

21 Things You Can Do To Support People Seeking Asylum

[Adapted with permission from the Sisters of St Joseph]

LEARN

1. Know the [FACTS](#) so you can help people understand the truth about people seeking asylum.
2. Read stories about the amazing [contributions](#) people seeking asylum make to society so you can inform others that welcoming these people benefits Australia.
3. Book a speaker to come to talk to your school community about his/her experience seeking asylum here in Australia : [House of Welcome](#), [Refugee Voices or Community Conversations](#) through Jesuit Refugee Service, and [Asylum Seeker Resource Centre](#).
4. Love reading? Why not join the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) [Book Club](#), a bi-annual event, featuring stories from around the world, focusing on the experiences of refugees, people seeking asylum and their communities.
5. Prefer podcasts? Try listening to "[Temporary](#)," which shares the stories of people seeking asylum in the Australian community.

ACT/MOBILISE

6. Write to your local politician to tell them how you feel about this issue. Information on letter writing can be found [here](#) on page 4.
7. Write a poem and publish it in the church newsletter. It may get people talking.
8. Hold a weekly group prayer meeting. See the prayers listed below.
9. Consult the Edmund Rice Centre [Resource](#) to find activities for your school, community or parish. It's full of ideas and activities for educators to implement.
10. Consult the Jesuit Refugee Service [Toolkit](#) to find activities for your school, community church.
11. Join the [#TimeForAHome](#) Campaign and call the government to release refugees in detention
12. Follow Pastor Tri Nguyen's Journey and [Gift of Refuge Campaign](#).

DONATE (Time, money, food)

13. Donate food to the [Asylum Seeker Resource Centre](#) Foodbank; collect and organise school buddies to deliver these goods.
14. Support [Baptcare's House of Hope](#), and [Baptcare Sanctuary](#).
15. Support and donate the [Refugee Airfare and Assistance Scheme](#) (inc. car loans) which provides interest-free loans to refugees who are supported by Baptist Churches – this is tax deductible.
16. Volunteer to read a picture book at Sunday School/ Youth Group and get a discussion going about issues facing people seeking asylum to encourage empathy.
17. Volunteer your time; your time and skills are needed! Contact the [Asylum Seeker Centre](#), or the [Australian Refugee Volunteers](#) for monthly activities with children and young people.
18. Support Social Enterprises and Refugee Run Businesses
19. Use the delicious [House of Welcome](#) catering service for your next party; this service provides training and employment opportunities for people seeking asylum.
20. Next time you are deciding where to eat out, why not stop by a café or restaurant that is run by or employs people seeking asylum? Options include: Columbo Social, Parliament on King, Uma, The Bread and Butter Project to name a few.
21. Next time you go shopping, have a look at some refugee powered businesses. Follow [Welcome Merchant](#) to see a whole range of refugee run businesses in Australia.

PRAYERS

You meet him in the street in the old country where his eyes dart into dark corners in case they are watching.
You meet him in the rickety boat at sea, his pockets empty after paying the price of passage.
You meet him behind the barbed wire in the heat as his dreams begin to melt away.
You meet him holding his official letter declaring that he is a refugee, even as he wonders why he remains in detention.
You meet him five years after he foolishly thought he would be released into the community.
You meet him steeling his soul so the hope does not fade.
You meet him emerging from the detention hotel, a little hope reborn.
You meet him as he is told to get a job, after years of not being allowed to get a job.
You meet him on the line for the food handouts, his eyes lowered as he clings to his dignity.
His name is Joseph.

Psalm 137

By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.
On the willows there we hung up our lyres.
For there our oppressors required of us songs.
How shall we sing our God's song in an oppressive land?

Reading from Matthew 2:13 – 15

When the Magi had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.
"Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt.
Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."
So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night
and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or I
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from bottom to top)

Bilston

BOOKS

- The Arrival Shaun Tan (All Pictures No Text)
- Ships in the Field Susanne Gervay, illustrated by Anna Pignataro
- The Little Refugee Anh Do and Suzanne Do, illustrated by Bruce Whatley
- Safe Place to Live Bic Walker
- Four Feet Two Sandals Karen Lynn Williams and Khandra Mohammed illustrated by Doug Chayka Ziba
- Came on a Boat Liz Lofthouse, illustrated by Robert Ingpen
- A True Person Gabiann Marin, illustrated by Jacqui Grantford
- We Are All Born Free The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures
- Ali the Bold Heart Jane Jolly, illustrated by Elise Hurst
- Refugees David Miller Soraya
- the Storyteller Rosanne Hawke, illustrated by Neil Curtis
- Home and Away John Marsden (Upper Primary +)illustrated by Matt Ottley
- Mirror Jeannie Baker (All Pictures No Text)
- Whoever You Are Mem Fox, illustrated by Leslie Staub
- The Island Armin Greder Australians
- All Nadia Wheatley, illustrated by Ken Searle
- Every Day is Malala Day Rosemary McCarney with Plan International
- Flight Nadia Wheatley, illustrated by Armin Greder
- Across the Dark Sea Wendy Orr, illustrated by Donna Rawlins
- The Red Pencil Andrea Davis Pinkney illustrated by Shane Evans
- Ali's Story- A Journey from Afghanistan Andy Glynne, illustrated by Salvador Maldonado
- Rachel's Story- A Journey from Eurasia Andy Glynne Joyce Bentley, illustrated by Salvador Maldonado
- The Treasure Box Margaret Wild, illustrated by Freya Blackwood
- Out Angela May George, illustrated by Owen Swan
- Refuge Anne Booth, illustrated by Sam Usher
- I'm Australian Too Mem Fox, illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh
- Stepping Stones Margriet Ruurs illustrated by Nizar Ali Badr
- Teacup Rebecca Young, illustrated by Matt Ottley
- My Two Blankets Irena Kobald, illustrated by Freya Blackwood
- Suri's Wall Lucy Estela, illustrated by Matt Ottley
- Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey Doug Kuntz, and Amy Shrodes, illustrated by Sue Cornelison
- My Beautiful Birds Suzanne Del Rizzo, illustrated by Suzanne Del Rizzo
- Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation Edwidge Danticat, illustrated by Leslie Staub
- Room on Our Rock Kate and Jol Temple, illustrated by Terri Rose Baynton
- Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees Mary Beth Leatherdale, illustrated by Eleanor Shakespeare
- The Mediterranean Armin Greder * Older Readers
- Sonam and the Silence Eddie Ayres, Ronak Taher illustrated by Ronak Taher