

# Refugee Week

## What Is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is a festival that is taking place in the UK from 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

The week involves a range of different educational events that aim to help people better understand why others have to become refugees and is a celebration of the positive contribution that refugees make to the UK.

Schools are also invited to organise creative and educational events to help children gain a better understanding of refugees.

## Refugee Week Events include:

- arts festivals and exhibitions
- theatre and dance performances
- films and concerts
- football tournaments
- public talks

## What Does Being a Refugee Mean?

A refugee is someone who has had to leave their own country because they are being treated badly or are in fear of being treated badly.

Sometimes, refugees are afraid of being hurt, or even killed, because of their religious beliefs, political opinions or because of where they are from.

People are often forced to become refugees because of war in a country or due to a natural disaster.

## When Did Refugee Week Begin?

Refugee Week began in 1998 because there was a lot of incorrect information about why refugees were coming to the UK. Many newspapers reported that refugees were here for money and 'free housing', and some people had bad feelings towards refugees.



The organisers of Refugee week say:

“Our ultimate aim is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution”.

## The 2026 Refugee Week Theme

The theme for Refugee Week 2026 is, ‘Courage’. This year’s theme encourages people to think about the courage that refugees have when facing unknown journeys, learning new languages and taking new steps in an unfamiliar world. It also calls for us to have the courage to come together to welcome, stand up for what we believe in and celebrate culture and community.

Inspired by the theme ‘Courage’, people are invited to do one or more of these nine simple acts:

1. Have a courageous conversation
2. Watch a film together
3. Share food and stories
4. Walk and talk
5. Read a book
6. Get drawing and painting
7. Let nature inspire you
8. Move together
9. Join the movement

Ultimately, the aim is for as many people as possible to come together during Refugee Week and hope for a safe and welcoming world where healing replaces harm.



## Did You Know...?

According to the UN Refugee agency, UNHCR, over 117 million people worldwide became refugees by the end of mid 2025.

**“To me, a home is where you feel loved, safe, and cherished.”**

**- Malala Yousafzai**

# Questions

1. When does Refugee Week 2026 take place? Tick one

- 5<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> July
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July

2. Name **two** different events that might be held during Refugee Week.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. Match the word to the definition.

contribution	Something that you do not know or recognise.
valuable	Very useful or important.
unfamiliar	To love or keep something.
cherished	A thing someone is able to give.

4. How do you think a refugee might feel when arriving in a new country?

---

---

---

5. This year's theme is 'Courage'. What might be a theme for Refugee Week in the future?  
Explain your answer.

---

---

---

6. Look at the section titled **What Is Refugee Week?**

Find and copy a word that means 'a special event where people come together'.

---

7. Summarise the section titled **The 2026 Refugee Week Theme** in 30 words or fewer.

---

---

---

8. Malala Yousafzai is someone who had to leave the country she was living in. Why do you think the author has ended the text with a quote from her?

---

---

---

**Dig Deeper**

Discuss with a partner:

How informative is this text? Rate it on a scale of 1-5. Why did you give that rating?

# Answers

1. When does Refugee Week 2026 take place? Tick one

- 5<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
 5<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
 **15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July

2. Name **two** different events that might be held during Refugee Week.

**Accept any two of the following: arts festivals and exhibitions; theatre and dance performances; films and concerts; football tournaments; public talks.**

3. Match the word to the definition.

contribution	●	●	Something that you do not know or recognise.
valuable	●	●	Very useful or important.
unfamiliar	●	●	To love or keep something.
cherished	●	●	A thing someone is able to give.

4. How do you think a refugee might feel when arriving in a new country?

**Learners' own responses, such as: A refugee arriving in a new country might feel frightened and homesick or they might feel relieved that they are away from harm and in a safer place.**

5. This year's theme is 'Courage'. What might be a theme for Refugee Week in the future? Explain your answer.

**Learners' own responses, such as: I think a theme for Refugee Week in the future could be 'Bravery' as refugees have to be brave when facing the challenges of leaving their homes and fitting in somewhere new.**

6. Look at the section titled **What Is Refugee Week?**

Find and copy a word that means 'a special event where people come together'.

**celebration**

7. Summarise the section titled **The 2026 Refugee Week Theme** in 30 words or fewer.

**Learners' own responses, such as: The purpose of this year's theme is to encourage people to think about the courage refugees have when making new journeys and the courage we have when we are welcoming.**

8. Malala Yousafzai is someone who had to leave the country she was living in. Why do you think the author has ended the text with a quote from her?

**Learners' own responses, such as: I think the author has chosen to end with a quote from Malala Yousafzai as it leaves the audience thinking about what she has said, and as she has experiences refugees will have, it helps the audience feel closer to refugees.**