

Walk a Mile in My Shoes



How to Host a Refugee Awareness Exercise On Your Campus or In Your Community





Introduction

Today, there are more than **123 million displaced people** around the world, double that seen during World War II.

While it is impossible to fully comprehend what it is like to be forced from your home and live as a refugee, Jesuit Refugee Service's Walk a Mile in My Shoes refugee awareness exercise provides individuals with an opportunity to begin to understand what it might be like.

WHAT IS WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES?

- An opportunity for communities to pause and consider some of the experiences, including the frustration, disappointments, and hopes, that refugees around the world face.
- A structured event in which individuals, students, community groups, and their guests move through different stations to learn more about the journeys that refugees around the world take to find safety.
- A strong tie to the JRS mission of serving the forcibly displaced and the centuries-long Jesuit tradition of promoting social justice.

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Our Mission

Who is JRS/USA?

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA (www.jrsusa.org) is an international Catholic non-governmental organization whose mission is to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS/USA serves the vulnerable, and often forgotten, people who are driven from their homes by conflict, natural disaster, economic injustice, or violation of their human rights. JRS/USA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

As one of 10 geographic regions of the Jesuit Refugee Service, JRS/USA serves as the major refugee outreach arm of the U.S. Jesuits and their institutional ministries, mobilizing their response.

JRS works in 58 countries worldwide to meet the educational, health, social, and other needs of refugees and forcibly displaced persons. JRS implements programs for more than one million children and adults, and undertakes advocacy to ensure that all displaced people are provided with the protection they deserve. All JRS services are made available to refugees and displaced persons regardless of their race, ethnic origin, or religious beliefs.

Why Should You Host *Walk A Mile In My Shoes?*

“This exercise was able to give me a better glimpse into what the living conditions are for millions of people.”

“I was not sure what to expect from the event but I can honestly say it opened my eyes further than they already were regarding the plight of refugees. All told, this was a memorable experience, and truly shifted my perspective on the refugee crisis.”

- Help people understand the daily life of 123 million displaced persons around the world.
- Motivate people to remain involved in refugee justice issues.
- Students and clubs can earn service credits for hosting and/or attending an event.
- Explore opportunities for appropriate advocacy.
- Strengthen your community's role in helping refugees locally and around the world.
- Promote the role of JRS in providing education and other services to refugees around the world.

How Can You Host *Walk A Mile In My Shoes*?



Hosting *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* requires taking several steps prior to the event, during the event, and after the event.

PRIOR TO THE EVENT:

- 1) Register your event with JRS by emailing clara.sayans@jrsusa.org. JRS will provide outreach materials a link to a webinar with further information, extra materials, media support, and advocacy suggestions.
- 2) Identify members of groups from whom you will need help and support. This includes your organization's decision-makers (e.g. group presidents, administrators, pastors), possible participants, and other groups that can serve as allies (e.g. social justice clubs, community civic groups, local parishes).
- 3) Create a Planning Committee that includes leadership and potential participants. Its responsibilities are to organize, oversee, and follow-up on the exercise. Two things of importance to note when planning this exercise are location and supplies. Walk a Mile in My Shoes can take place in any common area, indoors, outdoors, or in someone's home; the location does need to be large enough to accommodate all the stations and participants. For supplies, see the checklist provided in the Appendix. Consider forming teams to handle logistics, communications and outreach, and preparations of materials and organization of supplies. Have a checklist available for each team so that they remain organized.
- 4) Train volunteers. Volunteers help set-up for the event, staff the stations, and answer questions from participants. The Planning Committee will inform volunteers about the current refugee situation as well as provide instructions about the exercise. See the Appendix for the Questions and Answers and Fact Sheet pages useful for training volunteers.
- 5) Involve the local community. If hosting your exercise at a school, encourage faculty to incorporate a refugee related issue into their course work. Write an op-ed for a local or school newspaper. Invite members of the media to the event by sending out a press release (see outline in Appendix).



