

# 6. USEFUL WEBSITES AND REFUGEE-RELATED RESOURCES

Interested in finding out more about refugees? Have a look at our lists of refugee-related websites, stories, documentaries, books and films...

## Useful Websites

### ◆ A Just Australia

The A Just Australia campaign is managed by the Refugee Council of Australia. Its core mission is to campaign for positive changes to government policy on refugee and asylum seekers. The website contains 'Myths and Facts', information on current issues as well as campaign updates. Go to: [www.ajustaustralia.com](http://www.ajustaustralia.com)

### ◆ Amnesty International Australia

Amnesty International Australia's website provides detailed information and research relating to human rights issues, refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. See: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/refugees/>

### ◆ Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)

The ASRC website offers information about issues facing asylum seekers and the current asylum seeker debate. As well as a comprehensive 'Myth Busters' page, and current campaigns, there are also personal stories from asylum seekers. Have a look at: <http://www.asrc.org.au/learn-more/>



'Field of Hearts' in Canberra, World Refugee Day 2004. © Loui Seselja

### ◆ Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)

Australian Human Rights Commission offers general information about human rights in relation to refugees and asylum seekers. A range of reports and publications are also available, most of which are in regards to Immigration Detention. See:

[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human\\_rights/immigration/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/immigration/index.html)

### ◆ The Australian Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross assists asylum seekers with health support, counselling, accommodation, material aid, education, legal referrals, and social support. The website has a FAQs section, a News Room page, and a Library resource. The International Committee of the Red Cross website has an extensive photographic library which can be

used for school projects and presentations. Please be sure to acknowledge the ICRC if you are using any of their images. Go to [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au) for the Australian Red Cross and [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org) for The International Committee of the Red Cross.



Coordinated by  
Refugee Council  
of Australia

Principal sponsor  
VICTORIAN  
multicultural  
commission

Major sponsors  
SBS



Sponsors  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING  
NSW AMES



◆ **Catholic Australia**

Catholic Australia's website provides position papers about issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees in Australia. See: <http://www.catholicaustralia.com.au/page.php?pg=issues-current1>

◆ **Foundation House: The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture**

This website offers lots of information about the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers, including publications, policy documents and submissions to government inquiries. Go to: <http://www.foundationhouse.org.au/home/index.htm>

◆ **Human Rights Watch**

The Human Rights Watch website offers a wealth of information about international human rights. The section dedicated to refugee issues provides regular reports that detail specific concerns in particular countries. Go to: <http://www.hrw.org/en/category/topic/refugees>

◆ **Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)**

RCOA is the national umbrella advocacy body working on refugee issues in Australia. All information relating to Refugee Week 2011 will be posted on the Council's website as it becomes available and will include a poster to download, a Calendar of Events which will be updated regularly, and other information to assist community groups and others in their planning for Refugee Week 2011. Take a look at: [www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au). RCOA's Refugee Week website is at [www.refugeeweek.org.au](http://www.refugeeweek.org.au)

◆ **NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)**

The Resources and Publications page of this website offers information about refugees in Australia and worldwide, particularly focusing on issues of torture and trauma. Resources include research papers, policy submissions, community information and their regular magazine 'Refugee Transitions', which covers a wealth of national and international issues affecting refugees. See: [www.startts.org.au](http://www.startts.org.au)

◆ **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

UNHCR is the United Nations agency mandated to respond to refugee crises around the world. The UNHCR website provides a wide range of resource including up to date information, news, current statistics relating to refugees and displaced persons worldwide. It is also a fantastic source of photographs and images of refugees worldwide. As long as these are sourced and acknowledged correctly, these images can be used in presentations or on posters and promotional materials for your event or school project. Check the



*A young Pakistani girl waits to board a bus from the Yar Hussain UNHCR camp in Chota Lahore. © Daniel Berehulak/Getty Images*

website regularly as these photographs are updated and change frequently. The 'Australia for UNHCR' website is also a great resource for teachers and students alike, and includes a school curriculum that incorporates refugee and asylum seeker issues into learning. 'Australia for UNHCR' also has ideas and suggestions for interesting events and activities you can organise in support of refugees and to raise awareness about refugee issues. See [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org). Also take a look at the 'Australia for UNHCR' website at: [www.unrefugees.org.au](http://www.unrefugees.org.au).

