



SHOW MERCY IN OUR COMMUNITY VIDEO

Student Activities Sheet Senior Version

AIMS:

KNOWLEDGE:

Students will gain a greater understanding of current refugee and asylum seekers issues within the Australian and international context.

SKILLS:

Students will use the Show Mercy website and Show Mercy in Our Community video to locate and analyse information.

VALUES:

Students will value the human dignity of all people. They will learn to appreciate the variety and complexity of asylum seeker and refugee issues. They will recognise the need for greater understanding and action in Australia.

INTRODUCTORY REFLECTIONS and BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These questions and activities should be completed prior to watching the video.

1. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. When have you felt alone?
2. Have you ever had to move house? How did you feel?
3. Have you ever lost important possessions? When and What?
4. Think of a threatening situation you have been in. How did you feel?
5. Where do you feel safe? Why?
6. Have you ever been in a place where you felt you did not belong? How did you feel? What did you do?
7. How does it make you feel when people don't listen to you or believe your stories?

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Use Fact Sheets on the Show Mercy website to find the following definitions and background information. Website:

<http://www.showmercy.info/Resources/factsheets.html>

Definitions:

1. Define Refugee
2. Define Asylum Seeker

Current Situation:

1. How many refugees does Australia admit per year?
2. Which group of people are the most “illegal immigrants” to Australia? Does this surprise you? Why/Why not?
3. Refugees who arrive in Australia without a valid visa, now receive a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV). What services are denied under this visa?
4. Can you think of any problems that may arise when people do not have access to these services?
5. What is meant by the term “Pacific Solution”?
6. “All non-Australian citizens in Australia without permission are liable to be detained and removed as soon as practicable”. Rewrite this statement in your own words.
7. What is one reason why detention in Australia been criticized internationally?

3. QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED USING THE VIDEO – SHOW MERCY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Senior Version

1. What scenes from the video grabbed your attention?
2. What different feelings did you have as you watched the video?
3. In what ways is Australia not adhering to United Nations standards? How does knowing this make you feel?
4. Complete the following table:

COUNTRY	POPULATION	REFUGEES
United Kingdom	59 751 900	
United States of America	288 212 300	
Germany	81 947 100	
Canada	31 496 800	
Australia	19 731 100	

* Population statistics from <http://www.gazetteer.de/home.html>

5. Study the table above and answer the following:
 1. What do you notice about the population of Canada and Australia?
 2. What differences are there between the amount of refugees Canada and Australia take? Why do you think this is the case?
 3. Make two more observations from the table.
6. Mr Ruddock, the former Minister for Immigration states that “Immigration has been enormously beneficial to Australia”. What are three of the benefits you can think of? Can refugees also benefit Australia? Explain your answer.

7. Some of the phrases used to describe Asylum Seekers in the video included “queue jumpers”, “illegal immigrants”, “unlawful”

Are these terms positive or negative? What images of Asylum Seekers do they promote? Are these true and fair images? Explain your answer.

8. Write down three images of Woomera from the video.
9. What are some similarities and differences between Woomera and gaol?
10. Sr Susan Connolly has strong views towards the Australian governments treatment of Asylum Seekers. What are three of her opinions?
11. Sr Susan Connolly makes the following comment “When we treat others as less than human, it is our behaviour, not their reaction that is uncivilised”. Rewrite this statement in your own words. What was one reaction you had to this statement?
12. What are three things that Bishop Desmond Tutu urges us to do?
13. How do you think you can support actively the Asylum Seekers in Australia? Think about practical things that you can do such as:
- speaking to your friends and parents to raise awareness
 - volunteering your time to a community organisation assisting asylum seekers
 - signing a petition
 - writing letters to local members for Parliament
 - writing letters to newspaper editors
 - corresponding with detainees to help them feel welcomed in Australia

Make a commitment to one piece of action.