

Disclaimer

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Refugee Week

Refugee Week takes place 17th - 23rd June.

It's a week-long celebration of how refugees add to the art, culture and society of the countries where they live.

This year, the theme for the Week is 'Our Home'.

On the Refugee Week website, it says: 'Home can be a place of **refuge**, a feeling or a state of mind.'

It adds: 'What would happen if this Refugee Week we extended our warmth and **hospitality** beyond our own homes and made entire neighbourhoods more welcoming?'

'Simple acts like having a chat, walking together, or sending a message of welcome can help everyone feel like they belong.'

Events, such as school workshops, film screenings and festivals will be taking place across the UK. Each highlighting the contributions refugees make to their communities as well as the difficulties refugees face.

The largest Refugee Week festival in the UK is the nine-day 'Migration Matters Festival' in Sheffield.

Sam Holland is the director of the festival. He said: "This year's festival will include our best lineup yet."



Illustration: People around the world.

In the UK, Refugee Week began in 1998. The yearly event is timed to **coincide** with the United Nations (UN) World Refugee Day which takes place on 20th June each year.

António Guterres is the UN Secretary-General. He said: "Refugees represent the very best of the human spirit. They need and deserve support and solidarity – not closed borders and pushbacks."

What is a refugee?

- **A refugee is someone who has had to leave their home and country as they are unable to stay there. This can be for different reasons, such as due to **persecution**, war or natural disasters.**
- **Refugees are often unable to return to their home countries as it would not be safe for them to do so. Refugees can be individuals, families or even children.**

Glossary

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| refuge | Somewhere that provides protection or shelter from danger or trouble. |
| hospitality | Generous and friendly behaviour towards visitors and guests. |
| coincide | Happen at the same time. |
| persecution | Being treated cruelly or unfairly because of being different. |

Questions

1. How often does Refugee Week happen? **(tick one)**

Twice a year.

Once a year.

Once every two years.

Once every four years.

2. Using information from the article, fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

_____ is a celebration of how _____
add to the art, culture and society of the _____ where they live.

3. What is the theme of this year's Refugee Week?

4. Look at this sentence: **Each highlighting the contributions refugees make to their communities as well as the difficulties refugees face.** Which of the following definitions is closest in meaning to the word 'contributions' as it is used in this sentence? **(tick one)**

Donating things to charity.

Things people do that improve something and make it more successful.

Keeping something to yourself.

Refusing to help or join in.

5. Look at the fact box. Find and copy one reason why someone might become a refugee.

6. Look at the quote from António Guterres. What do you think he meant when he said: 'Refugees represent the very best of the human spirit'?