## Refugee-Related Documentaries

- ◆ **A Well Founded Fear - Michael Camerini & Shari Robertson (2000)**  
Tells the stories of oppression that brought political refugees to America but even more interestingly, it looks at the system that decide who gets to stay and who gets sent back, perhaps to prison or death.
- ◆ **A Well Founded Fear of Persecution – ABC Four Corners (2000)**  
Journalist Chris Masters looks at the previously hidden world of Australian detention centres. For a transcript of the Four Corners episode go to:  
<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/s110015.htm>
- ◆ **Anthem: An Act of Sedition - Tahir Cambis & Helen Newman (2005)**  
This documentary gives voice to everyday people affected by the 'war on terror' and Australia's mandatory detention policies.
- ◆ **Australia Has No Winter - Amos Cohen & Sherine Salama (1999)**  
Stevan Arbutina, a Serb, is married to Georgia, a Croatian. They are forced to immigrate to Australia after the devastating civil war in Yugoslavia makes it impossible for them to find peace and security in their old country. This compelling film traces the family's journey from Belgrade to Melbourne.
- ◆ **Australia's Pacific Solution - Kate Durham and Sarah McDonald (2002)**  
This controversial documentary explores Australia's Pacific Solution and the involvement of Nauru as an off-shore detention centre.
- ◆ **Australia's Refugee Dilemma - Christine Henderson & Neil Barrett (2002)**  
*Australia's Refugee Dilemma* investigates what is a refugee, why people become refugees, people smuggling and what happens to people who come to Australia, claiming to be refugees.
- ◆ **Children of Shatila - Mai Masri (1998)**  
The Shatila Camp in Beirut has become home to more than 15,000 Palestinians and Lebanese who share a common experience of displacement, unemployment and poverty. This is the story of two Palestinian children born and raised in the Shatila Camp - Farah aged 11 and Issa aged 12. It is the intent of documentary filmmaker Mai Masri to present the children's stories of the realities of life in Shatila through their own eyes and words, providing each child with a video camera.
- ◆ **Dreams and Silence - Omar Al Qattan (1991)**  
It is the autumn of 1990 in Jordan. The Islamic movement has declared a Holy War against the West and the Gulf War is at its height. Haifa Samhuri is a middle-aged Palestinian refugee living in Jordan. Haifa talks of her life as a refugee.
- ◆ **Eternity and a Day - Theo Angelopoulos (1998)**  
A famous author, reaching the end of his life, encounters a young Albanian refugee boy who is one of the thousands of 'illegal immigrants' from Eastern Europe coming into Greece. Alexandre begins a quest to return the boy home, and when that proves impossible, attempts to give the young orphan the security and opportunities unavailable to him on the streets.
- ◆ **Forgotten Refugees: the Rohingya in Bangladesh (2007)**  
In March 2007 Amnesty International Australia joined UNHCR, the Centre for Refugee Research, and a number of other Australian NGOs for consultations with Rohingya refugees who have fled from Burma to camps in Bangladesh. The documentary highlights the atrocious conditions faced by the 26,000 refugees, many of whom have spent over 16 years living in the camps. You can see the short film at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=AU&hl=en-GB&v=lg5eIXYAMbo>

- ◆ **God Grew Tired of Us - Christopher Dillon Quinn (2006)**  
Written and directed by Christopher Dillon Quinn, this documentary film is about three of the "Lost Boys of Sudan", a group of some 25,000 young men who have fled the wars in Sudan since the 1980s, and their experiences as they move to the United States.
  
- ◆ **Home Across Lands - John Lavall (2009)**  
This documentary explores the journey of resettlement– it tells the story of a small group of Kunama refugees and how they re-establish their sense of community in their new home in the US.
  