Event Stations



Participants will walk through the following eight stations to learn more about the different aspects of a refugee's experience. These stations can be adjusted or altered to fit any context. Feel free to be creative so that the stations are impactful for your community!

Have participants sign-in using JRS-provided sign-in sheets to track the number of participants and to follow-up. It should take participants around 30 minutes to walk through all the stations. Participants can begin the exercise individually or in a group of 4-6 people.

1) ENTRY/BORDER STATIONS

Participants will be presented with a "Refugee Identity Card" (JRS will provide) upon entering the space. The Identity Card will give the participants a refugee identity, providing a country of origin, refugee status, and the circumstances that led to their refugee status. As over half of refugees do not qualify for assistance, a few participants will be detained or denied entry for a few moments while the remainder of their group enters. Participants will continue to use their ID cards as they walk through each station.

2) SHELTER STATION

The "minimum standard area" for shelter in a refugee camp is 3.5 square meters per person (37 square feet); however, this size requirement is almost never met. Use colored tape on the floor to represent the area a family of four should receive, and then make a smaller space (about half) within the taped area to show what the family would actually receive. Some groups have found that setting up room dividers with blankets and a tarp on top acting as the roof or using a tent creates a powerful visual for participants. If you use room dividers, you could also let people construct their own shelter.

Place four blankets, one pot for cooking, one spoon/knife for cooking, and four bowls/sets of utensils. The purpose of these materials is to show the participants the few supplies that refugees may receive. Ask the participants to create a cooking area and four sleeping areas so that they can experience how difficult it would be to live in that small environment for an extended period of time.

3) FOOD STATION

The purpose here is to compare a participant's diet with a typical refugee's diet. The average calorie intake for most U.S. adults is 2,500 calories per day. In comparison, the average daily calorie intake for refugees in a camp is around 1,300 calories per person. This is equal to approximately three small bowls of rice, some beans or lentils on top, and a few sparse vegetables. For refugees' meals, it is important to display the same three meals as many refugees repeatedly eat the same few items due to limited access to a variety of foods. It is up to you to represent what you think a "typical" participant eats in your community — maybe a bowl of cereal, sandwich and chips for lunch, a few pieces of fruit, and a dinner plate of food. You can also include a few cans of soda, a coffee cup, desserts, snacks, etc.



“When you can get past the news cycle and learn more in depth about such situations, compassion increases, and a solution is closer.”

4) WATER STATION

The water station is both visual and interactive. For the visual portion, set up a gallon jug of water representing the normal water allotted to each refugee per day in a camp. Adjacent to the gallon jug, display five gallons of water to represent only two minutes of an average American shower. Many refugees access water through wells or other communal water sources and often have to carry the water long distances. A five-gallon bucket of water weighs about 41 pounds. Ask the participants to carry a five-gallon bucket about ten steps to provide a sense of how difficult it would be to transport the water. (If you don't want to fill the bucket, use weights or other items to provide weight).

5) MEDICAL/HEALTH STATION

The 1951 Refugee Convention states that refugees should enjoy access to health services equivalent to that of the host population. At the start of an emergency, individuals who are displaced are given measles immunization, nutritional support, and monitored for communicable diseases and epidemics. Severely malnourished refugees or those who have suffered trauma or violence can also be treated here. Consider also including information about medical organizations who work in refugee camps such as Doctors without Borders.

6) EDUCATION STATION

Currently, 51% percent - over half - of refugee children are out of school. Only 71 percent of crisis-affected children are enrolled in primary school, 64 percent in lower secondary school (middle school), and very few have access to pre-primary or post-secondary education. At the education station, ask participants to divide in half. One half will sit on the floor and each will be given a textbook and pencil. The other half will also sit on the floor but will have to share one textbook and one pencil. The person staffing this station will ask the group one question based on a section or passage in the book they were given and they will provide an answer. This should be more difficult for the group sharing one book and pencil.

7) DESTINATION STATION

The purpose of this station is to educate participants on the length of time that someone typically resides in a refugee camp. The UNHCR's current estimate is that people spend an average of 17 years in a refugee camp before they can resettle in a third country. Refugees must undergo one of the most rigorous immigration background checks in order to qualify for resettlement.

