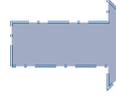


FACTSHEET: ASYLUM SEEKERS



ACTIVITY: BUST SOME MYTHS!

Ask the group to stand in the middle of the room. When you share the following statements, get them to run to the front of the room if they think it's true, or the back if they think it's false (if it's a myth)



- Refugees don't contribute to Scottish society. **MYTH**
- There are more than 65 million people around the world who have been forced from their homes. **FACT**
That's like the entire population of Britain leaving.
- It's only rich, western countries, who look after the vast majority of the world's refugees. **MYTH**
The UN's Refugee Agency estimates that 85% of the world's refugees are sheltered by developing countries.

SOFIA'S STORY

Ten year old Sofia has been living in a refugee camp for 4 years. She doesn't know what became of her parents; all she really remembers about her homeland is leaving.

"We came to Tanzania by boat. We were very many people running and pushing because of the fighters because they were coming.

Sofia goes to schools at the camp where she lives, but only if her grandmother doesn't need her for chores.

Many children living in refugee camps have to take care of younger siblings, and spend a lot of time gathering firewood, collecting water or doing the cooking.

ACTIVITY

Reflect on Sofia's story and discuss as a group:

- What has happened in the past 4 years? How have you changed? Is it a long period of time?
- What would be different for you now if you had spent the past four years in at the same place as Sofia?
- Are you ever kept at home from school to do chores? How would this effect Sofia?

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Ask the group then discuss the facts.

WHAT IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is a person who has fled their homeland for their safety.

WHAT IS AN ASYLUM SEEKER?

An asylum seeker is a person who has sought protection as a refugee, but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been granted. They are still *seeking asylum*.

DOES EVERY ASYLUM SEEKER BECOME A REFUGEE?

No, if their application is declined that means that they can be sent back to the country they fled from.

WHERE DO REFUGEES COME FROM?

These three countries were responsible for 57% of all refugees in 2017.

South Sudan
2.4million

Afghanistan
2.6million

Syria
6.3million

WHAT SSVP

SSVP members and Conferences (groups, usually in parishes) support refugees and asylum seekers locally in whatever way they can. They may visit and assist individuals and families in setting up their home, or provide food or clothing as necessary.

Mini Vinnies and Youth SSVP groups have also supported refugees and people seeking asylum through the giving of Christmas gifts and household packs.

CHALLENGE

As a group, find out what the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is and talk about what rights are listed for asylum seekers, and how we could better uphold these rights in Scotland.

"Everyone has a right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution"

-Article 14, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ACTIVITY

Imagine what it would be like to be a person who has been forced to flee their country for their own safety. What are some challenges you might face when arriving to a new country? For example: no job, different language, etc.

Draw a mind map with these challenges in thought bubbles then add some flow on challenges that you might face.

Now you can see that some issues quickly snowball and lead to greater disadvantage for people seeking safety in a new country.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO

BE ADVOCATES: Talk to your family, friends, classmates and community to help raise awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers around the world today, and bust those myths.

BE GENEROUS: Run a fundraising activity at school. Get in touch with your local SSVP to help them out with their work with refugees and asylum seekers.



**Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
Scotland**