- ◆ **Hope – Steve Thomas (2008)**  
*Hope* is the story of Amal Basry, one of 400 Iraqi refugees on the ill-fated SIEV X, which sank between Indonesia and Australia, killing 353 people. Amal was one of only seven survivors who made it to Australia. Now she fights to reunite her family, and to ensure that this disaster is not forgotten. A Study Guide prepared for secondary students by the Australian Teachers of Media can be found at: <http://www.hopedocumentary.com.au/hope/studyguide.htm>
  
- ◆ **In the Shadow of the Palms - Wayne Coles-Janess (2004)**  
*In the Shadow of the Palms* is a multi-award winning production that details life in Iraq before, and during, the most controversial war of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It provides an intimate insight into the lives of ordinary people during Saddam's Regime as they prepare for the rapidly approaching war.
  
- ◆ **Jenin Jenin - Mohammed Bakri (2002)**  
This documentary features interviews of Palestinians in a refugee camp in Jenin during April 2000. It is a film of despair, human tragedy, hatred, cynicism and, last but not least, of hope.
  
- ◆ **Letters To Ali - Clara Law (2004)**  
This documentary tells the story of a 15-year old Afghan boy seeking asylum in Australia, and the Australian family that befriend him.
  
- ◆ **Lost Boys of Sudan - Megan Mylan & Jon Shenk (2003)**  
This documentary follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Orphaned as young boys in one of Africa's most vicious civil wars, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, remarkably, they were chosen to come to America. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, a world away from home, they find themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburbia. See: <http://www.lostboysfilm.com/>
  
- ◆ **Molly & Mobarak Clips (2003)**  
Molly and Mobarak follows the emotional journey of Mobarak Tahiri, a young Hazara refugee from Afghanistan living on a Temporary Protection Visa, as he struggles to adjust to life in the regional NSW town of Young. Molly Rule and her mother Lyn provide friendship and support to Mobarak. The narrative centres on the interactions between the townspeople of Young and the Afghani community, through the characters of Molly and Mobarak respectively. Mobarak has escaped war, persecution and danger in his homeland, but his journey in Australia has only just begun. The website above shows clips of the documentary. See: <http://australianscreen.com.au/titles/molly-mobarak/clip3/>
  
- ◆ **New Year Baby (2008)**  
Born in a Thai refugee camp on Cambodian New Year, filmmaker Socheata Poeuv grew up in the United States never knowing that her family had survived the Khmer Rouge genocide. In this documentary, she embarks on a journey to Cambodia in search of the truth and why her family's history had been buried in secrecy for so long. See: <http://newyearbaby.net/> . You can also check out the website for background information, discussion questions and resources at: <http://newyearbaby.net/downloads/IL-Discussion-Guides.pdf>

- ◆ **Pushing the Elephant (2010)**  
This documentary tells the story of Rose Mapendo from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As Rose fled the atrocities of war in DRC, she was forced to leave her five-year-old daughter, Nangabire, behind. With her other nine children, she was eventually resettled in Arizona, USA, where she works as a full-time advocate for refugees. Now, after 12 years apart, Rose and her daughter Nangabire are reunited.
  
- ◆ **Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars – Zach Niles & Banker White (2005)**  
Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars documents a band of six Sierra Leonean musicians who came together while living in a refugee camp in Guinea. Despite the unimaginable horrors of civil war, they were saved and brought hope and happiness to other refugees through their music. Also see the website for background information on Sierra Leone.
  
- ◆ **Tampa and Beyond (2002)**  
This documentary covers the Tampa incident, the establishment of off-shore detention centres, and explains relevant laws.
  
- ◆ **The Plight of Tibet and the Dalai Lama: Interviews with Tibetan Refugees (1999)**  
This film consists of interviews with Tibetan refugees (predominantly Buddhists persecuted for their religion), including the current Dalai Lama, as well as those people who operate the services in India which assist the arriving refugees. They describe both their treatment at the hands of the country's rulers as well as the general socio-economic climate brought about by the policies of the government of Tibet.
  
