

World Refugee Day, an international day designated by the UN to honor refugees around the globe. The theme for 2022 is “It is non-negotiable: **seeking safety is a human right.**” This day falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day encourages public awareness and support of refugees. It is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

Refugees are vulnerable, often misunderstood and maligned, have very little or nothing of their possessions or food as they often have to leave their homes with nothing or with what they can carry. They suffer cold, hunger, trauma, despair, disease, violence and loss. ***This awareness day is important to help public understanding of refugees as well as raising support and help.***

So let us come together in prayer, advocacy and action to help refugees. ***It is our is deepest belief that these vulnerable individuals should be protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities. Remember whoever, wherever, whenever has the right to seek safety.***

Advocacy/Education: Some Q&A about refugees in our world today.....

HOW IS A REFUGE DEFINED?

..... Refugees are defined and protected in international law. The [1951 Refugee Convention](#) is a key legal document and defines a refugee as: “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”

HOW MANY REFUGEES ARE IN THE WORLD?

.....As of mid-2021, the number of people forcibly displaced is now 84 million, and **over 26.6 million** refugees worldwide. Half of the world’s refugees are children. This number does not include more than 6.5 million people who have fled Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

WHAT DOES SEEKING SAFETY MEAN?

1. Right to seek asylum

Anyone fleeing persecution, conflict, or human rights abuses has a right to seek protection in another country.

2. Safe access

Borders should remain open to all people forced to flee. Restricting access and closing borders can make the journey even more dangerous for people seeking safety.

3. No pushbacks

People can’t be forced to return to a country if their life or freedom would be at risk. This means that countries shouldn’t push anyone back without first evaluating the dangers they would face back home.

4. No discrimination

People should not be discriminated against at borders. All applications for refugee status must be given fair consideration, regardless of factors like race, religion, gender and country of origin.

5. Humane treatment

People forced to flee should be treated with respect and dignity. They are entitled to safe and dignified treatment like any human being. Among other things, this means keeping families together, protecting people from traffickers, and avoiding arbitrary detention.

WHY IS THIS DAY IMPORTANT?

WRD shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees. It also builds empathy and awareness, provides an incentive to create a more peaceful world, and encourages us to be better friends, neighbors and citizens.

Action: Some ways to help refugees.....

.....Send a post card: Send a message of hope and solidarity to a refugee. Go to:
<https://anyrefugee.org/>

.....Sign a petition: Tell Congress to protect refugees and urge the Biden Admin to set refugee admission goal at 200,000 for fiscal year 2023. Click here:
<https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/urgent-action-tell-congress-to-protect-refugees-and-urge-administration-to-set-refugee-admissions-goal-at-200000-for-fy-2023/>