For this station, highlight the three options for refugees during the resettlement process:

1) remain in the refugee camp, 2) repatriate to their country of origin, 3) or gain new citizenship or status in the host country or a third country. According to the UN 2024 Global Trends Report and government statistics,

188,800 refugees were resettled to a third country in 2024, meaning that only 8% of estimated 2.4 million refugees in need of resettlement were resettled. As conflicts around the world continue, voluntary repatriation is becoming less of an option for refugees. Since 2010, for every refugee resettled, 4 have repatriated. A decade previously, this ratio was 1 for every 12.

After explaining the options, have participants grab a bead or other small object from a bag. Include three different colored beads. Out of the 100 beads in the bag, only 1 of them should be a different color. If anyone randomly selects this color, congratulate them on being able to resettle and leave the camp. Notify everyone else that they must continue their life in the camp.

8) ADVOCACY STATION

At this table participants can learn how JRS/USA works with refugees around the world and what they can do to work with refugees in their communities as well as advocate for globally displaced persons. There are many ways that you can set up this station to encourage advocacy on behalf of the displaced. Have JRS literature at the table that provides the data and rationale for writing advocacy letters to local and national policymakers. Arrange to have technology available where participants can take action on current JRS advocacy issues. Visit www.jrsusa.org/take-action to sign up for future actions.

Public Visibility

Raising awareness about *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* and its messages is an important element of the program's success. This section gives you tools and strategies to work with faculty, media, and community leaders to raise awareness about the needs of refugees.

- Encourage participants to capture their experience through photos or videos as they move through the *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* stations. You can figure out a way to judge the best photo or video and award prizes to the winners. Use social media as a way to document your event and be sure to tag JRS.
- Use and visit www.jrsusa.org/take-action to sign up for future actions. Incorporate messages into flyers and bulletin boards, printed forms, and e-mail signatures.
- Extend your reach to the broader community. For example, disseminate information about your *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* event through posters hung in local churches or school facilities and fact sheets posted in high-visibility locations.
- Contact the local radio or television media, school paper, parish newsletter, or church bulletin. Use the press release outline in the Appendix to describe your *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* event.
- Remember to include information about your *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* event on your organization's website. Be sure to keep event information updated and link.

Reflection and Other Resources to Consider

Some participants might want to reflect on and/or discuss their thoughts, experiences, and feelings from the exercise. Organizing a reflection opportunity is an excellent way to facilitate this. Reflection can be structured in a variety of ways. It can be an area set aside immediately following the exercise or even organized for a separate day shortly after the exercise. In addition, it can be silent individual reflection or small group dialogue. Consider your participants and which structure would best suit them. **See sample reflection questions in the Appendix.**

Along with JRS, local organizations involved with refugee resettlement and assistance are a valuable resource for informing your community and providing opportunities for participants to remain involved after the exercise. Think about inviting them and/or former refugees (if possible) to the exercise in order to add another perspective.



What's Next



After *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*

- Encourage participants to become active advocates to help other friends, family, and community leaders work towards improving the lives of refugees.
- Provide feedback to the organizers and to JRS regarding their experience with *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*.



- Contact local organizations to learn how to help resettled refugees in your community. Encourage participants to engage with local refugees in the community. Sponsor events to showcase the diversity and culture of their homelands, to help refugees get acclimated to the community and the various resources available, and to help them get additional education.
- Host a fundraiser for JRS or incorporate a fundraising component into *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*. A little goes a long way and JRS can allocate funds raised to specific programs or geographic areas, depending on your interest.
- Consider starting a JRS Refugee Action Team to continue spreading the word about refugees and displaced people.
- Follow JRS on Twitter (@jrsusa) and Facebook (facebook.com/jrsusa), and Instagram (@jrs_usa).

For more information, please contact clara.sayans@jrsusa.org or 202-629-5929.