- ◆ **Villawood Mums (2010)**  
This short film, produced by the Stories Project, contrasts the experiences of two refugee women – Maria, a political refugee who fled Chile in the 1980s and was housed temporarily at Villawood Hostel; and Zahoor, who fled persecution under Saddam Hussein a decade later, by which time the hostel had been transformed into a detention centre. The film can be viewed at: <http://thestoriesproject.com.au/archives/villawood-mums/>
  
- ◆ **War Child: Emmanuel Jal's Story (2010)**  
A former child soldier in Sudan, Emmanuel Jal is now an internationally acclaimed hip-hop artist who fights for peace and reconciliation in his home country. *War Child* intersperses original interviews, live concerts, and rare footage of Emmanuel Jal as a seven year-old boy.
  
- ◆ **What's Going On? Child Refugees in Tanzania (2009)**  
This 10-part television series features UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie. She works with children who have been victimized by long years of civil strife in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and who have had to flee their homes for refugee camps in Tanzania. You can purchase the DVD through the UN Bookshop at <https://unp.un.org/bookshop/details.aspx?sku=X3013> or you can access each part on Youtube. For Part 1, see: [http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/jF8Zr\\_hPylE](http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/jF8Zr_hPylE) ; for part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/bw3-YPFnUR8>
  
- ◆ **Woomera – ABC Four Corners (2003)**  
This Four Corners episode tells about a particularly contentious chapter in Australian history that continues to divide opinions about the policy of mandatory detention. It focuses on the notorious Woomera Immigration Centre, the former mandatory detention centre that was located in a particularly arid and inhospitable part of the South Australian desert. The film was made after an incident in 2002, which saw about one thousand people gathered at Woomera to protest about the Government's policy of mandatory detention for asylum seekers. For a transcript of the Four Corners episode go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2003/transcripts/s858341.htm>

## Refugee-Related Stories and Voices

- ◆ **ICE (Informational and Cultural Exchange centre)** has a wide range of resources – CDs, videos, books and other materials that have been produced collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

- *The Applicant and Colour Blind*

Developed in association with the Sudanese Filmmaking Group, these films were produced by ICE as a part of the 'Africa on Screen' Initiative. The Applicant documents some of the first-hand experiences of African- Australians in the local job market. Colour Blind is a visual exploration of the experiences of African refugees in Australia.

- *Darkness over Paradise*

The Association of Sierra Leonean Journalists in Exile (ASLJIE) collaborated with ICE to produce Darkness over Paradise, a documentary presenting the vivid narrative of the lives of ordinary people and media workers caught up in civil war, the brutal practice of amputation, and the enormous displacement of refugees caused by the conflict.

The full list of ICE resources and ICE contact details can be accessed at

<http://ice.org.au/newswire/2007/10/stories-voices-new-resourcesavailable/>



- ◆ **Doctors without Borders**

Refugee testimonials and stories can be found on the Doctors without Borders website at:

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/events/refugeecamp/about/testimonials.cfm>

- ◆ **The Refugee Claimants Support Centre Choir**

The 'Scattered People' CD is a collection of songs written and inspired by Refugee Claimants in Brisbane. The 'Scattered People' is the story of ongoing struggles and journey from country of origin to resettlement in Australia. Go to:

<http://www.brisbane-stories.webcentral.com.au/scatteredpeople/>

- ◆ **"Refugees' Australian Stories: Building Bridges Across Communities"** is a multimedia project that uses images and the spoken and written word to tell the compelling stories of refugees from around the world who have made Australia their home. By providing a platform for refugees to tell their "Australian story", the project hopes to show that refugees have been great co-workers, neighbours and friends to other Australians for many years and contribute positively to our country. Go to:

[http://www.ras.unimelb.edu.au/Refugees\\_Australian\\_Stories/index.html](http://www.ras.unimelb.edu.au/Refugees_Australian_Stories/index.html)

- ◆ For more videos, visit **UNHCR youtube** website at: <http://www.youtube.com/unhcr>

## Refugee-Related Books For Adults

- ◆ **Rada Boric, Julie Mertus, Jasmina Tesanovic and Habiba Metikos – The Suitcase: Refugee Voices from Bosnia and Croatia (1997)**

