

Australia's refugee policy



Uniya

JESUIT SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

Handout

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Inform yourself and others about refugees

- Learn about refugees' countries and cultures of origin
- Learn about the history of refugees in Australia
- Learn about refugees laws, policies and practices
- Show interest in other people's lives
- Keep up to date on the issues

It could include:

- Visiting asylum seekers in a detention centre
- Sharing experiences with refugee students in your school
- Raising the issue with family and friends

Create a safe welcoming environment for refugees in your school, community and family

This could include:

- Showing new refugees around the school and local community
- Helping refugees with their English
- Including refugees in your group of friends
- Listening to their stories and showing understanding
- Writing letters to asylum seekers in detention
- Challenging racist comments or behaviour

Work with other concerned people towards policy change

- Seek a meeting with your local politician or council members to express concerns
- Write letters to local members, the Prime Minister, Minister for Immigration and opposition
- Write letters to the editor of your local, state and national papers
- Sign a petition or start one up
- Join a refugee action support group

References

Centre for Refugee Research UNSW, *Roads to Refuge: Refugees in Australia*, Teaching Kit, Centre for Refugee Research UNSW, 2003

Greco, Sarina, "Concerned about Refugee Policy? Here's What You Can Do," *Migration Action*, 14(1), July 2002

Contact Uniya

Contact Uniya on (02) 9356 3888 or info@uniya.org for more information on how you can pursue any of the above actions.