Appendix

SUPPLIES CHECK LIST

Organizer to Provide:

- 7 Tables (for Stations)
- Room Dividers (or Tent Structure)
- 4 Blankets
- 4 Small Bowls and Utensils
- 1 Cooking Pot and Large Spoon
- Typical Participant Daily Meals
- Typical Refugee Daily Meals
- 5 Gallon Bucket and “Weight of Water”
- 6 Gallon Sized Water Jugs
- First Aid Kit, Lab Coat, Other Medical
- Supplies
- Pencils and Textbooks
- 2-3 Laptops

JRS/USA to Provide:

- JRS Planning Toolkit
- Refugee Identity Cards
- Sign-In Sheets for Entry Station
- JRS/USA Literature
- Additional Station Information



Sample Identity Cards

To get access to all of our unique identity cards, please email clara.sayans@jrsusa.org. Be sure to remind participants of the QR code on the backside of the identity card that links to a more detailed story from JRS/USA's website.

Name: Danh

Age: 21

Country of Origin: Vietnam

Current Location: Bangkok, Thailand



Danh is a differently abled refugee who fled Vietnam and has temporarily resettled as an urban refugee in Thailand. Like many refugees in Thailand, Danh does not have documents, and Thailand does not provide legal status to refugees. This makes securing any sort of formal education difficult and creates a sense of constant fear of arrest. Nevertheless, in 2018, Danh graduated from language and skills training courses run through the JRS Urban Education Project. Now, Danh is driven to help other students by continuing as an aid in the school.

Scan to Learn More About Danh's Story



Name: Shaista

Country of Origin: Pakistan

Current Location: Bangkok, Thailand



Shaista fled Pakistan with her husband and two teenage children after prolonged persecution due to their Christian faith. They finally fled when one of Shaista's relatives was murdered. Now, they live in an apartment in Bangkok, Thailand, where they are not allowed to resume their professional careers due to lack of official Thai status. The family lives under intense stress, as Thailand does not recognize refugees and there is a constant threat of imprisonment and deportation. Shaista's entire family, including the children, stay in the apartment all day, every day.

Scan to Learn More About Shaista's Story



Name: Keyhan

Country of Origin: Afghanistan

Current Location: Australia



Keyhan is a member of the persecuted Hazara ethnic group in Afghanistan, and persecution because of his ethnicity required him to flee. He took a small fishing boat with 12 other people to an island in Indonesia. From there, he attempted to cross the ocean into Australia, but was caught and detained by Indonesian authorities, where he stayed in detention for over one year. Upon release, he was sent to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where he remained for months until his refugee application to Australia was accepted.

Scan to Learn More About Keyhan's Story

And the Work of JRS Australia



Questions & Answers

WHAT IS WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES?

Walk a Mile in My Shoes is an exercise for individuals to gain insights into the lives of refugees around the world. The exercise is held in an open area where participants can learn more about particular aspects of the refugee experience and get an inside into the hardships, the frustrations, and often the pain that refugees endure.

HOW WAS WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES DEVELOPED?

Jesuit Refugee Service developed *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* to provide individuals and communities in the U.S. with an opportunity to learn more about the current global refugee crisis and support programs that serve refugees.

CAN PARTICIPANTS REALLY LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT REFUGEES IN A SHORT EXERCISE?

As part of this exercise, participants stop their regular activity and really focus on the challenges that refugees face in accessing the bare necessities of life—food, water, shelter, healthcare, and education. Participants can't live the true experience of refugees, but for a few hours they can walk a mile in the shoes that refugees walk every day. Many will continue to learn about refugee issues and continue to advocate on behalf of those who have been displaced.

HOW MANY REFUGEES ARE THERE IN THE WORLD?

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that violence, conflicts, and other emergencies have motivated more than 42.7 million people to leave their homes and seek refuge in another country.

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF DISPLACEMENT FOR A REFUGEE?

Most people don't realize that the average length of displacement for a refugee is 17 years. For many young children and babies born as refugees, it is the only life they've ever known.



DO REFUGEES HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION?