This is powerful collection of memoirs – including essays, letters, and poems – from refugees fleeing Bosnia and Croatia during the civil wars in the former Yugoslavia. Contributors from all ethnic groups and every region of Bosnia and Croatia describe their loved ones, their sense of community and their towns and homes that they have had to leave behind. These stories tell of perseverance, brutality, exile, and courage.
- ◆ **Frank Brennan - Tampering with Asylum: A Universal Humanitarian Problem (2003)**

Frank Brennan wrote this book in response to the 2001 Tampa Affair, when the Norwegian freighter *MV Tampa*, and its cargo of rescued asylum seekers, were denied permission to dock at the nearest landfall of Christmas Island. The book compares Australia's dramatic over-reaction with the response of the United States and Europe, and offers a practical blueprint for countries wanting to humanely protect asylum seekers.
- ◆ **Anh Do – The Happiest Refugee: A Memoir (2010)**

One of Australia's best-loved comedians, Anh Do, depicts his incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story. In his memoir he tells of his family's treacherous journey from war-torn Vietnam, surviving starvation and pirates in an overcrowded boat. He describes the pleasures and the pitfalls as he grew up in Australia as an outsider, and the struggles that his family faced. This heart-warming book captures Ahn's gratitude for what he has, and his hope for the future.
- ◆ **Dave Eggers – What is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng (2006)**

This is the story of Valentino Achak Deng, a refugee in war-ravaged southern Sudan who flees from his village in the mid-1980s and becomes one of the so-called Lost Boys. Valentino's travels bring him in contact with enemy soldiers, with liberation rebels, with hyenas and lions, with disease and starvation, and with deadly murahaleen (militias on horseback) the same sort who currently terrorize Darfur. Eventually Deng is resettled in the United States with almost 4000 other young Sudanese men, and a very different struggle begins.
- ◆ **Suzanne Fisher-Staples - Under the Persimmon Tree (2005)**

This widely acclaimed novel explores the relationship between a young American woman and an Afghan girl, Najmah, who is all alone in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. The story follows Najmah's perilous journey through the mountains in search for safety and refuge in Pakistan.
- ◆ **Michael Gordon – Freeing Ali: The Human Face of the Pacific Solution (2005)**

Michael Gordon was the first journalist to gain unrestricted access to the refugee detention centre on Nauru. *Freeing Ali* tells of detainee Ali Mallaie, and follows his story from Afghanistan to Nauru, and ultimately to Melbourne. He recounts the experiences of survivors of the SIEV X tragedy and the 'children overboard' saga. At a time when the Australian government was under growing pressure for a change in policy, Gordon assesses the human and financial cost of the former Pacific Solution.
- ◆ **China Keitetsi – Child Soldier (2004)**

This is a powerful true story of Keitetsi, a child soldier who joined the Ugandan National Resistance Army at just eight years old. Her story details the abuse she suffered at the hands of her officers and how she finally escaped to Europe to start a new life. Now living in Denmark, she is an international campaigner on child soldiers.
- ◆ **Michael Leach and Fethi Mansouri – Lives in Limbo: Voices of Refugees Under Temporary Protection (2004)**

In this book, 35 refugees mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan talk directly about their quest for asylum in Australia. They provide poignant details of persecution in their home country, their journey to Australia, prolonged periods of mandatory detention, and life as temporary protection visa (TPV)

holders. While the temporary protection visa regime has since been dismantled, their stories remain pertinent.

