

REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

Girlguiding North West England is a space for all members, including refugees and asylum seekers. Guiding can provide a network of support, an opportunity to make friends, and the chance to participate in incredible activities and adventures. That's why every unit should welcome and accept refugees and asylum-seeking children and adult volunteers.

Things you need to know when welcoming refugee and asylum-seeking young members and adult volunteers:

-Refugees and people seeking asylum will have experienced a lot of disruption and may, therefore, have increased vulnerability. They might have fled wars, seen or experienced abuse, and been separated from their loved ones. Keep this in mind and provide extra sensitivity and support.

-Those seeking asylum may have limited or no choice in where they live. Guiding may be the only extracurricular activity which they can join due to cost or accessibility.

-Families will receive limited funds for living costs and may struggle with the costs of activities, trips, and uniforms. Keep this in mind when requesting members wear uniforms, pay subs, or buy equipment to complete badges outside of units.

-They may have limited access to health care.

-Many will have uncertainty as to their long-term status and whether they'll have the right to live in the UK. This can cause additional stress and may also mean they might not be at your unit long term.

-They're at high risk of discrimination and other forms of prejudice. Be mindful of the stresses they'll be under and strive to make sure your unit is an inclusive and supportive environment.

-Avoid making assumptions, for example, about what language they may speak or what their previous experiences may have been, or what traditions they celebrate. Make time to listen and strive to make them feel included.



Resources

Resources from the Girlguiding Program:

Rainbows

-UMA Take Action- A Warm Welcome

Brownies

-UMA- Know Myself- Celebrate Good Times

Guides

-UMA Know Myself- Hello My Fabulous Friend

Rangers

-UMA Know Myself- Memories Last a Lifetime

Additional Resources

Videos:

-CBBC Bedtime Stories, '[Coming to England](#)'

-CBBC Newsround, '[World Refugee Day: What is a refugee?](#)'

Books:

-The Girl at the Front of the Class, Onjali Q Raúf illustrated by Pippa Curnick (4-6 years)

-Everybody's Welcome, Patricia Hegarty illustrated by Greg Abbott (4-6 years)

-My Name is Not Refugee, Kate Millner (4-8 years)

-The Suitcase, Chris Naylor-Ballesteros (4-8 years)

-Lily and the Polar Bears, Join Sheibani (4-8 years)

-Wisp: A Story of Hope, Zana Fraillon and Grahame Baker Smith (6-8 years)

-Someone Just Like You, Helen Docherty illustrated by David Roberts (6-8 years)

-Azzi in Between, Sarah Garland (7-11 years)

-You Don't Know What War Is: the diary of a young girl from Ukraine, Yeva Skalietska (9-11 years)

-Who are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave Their Homes? And Other Big Questions, Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young (9-11 years)

-Boy, Everywhere, A. M. Dassu (9-11 years)

-Refugee Boy, Benjamin Zephaniah (10-14 years)

Resources for adult members:

-We Are Displaced, Malala Yousafzai

-The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You, Dina Nayeri

-The Best We Could Do, Thi Bui

For more information and resources visit the Girlguiding website [here](#).

