

## UN World Refugee Day

Did you know that every minute of every day 20 people leave their homes to escape war or terror? UN World Refugee Day is a day when we can support and celebrate the strength and courage of millions of refugees worldwide.

### Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

### Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. .... a refugee	a. to go and live somewhere permanently
2. .... a stateless person	b. money given to help a person or charity
3. .... a donation	c. someone who has had to escape their country because their life was in danger
4. .... a border	d. to escape danger by running away
5. .... to settle	e. someone who has had to leave their home, but not their country
6. .... to flee	f. the line that divides one country from another country
7. .... a crisis	g. an extremely difficult or dangerous time
8. .... an internally displaced person	h. someone who does not officially belong to any country

## UN World Refugee Day

Across the world there are currently over 65 million people who have had to leave their homes. Some have settled in new countries; many more are living in refugee camps, waiting for it to be safe enough to go home or to be resettled in a different country. The United Nations decided that refugees should have a special day, when we think of them and show our support. The first World Refugee Day was on 20 June 2001 and it's been celebrated every year since then.

### A refugee crisis

Sixty-five million people means that nearly one in 100 people in the world is a displaced person or refugee. We are now facing the worst refugee crisis in history. The number of refugees has doubled in the last twenty years. The situation is clearly worse in some countries than in others. Fifty-five per cent of refugees worldwide come from Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. Since the start of the war, more than 5.6 million Syrians have escaped the

country and 6.1 million are still living in Syria but have had to leave their homes. Around half of these 11 million people are children.

### The aim of World Refugee Day

A refugee crisis on this scale is difficult to deal with, but the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, reminds us that ‘the problems are war and hatred, not people who flee.’ World Refugee Day is about raising awareness of the situation and showing the refugees that together we can work to end the crisis and help displaced people to find safe and happy homes.

### What happens on World Refugee Day?

There are a lot of events on 20 June in different countries. Many famous landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Empire State Building in New York, are covered in blue lights, the colour of the United Nations. In Glasgow, Scotland, people hold hands to form an enormous human chain around George Square, in the city centre, to ‘show the world that Scotland welcomes refugees’. In many places there are film showings, exhibitions and various fundraising events.

### What you can do to help

A few years ago, the United Nations started a petition, #WithRefugees, for people worldwide to ask their governments to support refugees. So far nearly 2 million people have signed the petition. Many people also write letters to their governments or make a donation to a charity that supports refugees. So, what will you do?

<http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>

## Tasks

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
1. The first World Refugee Day was in 2000.	True	False
2. The refugee crisis was worse twenty years ago.	True	False
3. About 50 per cent of Syrian refugees and displaced people are under 18 years old.	True	False
4. Antonio Guterres agrees that refugees are a big problem.	True	False
5. There is a reason for using blue lights to celebrate World Refugee Day.	True	False
6. Only a few hundred people have supported the United Nations petition so far.	True	False

### Task 2

Complete the sentence with the missing words.

awareness	camps	donations	history
hold	landmarks	petition	worldwide

1. Some refugees have settled in new countries; many more are living in refugee ..... waiting for it to be safe enough to go home.
2. This is the worst refugee crisis in ..... and the number of refugees has doubled in the last twenty years.
3. Fifty-five per cent of refugees ..... come from Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan.
4. World Refugee Day is about raising ..... of the situation.
5. Many famous ....., such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, are covered in blue lights.
6. In Glasgow, Scotland, people ..... hands to form an enormous human chain.
7. On World Refugee Day in 2016 the United Nations started a ....., #WithRefugees
8. Many people also write letters to their governments or make ..... to a charity that supports refugees.

### Discussion

What can be done to change how people see refugees?

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. c
2. h
3. b
4. f
5. a
6. d
7. g
8. e

### Task 1

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False

### Task 2

1. camps
2. history
3. worldwide
4. awareness
5. landmarks
6. hold
7. petition
8. donations