

'The real presence of refugees is a powerful demonstration of God's enabling generosity'
Rowan Williams

Read refugee stories on the Christian Aid website
www.christianaid.org.uk/change-the-story

Photo of refugees in Serbia: Christian Aid/Andrew Testa



A Refugee Story

I was so frightened. I was only six then. Mother had sent me to fetch the water. I heard guns and when I got back to my village nobody was there and all the houses were burning. I ran and ran till I found some people. I walked with them for days, weeks maybe. Sometimes people gave us a bit of food and water, but we were always hungry and thirsty, tired and hurting. So it was like a miracle when we found the camp, and people smiling at us. Someone came and held me gently in her arms, and then, I felt something like happy.

From a story in 'Entertaining Angels,' by Anthea Dove, published by Christians Aware, 2017

Some Useful Contacts

Christian Aid

www.christianaid.org.uk/change-the-story

National Justice and Peace Network

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

www.ctbi.org.uk

Christians Aware

www.christiansaware.co.uk

Refugee Council

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/tellitlikeitis

Jesuit Refugee Service

www.jrsuk.net

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

www.jcwi.org.uk

City of Sanctuary

www.cityofsanctuary.org

Seeking Sanctuary

www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

British Red Cross

www.redcross.org.uk

Refugees -seeing the full picture ?



Petra Röhr Rouendaal

**A resource for the churches from
The National Justice and Peace
Network, Churches Together in
Britain and Ireland and
Christians Aware**

Who is a Refugee?

The 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees defines a refugee as someone who:

'...owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being resident outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.'

Article 14(1) of the UN Declaration of Human Rights states:

'Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.'

The UN Petition:

www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/petition/

Some Facts

For the most recent facts and figures about refugees go to the Refugee Council website:

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/tellitlikeitis

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/4853

At least 25 million people have been forced to leave their home countries

At least 40 million people are forcibly displaced within their own countries

Developing countries host 86% of the world's refugees

The UK currently houses 1% of the world's refugees.

Many refugees overcome negative experiences, including:

Trauma

Shattering of any sense of self

Loss of home and security

Loss of a sense of meaning and of belonging

Fear of the Future

Christian Aid has given advice for the creation of this leaflet and has many stories of refugee courage

What we can do

'Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home'.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Request a copy of the Refugee Council's myth busting guide 'Tell it Like it is' by e- mailing marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Link in with what the churches are doing www.ctbi.org.uk/how-the-churches-are-responding-to-the-refugee-crisis

Pray, and include refugee related material in services & sermons. Give to support refugee work

Challenge misinformation & negative attitudes in the media, local communities & some political groups, with a hopeful and positive approach

Lobby and campaign for better policies and practices in the UK and internationally, including work for families to be together

Arrange opportunities for listening to asylum seeker and refugee experiences

Raise awareness of displaced people and of the challenges they face. Arrange meetings and activities and offer hospitality towards integration in the local community