- ◆ **Peter Mares – Borderline: Australia's Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (2002)**  
Written at a time when the arrival of "boat people" on the Australian coast was re-igniting fears of a massive influx of refugees and asylum seekers, Peter Mares examines the legal, moral, and political questions posed by Australia's treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.
- ◆ **David Marr and Marian Wilkinson - Dark Victory (2004)**  
From two of the country's most accomplished investigative journalists, this book offers an inside account of the Tampa affair and the political campaigning that powered the ensuing crisis.
- ◆ **Susan Metcalfe – The Pacific Solution (2010)**  
In *The Pacific Solution*, Susan Metcalfe asks how we can justify a policy that detained a total of 1,637 asylum seekers in offshore camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru, causing undeniable damage and trauma. She brings together accounts of her own visits to Nauru, extensive interviews conducted with refugees and advocates, media reports, long-distance correspondence and new research. By engaging with the stories of people who have survived the experience and who are now our neighbours, workmates and friends, she encourages us to go beyond the labels of 'illegals' and 'queue jumpers'.
- ◆ **Caroline Moorehead - Human Cargo: A Journey Among Refugees (2005)**  
This book looks at 'human cargo' from Afghanistan, Liberia, Palestine and many other places. Moorehead has visited war zones, camps, prisons - and the black Dinka families from the Sudan who were re-settled north of the Arctic Circle in Finland. She follows the fate of 57 young member of the Mandingo tribe, who fled ethnic cleansing and ended up happily in America via Egypt. She is shown the graves in Sicily of drowned boat people, and examines the fence that has been built across Texas and into the sea to keep migrants out of America. She has interviewed emigration officials in Australia and members of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva. In this book she asks the difficult questions.
- ◆ **Zoya Phan and Damien Lewis – Little Daughter: A Memoir of Survival in Burma and the West (2009)**  
Zoya Phan was born to committed resistance fighters in the Karen State of Burma. Despite the civil conflict under the nation's brutal military regime, Zoya's early years were blissfully removed from the war. However, at the age of fourteen, Zoya's childhood was shattered as the Burmese army attacked and her family was forced to flee. Zoya joined thousands of refugees hiding in the jungle, before she sought refuge across the border in a Thai refugee camp. With her enemies still pursuing her, in 2004 she fled to the UK and claimed asylum, where she now acts as the face for UK's Burma Campaign.
- ◆ **Heather Tyler – Asylum: Voices Behind the Razor Wire (2003)**  
This is a collection of first-hand accounts describing what has driven asylum seekers to flee their homelands to come to Australia seeking refuge, and detailing the traumas involved both in flight from their homes and in detention on Australian shores. Tyler also looks at Australia's perception of asylum seekers and media portrayals.
- ◆ **Alek Wek - Alek: Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel (2007)**  
Alek Wek grew up in the Sudan in the midst of the vicious civil war. Now, at age 28, she is one of the most sought-after supermodels in the world; as a model, refugee activist and businesswoman she is a worldwide inspiration. This remarkable real-life story sheds light on her journey from war-torn Sudan, her escape to London at the age of fourteen, all the way to new beginnings in New York. Alek's memoir is a poignant and powerful story that gives an unforgettable insight into her rise to fame and her dedication to refocus the world's attention on those she left behind in the Sudan.

## Refugee-Related Movies

- ◆ **A Time for Drunken Horses (2000)**

This is a movie about a Kurdish family who are struggling to survive after the death of their father. Living in squalor and poverty in a village on the Iran-Iraq border for Kurdish refugee families, they must face the harshest of conditions as they try to save their youngest brother.
- ◆ **The Art of Flight - Davin Anders Hutchins (2005)**

This is a guerrilla documentary that was shot illegally in Egypt on camcorders and a laptop. This feature-length film tells the story of three people – a refugee from southern Sudan, a human rights activist from northern Sudan and an American journalist in self-imposed exile – all living in Cairo.
- ◆ **Asylum – Nigel Roffe-Barker (2003)**

Fleeing persecution and torture in northern Iraq, three young Kurdish boys smuggle themselves into England where they register for asylum and try to establish new lives. However, their future is threatened when their genuine claims get bound up in red tape. One boy is detained, while the others evade capture by taking refuge in a local church, amid escalating media and police attention.
- ◆ **Baran - Majid Majidi (2001)**

Based in Tehran, *Baran* tells of Lateef, a 17-year-old Kurdish worker, who is irresistibly drawn to Rahmat, a young Afghan worker. The revelation of Rahmat's secret changes both their lives.
- ◆ **Barefoot to Heart - Majid Majidi (2002)**

