

We
welcome
support
stand **#WithRefugees**



World Refugee Day | 20 June 2016



World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

“ Refugees are people like anyone else, like you and me. They led ordinary lives before becoming displaced, and their biggest dream is to be able to live normally again. On this World Refugee Day, let us recall our common humanity, celebrate tolerance and diversity, and open our hearts to refugees everywhere. ”

- UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon

The Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement is about citizenship, service to others, and international solidarity and friendship. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have been putting these values into action, doing wonderful work to support refugees in their communities. This year, on World Refugee Day, we want to showcase this work and the positive contribution that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are making around the world. In doing so, we want to inspire others – both inside and outside the Movement – to do more to help refugee communities.

This pack contains ideas for what you can do to support refugees in your communities and how you can commemorate World Refugee Day this year.

Inside this pack:

Key Messages

Learn About Refugees

What You Can Do to Help

- Fundraise
- Collect Supplies
- Raise Awareness
- Campaign & Lobby

Share Your Story

Key Messages:

- There are more people currently displaced by conflict than at any point since World War II. This is a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions.
- We can and we must take action to support refugees, who deserve our empathy and support. Refugees are just like you and me – they are making the natural choice to flee from dangerous situations of war and conflict.
- The Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement is about citizenship, service to others, and international solidarity and friendship. We believe in helping others in need.
- Not enough is currently being done to support refugees, particularly girls and women. We are asking governments and humanitarian agencies to provide more comprehensive and holistic support. In addition to basic living requirements – including food, clothing, and shelter – girls and young women also need:
 - **Protection from gender-based violence**
 - **Safe spaces and psychosocial support**
 - **Education – including livelihoods and skills training – to rebuild their hopes for the future**
- We call on governments to:
 - **Open their borders and accept more refugees**
 - **Allocate more financial resources to support refugees**
 - **Track whether those resources go toward the needs of women and girls**
 - **Work in partnership with local and international NGOs to meet the challenges of this crisis**

For full details on WAGGGS' position on the refugee crisis and our recommendations, please read our policy paper [here](#).

Learn About Refugees

There are a lot of misconceptions out there about refugees. Many people don't understand the roots of the current refugee crisis and why so many people have been forced to flee their homes. Take the opportunity on this year's World Refugee Day to learn more about refugees' situations using some of the following resources:

- Read personal stories from refugees and the ordeals they've been encountered on their journeys on the [UNHCR's Tracks Project](#) website.
- Explore this great collection of educational resources that [the Guardian](#) has put together to find creative activities you can use with children and young people of all ages to understand more about refugees and their circumstances.

What You Can Do To Help

Many people want to do something to help refugees in their community and around the world, but don't know what to do. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Fundraise

1) Decide first who you want to fundraise for. Your options might include:

- Your own Member Organization, if your association is already doing work to support refugees.
- A Member Organization in another country that is supporting refugees. Contact WAGGGS and we can put you in touch with Member Organizations doing great work in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.
- [WAGGGS](#)
- [UNHCR](#)
- Another local or international charity supporting refugees

2) Choose a creative way to raise money for your chosen charity. Ideas might include:

- Host a film night. Show a movie related to the refugee crisis and donate the proceeds from ticket sales.
- Run, walk, or cycle. Ask your friends and family to sponsor you to participate in a marathon or cycling event.
- Host an event. This could be a dinner, an exhibition, a quiz night, a poetry reading – whatever you like!
- Challenge yourself. Set yourself a challenging task (e.g. giving up something you love for a month) and ask family and friends to sponsor you to meet your goal.
- Crowdfund. Use a platform like [JustGiving](#) or [VirginMoneyGiving](#) to support your fundraising efforts.

Collect Supplies

You can directly support refugees by collecting and donating items that they need. The first step is to find a charity in your local area that is taking donations and ask them what kinds of items they are accepting. Be sure to ask your local charity what will be most useful first before you start a collection. Once you know what to donate, then you can start collecting!

Refugees may need items like:

- Clothes, shoes, coats, scarves, hats
- Toiletries like toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrushes, shower gel
- Stationary supplies like pens, pencils, notepads
- Books, toys, instruments

Raise Awareness

As the number of refugees has continued to increase in recent years, so have the levels of fear and xenophobia directed against them. It is important to raise awareness about refugees – who they are, why they are fleeing, and why they need and deserve our support. Some things you can do to raise awareness and encourage more open and accepting attitudes toward refugees include:

- Write an article for your local newspaper about why you stand [#WithRefugees](#).
- Interview refugees and, with their permission and involvement, help them share their stories. This could be on a blog, through a photo exhibition, at a panel discussion or event, or in whatever format you think would be best for your community.
- Get on social media! Use the following hashtags to spread the word:
[#WithRefugees](#) - This is the official hashtag chosen by UNHCR for this year's World Refugee Day.
[#ScoutGuideSupport](#) [#Refugees](#)

Campaign and Lobby

The current response to the refugee crisis is severely inadequate. You can speak out and ask your government to do more to support refugees:

- Sign UNHCR's petition saying you stand **#WithRefugees**. UNHCR will use this petition to lobby governments at the UN General Assembly in September. This petition is available to sign [here](#).
- Start your own petition asking your government to accept more refugees or to devote more resources to support their needs. A [petition in the UK](#) received over 450,000 signatures and was debated in Parliament.
- Write a letter to your elected officials. Bethany Garden, a Brownie in Scotland, [wrote a letter](#) to the UK Prime Minister urging him to do more to support refugees. You could get your fellow Guides and Scouts across your country to join in and write letters too!
- Do something creative to show your government how important this issue is. Chinese artist Ai Wei Wei covered a German concert hall with [14,000 lifejackets](#) to commemorate those who lost their lives at sea trying to make the journey to Europe. And activists from Amnesty International Netherlands laid out [400 welcome mats](#) outside the Dutch Parliament to show their support for refugees. With the permission of your local officials, you could organize your own demonstration or installation outside an important building or in a public space in your city.

Share Your Story

These are just a few ideas to help you start thinking what you could do on World Refugee Day, and throughout the year, to support refugees.

Whatever you choose to do, let us know!

Take a photo of your Guides and Scouts in action supporting refugees. Be sure to include the **#WithRefugees sign** provided below somewhere in your photo.

Then share your photo with us by tweeting [@waggs_world](#) using **#WithRefugees** or sharing with us on **Facebook**.

We look forward to hearing from you about how you are helping refugees wherever you are and to sharing your stories with our global community.



We

#WithRefugees



WORLD
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