugee Week and the principles outlined in Love The Stranger; however, many other resources are available online for further learning and involvement in refugee support.

To access the **Love The Stranger** document in full, please visit the Bishops' Conference website, where you will also find video recordings of each of the principles: www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger

Following the publication of Love The Stranger, CSAN and its members compiled a **Call-To-Action** which includes a number of links to organisations, resources and campaigns: www.csan.org.uk/love-the-stranger-call-to-action

You can access migration-related resources on the CSAN website: <u>www.csan.org.uk/guidance/?</u> <u>guidance focus=refugees</u>

CSAN and some of its members are also part of the **Together with Refugees** coalition, along with a number of civil society organisations, calling for a fairer and more humane asylum system: <u>https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk</u>

Other organisations active in this space include:

- CAFOD, CSAN's sister agency, has a number of resources available on its site: <u>https://cafod.org.uk/</u>
- JRS UK, a CSAN member accompanying and advocating for refugees in the UK: www.jrsuk.net
- **SVP**, a CSAN member and national agency advocating for the rights of refugees, has fact sheets and resources available on its site: <u>https://svp.org.uk/migrants-refugees-and-people-seeking-asylum</u>
- Refugee Council is the leading organisation in the UK working with refugees and people seeking asylum – they offer a number of support services as well as ongoing advocacy and campaigns: <u>www.refugeecouncil.org.uk</u>

For further information or support, we encourage you to reach out to your local Caritas agency – you can find their details on our members' page: www.csan.org.uk/map-of-members

We have also compiled a list of refugee projects in dioceses across England & Wales: <u>www.csan.org.uk/resettlement-toolkit/diocese-resettlement-services-map</u>

If in need of support, you are also able to contact the SVP: <u>https://svp.org.uk/request-help</u>

If you have any queries regarding the resources, would like to offer some feedback or share ideas for future resources, please contact **Aliya Zahin, Migration Officer at Caritas Social Action Network:** <u>aliya.zahin@csan.org.uk</u>

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