



What Is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is a festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees. This year it is being celebrated from the 15th to the 21st of June. One of the main aims of the week is to promote a better understanding of why people are displaced and the challenges they face when seeking sanctuary. The festival involves a programme of arts, cultural, sport and educational events and activities, including art exhibitions, film screenings, theatre and dance performances, concerts, football tournaments and public talks. Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, which means that anyone can be involved by organising, attending or taking part in activities.

What Does It Mean to Be a Person With a Refugee Background?

A person with a refugee background is someone who has had to flee their country to seek refuge because they are being persecuted (mistreated, intimidated or oppressed) or are in fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Some people might also be seeking refuge due to war.

When Did Refugee Week Begin?

Refugee Week was founded in 1998 in the United Kingdom and takes place annually around World Refugee Day (20th June). Since its creation, the movement has grown to around 2 million participants across over 20 countries.

The 2026 Refugee Week Theme

The theme for Refugee Week 2026 is 'Courage'. It takes great courage to face an unknown future, from making new journeys, learning new languages, navigating unfamiliar systems, to waking up every day to uncertainty. This year's theme encourages people to join together and share the courage to welcome, stand up for beliefs and celebrate communities and cultures.

Inspired by the theme, 'Courage', people are also invited to do one or more of these Simple Acts:

1. Have a Courageous Conversation

Conversations where people speak from the heart and listen not just to respond are always courageous. Together, people can have conversations that build bridges or allow them to grow through understanding.

2. Get Drawing or Painting

A brilliant way for someone to express themselves, their stories and their life journey is through drawing and painting. This can be done individually, with a friend or in a large group.

3. Watch a Film Together

Films have great power to challenge audiences and discover new insights. A list of recommendations for films and TV shows to watch is on the Refugee Week website.

4. Walk and Talk

Walking together is a great way to have conversations. It can help people slow down and be present while discovering new ways for others to see things.

5. Share Food and Stories

Food is a great way to bring people and communities together. People can share recipes to experience new flavours and a culture's cuisine, to build stronger relationships.

6. Read a Book

In addition to films, books can encourage us to see the world through others' eyes while developing empathy and understanding towards their experiences. Some people may want to read or listen to a book, host a book club with their friends or even organise their own book swap.

7. Let Nature Inspire You

Being in nature can help remind someone of how the natural world works in collaboration. Someone could go for a walk to spend time in nature, explore nearby growing projects or learn more about nature.

8. Move Together

Collaboration is always great to develop through having fun and playing. When people move together - whether it's dancing, walking, playing or stretching - they build trust, joy and community.

9. Join the Movement

Although Refugee Week lasts for seven days, the movement for a kinder world continues all year round. It is hoped that people will carry on the spirit and energy of Refugee Week, such as through campaigning or volunteering.

What Is Refugee Week? Questions

1. When is Refugee Week 2026 taking place? Tick one.

- 4th – 10th July
- 14th – 20th June
- 15th – 21th July
- 15th – 21th June

2. Fill in the missing words.

When people move together - whether it's dancing, walking, playing or _____
- they build trust, joy and _____ .

3. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'protection and safety'.

4. How do you think people with a refugee background show courage?

5. Why do you think it is important to make people aware of Refugee Week?

6. Four paragraphs in the text have been summarised below. Number them from 1 to 4 in the order they appear in the text.

- An explanation of what a person with a refugee background is.
- A brief history of how the festival came to be and what it has grown into.
- An introductory paragraph explaining what Refugee Week is.
- A description of the theme and what people can do to take part.

7. Compare making new journeys to learning a new language. Which one do you think requires the most courage?

8. Why is the author’s use of the word **collaboration** effective to describe how people can help?

9. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, which means that anyone can be involved.		
Refugee Week was founded in 1999.		
The theme for Refugee Week 2026 is ‘Bravery’.		
Drawing or painting is not a great way to get involved.		
Although Refugee Week lasts for seven days, the movement for a kinder world continues all year round.		

Dig Deeper

Discuss with a partner: Where could you use an idea or fact you have found out today in your everyday life?

What Is Refugee Week? Answers

1. When is Refugee Week 2026 taking place? Tick one.

- 4th – 10th July
- 14th – 20th June
- 15th – 21th July
- 15th – 21th June**

2. Fill in the missing words.

When people move together - whether it's dancing, walking, playing or **stretching** - they build trust, joy and **community**.

3. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'protection and safety'.

sanctuary

4. How do you think people with a refugee background show courage?

Learners' own responses, such as: I think people from a refugee background show courage by taking journeys where they may not know exactly where to go or have to leave a place quickly. I think facing that amount of uncertainty takes a lot of bravery.

5. Why do you think it is important to make people aware of Refugee Week?

Learners' own responses, such as: I think it is important to make people aware of Refugee Week so that more people can be encouraged to take part in campaigning to promote awareness, as well as preventing the spread of misinformation.

6. Four paragraphs in the text have been summarised below. Number them from 1 to 4 in the order they appear in the text.

- 2** An explanation of what a person with a refugee background is.
- 3** A brief history of how the festival came to be and what it has grown into.
- 1** An introductory paragraph explaining what Refugee Week is.
- 4** A description of the theme and what people can do to take part.

7. Compare making new journeys to learning a new language. Which one do you think requires the most courage?

Learners' own responses, such as: I think making new journeys requires the most courage as the journeys are unfamiliar and may be difficult to take. This would need a lot of courage to go through.

8. Why is the author's use of the word **collaboration** effective to describe how people can help?

Learners' own responses, such as: I think the use of the word 'collaboration' by the author is effective to describe how people can help because it emphasises the importance of teamwork. It indicates that people need to work together to bring awareness of people who have a refugee background or for people with lived experience of seeking asylum.

9. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, which means that anyone can be involved.	✓	
Refugee Week was founded in 1999.		✓
The theme for Refugee Week 2026 is 'Bravery'.		✓
Drawing or painting is not a great way to get involved.		✓
Although Refugee Week lasts for seven days, the movement for a kinder world continues all year round.	✓	

Award 2 marks for all five correct.

Award 1 mark for four correct.