

NOTES FOR REFUGEE PRESENTATION

SLIDE ONE

The content of this presentation may be upsetting for pupils (particularly those that have experience of such things in their own lives), be aware of this when discussing with your class/school. You may wish to remove some of the slides or information, depending on the needs and experiences of the pupils in your class/school.

SLIDE TWO

Ask the students to think about and discuss the question: Why do people move from their home?

Ensure that students are aware that there are many different reasons that people move. Explore the difference between moving out of choice and forced migration. Discuss what is meant by the terms migrant and refugee, and that the difference between them is.

UN Refugee Agency / UNHCR describes the difference between refugees and migrants:

Refugees – have to move in order to save their lives or preserve their freedom. They have no protection from their own state.

Migrants – choose to move in order to improve the prospects of themselves and their families.

SLIDE THREE

Discuss with the students why people take such risks to make such journeys. Discuss what it might feel like to be forced to leave your home, in order to find somewhere safe to live. Globally, 51% of refugees are under 18 years of age. Source: UNHCR, Global Trends 2016

SLIDE FOUR

Explain to the students that at times of crisis, people usually flee to other places within their own country – this is called internal displacement.

If they cannot find safety in their own country, they then might travel to their closest/ neighbouring countries. Some may travel to countries further afield.

- There has been a civil war in Syria since March 2011
- 8.7 million Syrians are displaced within Syria
- 4.8 million Syrians are refugees in other countries
- The top three countries hosting Syrian refugees are neighbouring countries: Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

SLIDE FIVE

Over the last couple of years there has been lots of coverage of the Refugee Crisis in Europe in the news, which the students are likely to have seen. Much of this will have been distressing, so be sensitive to this when discussing with the students.

Note that while approximately half of people making the journey to Europe have fled the conflict in Syria, this accounts for only a small minority of Syrians who have been made homeless by the war. Lebanon, a country one hundred times smaller than the EU, currently accommodates 1 million Syrian refugees.

Use a map of the area to aid the discussion. Locate Syria, surrounding countries and the Mediterranean on the map and use the map to help students to visualise and understand better the pattern of movement in this region. Discuss why people are likely to have chosen these routes.

SLIDE SIX

This photo shows refugees approaching the shore in Greece from Turkey.

- More than one million refugees and migrants risked their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea into Europe since 2014, and more than half of those came from Syria
- 16,328 have died crossing the Mediterranean to date (by June 2018). Source: UNHCR
- In 2018 (by June) 37,034 had used the Mediterranean sea as a means of escape and 784 people have been reported dead.

SLIDE SEVEN

Around the world, there are other crises which force people to flee. In August 2017 there was a brutal crackdown by military forces in Myanmar following attacks by Rohingya militants. This has led to a major humanitarian crisis in the area.

Over 646,000 Rohingya refugees have now fled over the border into neighbouring Bangladesh. As part of Caritas International, SCIAF are able to respond quickly to humanitarian crisis.
Case study – Living on the edge (pdf)

SLIDE EIGHT

In Bangladesh, SCIAF are supporting Caritas Bangladesh to provide 40,000 Rohingya families with essential food and other items.

SLIDE NINE

Ask the students to imagine what it would be like to leave their home and most of your possessions behind. Ask the students: What would you need if you arrived in a new country? Discuss the need for basic human necessities like shelter, food and water. What else would you need or want? Discuss the right to education, and to play, relax with friends. etc (see UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Many people who have made the difficult journey to other countries are now living in poor conditions, with governments struggling to

provide the things they need. Three out of four of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.

Without help from other countries, people will continue to live in poor conditions without any rights.

SLIDE TEN

SCIAF are supporting refugees in Lebanon and Jordan with shelter and basic supplies.

SLIDE ELEVEN

SCIAF are also supporting psychosocial projects with children in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, helping them to come to terms with what they've experienced. This work often involves children drawing pictures, playing games or making puppets to help them express their feelings. The pictures – like these ones from a Caritas Syria project in Damascus – are often shocking.

CASE STUDY

Experiences from parents (pdf)