# Refugees: Welcome – Next steps

## Introduction

This sheet shares some ideas and onward links to help educators and young people take forward their learning and actions around refugees and the theme of welcome.

## Action ideas

The following are ideas for taking small, positive actions to help asylum seekers and refugees in the UK feel more welcome.

Some ideas include links to websites where you can find out more or see examples of actions taken by others.

**Raise awareness**

Create a leaflet, short play, film or display that will help others in your school or community learn more about the reality and facts behind the refugee crisis.

You may be able to work with local refugee groups and organisations to ask people to share their real stories as part of this.

**Welcome banner/poster**

Get creative and make a welcome banner or poster to show how you welcome refugees and asylum speakers in your own community.

Take a picture of yourself with the poster / banner and add it to others on the [Simple Acts blog](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/tagged/Share%20a%20message%20of%20Welcome). Or share your creation on Twitter using #RefugeesWelcome

*[NOTE to educators: please ensure permissions are granted before sharing images.]*

**Welcome boxes**

A school in Leicester has been creating [welcome boxes](http://refugeeweek.org.uk/leicester-schools-welcome-refugees/?platform=hootsuite) for asylum seekers and refugees arriving into the city. Young people had to think carefully about what they would put in the box to make people feel welcome. What would you put in a box and how would you get it to those it was intended for?

**Say hello**

A simple hello can go a long way in helping people to feel welcome. Learn how to say hello in some of the languages spoken by asylum seekers and refugees arriving in your area.

**Meeting needs**

Find out who is supporting refugees and asylum seekers in your local area and ask what their needs are and how you might be able to offer help. It may be toys for children or clothes and blankets for people who had to leave their own behind. Respecting their needs rather than assuming you know what they need is a good place to start.

**Greeting event**

Hold a [greeting event](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/tagged/Share%20a%20meal) and invite asylum seekers and refugees to attend. This could be over tea and cakes/snacks or even a collective meal cooked and shared by everyone. Promote your event on Twitter using #RefugeesWelcome

## Additional activities for educators to use with young people

**Needs and wants**

A whole group event where young people are asked to imagine they have to leave and with only a single bag that they can carry themselves – perhaps for several weeks. What would they choose to take? They could bring their bags in and take time to explore each other’s choices and reasons; raising empathy for the decisions young asylum seekers like them might have to make for real.

Supporting resource: [Needs and wants auction](http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Teaching-packages/Needs-and-wants-auction)

**Stigma and refugees**

Explore the harmful effects of stigma that can cause hardship and hurt for asylum seekers and refugees.

Supporting resource: [Stigma and migration](http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Lesson-plans/Stigma-and-migration).

**Positive images**

Look in more detail at challenging stigma and stereotypes around refugees and asylum seekers. Supporting resource: [Positive Images](http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Teaching-packages/Positive-Images).

**Refusing to ignore those in crisis**

Run an assembly to highlight the [work of the British Red Cross](http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Refugee-support) in supporting the people affected by the refugee crisis. Look at the role of volunteers in helping to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees and explore some of the stories of real-life people who have been supported by the Red Cross.

Supporting resource: [The power of humanity assembly kit](http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Assembly-kits/The-power-of-humanity)

**Speaker assembly**

Invite a refugee or asylum seeker (via the local community or a local refugee organisation) to speak directly to young people as a group in a session or assembly.

Clearly this will require some sensitivity for the both the presenter and the audience. Support may also be required for translation, though several organisations and agencies provide speakers for this purpose and so will be able to advise you accordingly.