This film was shot during two trips that Majid Majidi took in Western Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002. In the first trip in November 2001, Majidi visited the refugee camp of Makaki, located in a Taliban-controlled area, and Mile 46, another small camp situated in a Northern Alliance held area. The second trip took place in February 2002 in the city of Herat now freed from the Taliban and in the hunger stricken camp of Maslakh, one of the largest in the world.
- ◆ **Beyond Borders – Martin Campbell (2003)**

*Beyond Borders* tells of two people brought together by a shared passion for the world's hot spots. Sarah encounters a renegade doctor, whose impassioned plea for help to support his relief efforts in war-torn Africa inspires her to embark upon a journey to the far corners of the world.
- ◆ **The Blackboard – Samira Makhmalbaf (2000)**

This movie tells of a group of Kurdish teachers who wander from village to village in the remote Iranian Kurdistan region during the Iran-Iraq war in search of students. They carry large blackboards on their backs, sometimes using them as shelter, camouflage and as shields for gunfire.
- ◆ **The Cage House – Angela Van Boxtel (2002)**

This award-winning short movie was inspired by the drawings of 6 year old Shayan Badraie in Villawood Detention Centre. See <http://www.abc.net.au/am/stories/s456606.htm> for more information.
- ◆ **Distant Lights – Hans-Christian Schmid (2003)**

Set on the Polish/German border, this film tells the story of life on the border of two countries. A picture of life in this region and the division between the prosperous west and the impoverished east is told through the fate of many single characters.
- ◆ **El Norte – Gregory Nava (1984)**

This film tells the story of Mayan Indigenous youths in the 1980s who are tired of being labelled "brazos fuertes" (manual labourers). In an effort to improve their life, they are discovered by the Guatemalan army. After the army destroys their village and family, they are forced to flee Guatemala due to ethnic and political persecution.

- ◆ **Exile in Sarajevo – Tahir Cambis and Alma Sahbaz (1997)**  
This is a personal account of the siege of Sarajevo, from the viewpoint of Bosnian-Australian Tahir Cambis and Sarajevean Alma Sahbaz. Nirvan, a talented young dancer, dies after a shelling attack. Her family is forced to leave Sarajevo as refugees bound for America. Eight year old Amira's illustrated diary is poignant testimony of the murder of family and friends. Both stories are set within the context of NATO bombing missions, UN Press Conferences and the liberation and reunification of parts of the city under Bosnian-Serb control.
  
- ◆ **Frontiers of Dreams and Fears – Mai Masri (2001)**  
Powerful, passionate and often disturbing, *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* tells the heart-breaking story of two young Palestinian girls growing up in refugee camps in Beirut and Bethlehem. The film focuses on the friendship of two young girls, their daily life, their dreams, hopes and aspirations.
  
- ◆ **In This World – Michael Winterbottom (2002)**  
Based on true events and using refugees themselves as the actors, this story follows two young Afghan refugees on their journey to London.
  
- ◆ **Kandahar – Mosen Makhmalbaf (2001)**  
This feature film, shot in documentary-style, is about a woman refugee from Afghanistan who is now a reporter in Canada. The story follows her as she returns to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in order to save her sister.
  
- ◆ **The Kite Runner – Marc Forster (2007)**  
Based on the international bestseller by Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner* is set in Afghanistan. In 1978, Amir and Hassan are young boys living in Kabul, where Hassan and his father work as servants for Amir and his father, Baba. As the Russians and then the Taliban take over Afghanistan, Baba and Amir escape to America. But even as he begins a new life in America, Amir is haunted by memories of his friend and his own cowardice.
  
- ◆ **La Promesse – Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne (1997)**  
Igor and his father, Roger, are making a decent living renting apartments to illegal immigrants and sometimes having them work illegally, among other scams. But when the building inspector pays a surprise visit and Amidou falls off a scaffold in his hurry to hide, things start to unravel, particularly when Igor makes a promise to the injured Amidou that ultimately exposes the different values of Igor and Roger, and of Amidou's wife, Assita.
  