Some refugees have the opportunity for some education, but most do not. About 1/3 of all refugees are children under the age of 18 and the need for education for these young people has never been more urgent. As of the UN's 2024 Education Report, only 71 percent of primary-school-aged refugee children and 64 percent of secondary school aged children are enrolled. Just 7 percent of refugees are enrolled in post-secondary education.

HOW CAN OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CITY HELP REFUGEES?

There are many ways for your community to get involved in refugee advocacy. You can raise funds for organizations like JRS who support displaced persons all over the world. You can volunteer your time to local or international organizations that serve these vulnerable communities. You can also advocate for better refugee policies by writing to your representatives.

Visit www.jrsusa.org to learn more about how you can advocate for refugees and other displaced persons

Fact Sheet

To get access to our unique Guidebook, please email clara.sayans@jrsusa.org

NUMBER OF DISPLACED PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

More than 123 million individuals are forcibly displaced worldwide because of persecution, conflict, or generalized violence exceeding all previous records for global forced displacement. This includes more than 42.7 million refugees, 73.5 million internally displaced people, and 8.4 million asylum seekers. Children below 18 years of age constitute 41% of the refugee population.

NUMBER OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

73.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs) have been uprooted from their homes because of war and violence but have not yet crossed an international border in search of shelter and safety.

LOCATION OF REFUGEES

The countries hosting the largest number of refugees are Islamic Republic of Iran (3.5 million), Turkey (2.9 million), Colombia (2.8 million), and Germany (2.7 million). The majority (67%) of people fleeing conflict remained near their country of origin, often residing in a neighboring country.

Many of these are low-income countries which continue to host a disproportionately large share of the world's displaced people, both in terms of their population size and the resources available to them. In fact, these nations represent only 0.6% of the global GDP, yet host 19% of refugees.

ORIGIN OF REFUGEES

The largest number of refugees are from Afghanistan (5.8 million), Syria (6 million), Venezuela (5.9 million) and Ukraine (over 5 million).

LIVING CONDITIONS OF REFUGEES

Refugees live in widely varying conditions, from well-established camps and collective centers to makeshift shelters or living in the open. As of 2024, most refugees live in urban areas. They all await one of three possible solutions: repatriation to their country of origin, integration in their host country, or resettlement in a third country.

OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

People who are outside of their country or territory of origin, typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders, who have not been reported under other categories (asylum-seekers, refugees, people in refugee-like situations) but who likely need protection against return, as well as access to basic services on a temporary or longer-term basis.

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS undertakes services at national and regional levels with the support of an international office in Rome. JRS was founded in 1980 as a work of the Society of Jesus.

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES JRS WORKS WITH REFUGEES

JRS programs are found in more than 58 countries, providing assistance to refugees in camps and cities, to individuals displaced within their own countries, to asylum seekers in cities, and to those held in detention centers.

JRS AREAS OF WORK

The main areas of work are in the fields of education, emergency assistance, healthcare, livelihood activities and social services. More than 1.2 million individuals were direct beneficiaries of JRS projects in 2023.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORKING WITH JRS

More than 8,000 workers contribute to the work of JRS, the many of whom work on a voluntary basis, including about 78 Jesuits and 66 religious leaders from other congregations. These figures do not include the large number of refugees recruited to take part in the programs as teachers or health workers.

Reflection Questions

The *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* refugee awareness exercise can be an intense experience after which participants may want to discuss their thoughts and feelings.

To get access to our unique Guidebook, please email clara.sayans@jrsusa.org.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How much did you know about refugees before this exercise? What did you learn? What surprised you?

What will you take away from this experience?

How would you describe it to others?

If you could only improve one part of a refugee's life, which would you want to change and why? (Food, Water, Shelter, Education, Health/Medical)

How will you respond if you meet a refugee in the future?

How can you help refugees?

ENTRY/BORDER STATION

In your words, describe the person and their situation you were given.

Did language barriers affect your journey?

SHELTER STATION

What challenges would your family experience living in this space?

What could someone do if they needed to have privacy?

Would your sense of community or security change if you lived in this space with your family for five, ten, or fifteen years?

