



What Happens During the Week?



What is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities.

[Click here for information on the background of Refugee Week.](#)

What happens during the week?

Every year during Refugee Week hundreds of events are organised across the UK. In 2010, there were over 550 small and large events, ranging from big music festivals and art exhibitions to political debates, film screenings, conferences, school activities, sports and community events etc.

[2010 Refugee Week highlights.](#)

Is there a theme for the events?

This year is the 60th anniversary of the [refugee convention](#), and we'll be focusing on the theme of **60 years of Contribution** for Refugee Week 2011.

We're currently collecting stories about the many great individuals who came to Britain over the last 60 years as refugees, and we'll be celebrating the contribution they've been and ongoingly are to our lives and British society. Got any stories or photos to share?

Get in [touch](#) with us!

The Refugee Week slogan is **Different Pasts, Shared Future**.

We encourage Refugee Week event organisers to organise events around the idea that Refugee Week is a **space of encounters** between different communities and an opportunity to use more creative ways to bring refugee experiences closer to wider audiences.

How can I get involved?

You can show your support for Refugee Week by

- **Joining the Simple Acts campaign** - do [something simple](#) to change perceptions of refugees.
 - **Organising an event in your local area** - see our [Advice and Ideas for Organising Events](#) section for more information.
 - **Visiting an event in your area** - check out the [Events Calendar](#) to find an event near you.
 - **Supporting existing activities** by volunteering or donating - to find out more about this or to get further information, please visit the [Get Involved](#) section of our website.
 - **Donate** to help us build a better Refugee Week for 2011
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The Refugee Week Team

The Refugee Week Team consists of the UK Coordinator for Refugee Week, Welsh and Scottish Co-ordinators, an Online and Marketing Officer and a small number of volunteers with specific skills. It leads in the central planning, coordination and promotion of national activities and initiatives that take place or culminate within Refugee Week.

The Refugee Week Team is also the central UK resource providing information and marketing materials, guidance, planning and support to other participant

organisations in UK cities and regions.

Join our [mailing list](#) and keep informed of all the latest news about Refugee Week

"My best friend, Mr. Gruber, who keeps an antique shop in the Portobello Road, says there are so many homeless people in the world nowadays, I would have probably ended in up in a camp along with lots of others.

He was a refugee himself once, and he says that although the people who run the camps try to do their best, it isn't easy, and it's particularly hard for children who are alone in the world and have no else to turn to. They, more than anyone else, need all the help they can get.

That's why Refugee Week is so important.

The most precious thing you can give a child is your time. Every little helps and it's the thought that counts."

[From 'Paddington Bear's Simple Act' by Michael Bond](#)