- ◆ **Live and Become - Radu Mihaileanu (2005)**  
This story begins at a Sudanese refugee camp in 1984. An Ethiopian boy is placed by his mother with an Ethiopian Jewish woman whose child has died. This woman, who will become his adoptive mother, is about to be airlifted from the camp to Israel. His birth mother, who hopes for a better life for him tells him “go, live, and become” as he leaves her to board the plane. The film tells of his growing up in Israel as he faces isolation and loneliness and deals with the secret of not being Jewish and having left his birth mother.
  
- ◆ **Lucky Miles – Michael James Rowland (2007)**  
*Lucky Miles* is inspired by several true stories. In 1990, an Indonesian fishing boat abandons Iraqi and Cambodian refugees in a remote part of the Western Australia. Whilst most are quickly caught by officials, three men with nothing in common but their misfortune and determination escape arrest and begin an epic journey into the heart of Australia.
  
- ◆ **Marking Time – ABC TV/Beyond Productions (2003)**  
At the outset of this film, like the rest of Australia, Hal's rural town is intoxicated with the spirit of the Olympics, and the anniversary of Australia's federation. Hal gets his driver's licence, his first car, the right to drink, the right to vote, and falls in love with Randa, a young Afghan refugee. But there is a shifting of consciousness in the town and the nation about refugees, border protection and their

place in the world. Hal's heart is broken when he realises that his town is one in which he no longer belongs. *Marking Time* is the coming of age of a boy and a nation.

- ◆ **Mohamed Ali's Happy Day Feast – Nicky Tyndale-Biscoe (1997)**  
*Mohamed Ali's Happy Day Feast* tells of Mohamed and his wife Halima. Having survived war in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, but suffering the loss of home and family, Mohamed and Halima arrive in Australia with a renewed optimism, and set about establishing their dream cafe.
- ◆ **Mother Fish – Khoa Do (2010)**  
This is an inspirational tale about four refugees fleeing Vietnam in 1980. The story goes inside the mind of one of the survivors, a quiet factory worker, as she relives the extraordinary journey that she and her sister took in a creaky boat in search of a better life.
- ◆ **Osama – Siddiq Barmak (2003)**  
Inspired by a true story, this movie centres on three generations of Afghan women all deeply affected by the advent of the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan.
- ◆ **Spare Parts – Damjan Kozole (2003)**  
The director is a veteran punk rocker from Slovenia whose film focuses on drunk, corrupt and depressed smugglers who reminisce about their former lives as racing car drivers as they ferry terrified human cargo across the Croatian border to Italy.
- ◆ **A Stranger in My Homeland – Chloe Traicos (2005)**  
This short film tells the story of the Zimbabwean refugees who were tortured and left for dead after speaking out against the regime of terror under which they lived.
- ◆ **Tale of the Three Lost Jewels (Hikayatul jawahiri thalath) – Michel Khleifi (1994)**  
This film takes place amongst the violence and brutality of the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, as a Palestinian boy becomes entranced with a beautiful Gypsy girl.
- ◆ **Turtles Can Fly – Bahman Ghobadi (2004)**  
Set near the Iraqi-Turkish border on the eve of the American invasion, *Turtles Can Fly* follows 13 year old Kak, and other refugee children, as they await their fate.
- ◆ **Unveiled – Angelina Maccarone (2005)**  
This film is a beautiful portrait of an Iranian refugee struggling between survival in small-town Germany and her love for a local woman.
- ◆ **War Dance – Sean Fine and Andrea Nix (2006)**  
War Dance follows the lives of three children living in a displacement camp in war-ravaged northern Uganda. The three youngsters attend school in the camp and find hope through song and dance, as they take part in their country's national music and dance festival.
- ◆ **Welcome – Philippe Lioret (2010)**  
*Welcome* is a touching personal account of Simon, a swimming teacher who helps his young immigrant pupil, a 17 year old Kurdish refugee named Bilal. The film highlights the inhumanity of the French Government's immigration policies.

**\*\* For more ways to educate yourself, check out “Chapter 5: Teacher Resources” \*\***

**Also, for more refugee-related movies, documentaries and literature visit the UK Refugee Council website:**

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/InfoCentre/refugees-in>

**and the US International Rescue Committee resource list:**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resources/SOARFactsheetRefugeeFilmsandBooks.pdf>