How do the cooking supplies given to refugees compare to those in your home?

Would this limit your ability to cook?

FOOD STATION

How would you deal with eating limited amounts of the same foods every day given there are few food options?

How do the nutrient/food needs of children, adolescents and adults differ?

How do refugees meet these needs?

WATER STATION

If you only had a gallon of water for your whole day, how would you use it?

What would you give up that you normally use water for? (Showers, hand washing, making food/drink are included)

MEDICAL/HEALTH STATION

How do you think the trauma of fleeing a war-torn country affects refugees?

Where would refugees go to receive help to address the effects of trauma?

How do refugees with diabetes, asthma or other chronic diseases control their symptoms or disease?

EDUCATION STATION

How can resources impact a person's opportunity for education?

How do you think eating around 1,300 calories daily would affect your performance in school?

What sorts of challenges would you face if you started going to school in a different country?

DESTINATION? STATION

Were you surprised that resettlement took so many years?

Why do you think it takes so long to resettle?

How would you feel if you were told that you remain in a camp for a few more years?

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future.

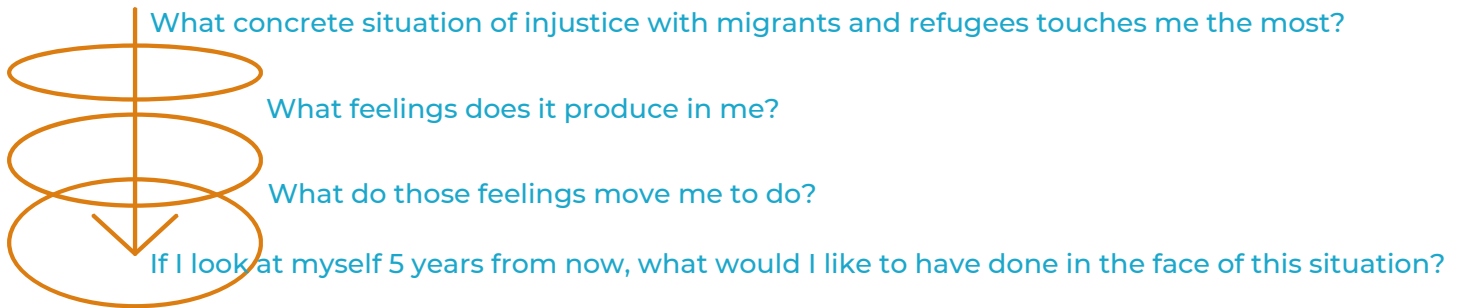
Around the world, millions of men, women, and children have been forced to flee their homes to escape persecution, violence, conflict, or human rights abuses.

It's a crisis that has both immediate implications and ongoing challenges for the future.

Together, we can help displaced people overcome the trauma that they have experienced and build a constructive future for them, their communities, their countries, and the world.

From MYSELF:

Each one of us, from our personal situation and gifts, must discern how we feel called to respond to this crisis and how we can turn that call into concrete action.



With OTHERS:

Seeking out others who are interested, raising awareness about certain issues, and inviting participation in activities can make us feel less alone in our task.

How can I make other people aware of this reality and support this task in my community?

Local groups in the U.S. can play an important role in generating support for displaced people by:

→ **Building positive awareness:**
The individuals and families who have made the difficult decision to flee their homes are just like us. They are children, mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers with hopes and dreams of contributing to their own and their communities' well-being.



Resources for prayer and reflection

→ **Find a core group of 3-5 committed people:**
Reach out to friends or other contacts you think might be interested, speak to groups that you are currently involved with who are willing to listen, and set up information tables in public spaces.



JRS Action Team

→ **Invite a JRS representative to speak to your community:**
We can share information about current refugee issues, JRS's experience of working with the forcibly displaced, and effective ways to promote positive social change for our vulnerable brothers and sisters.



Contact information

→ **Host a simulation experience:**
These events are an opportunity for communities to pause and experience, if only vicariously and if only for a few moments, the frustrations, the disappointments, and the hopes that refugees around the world face. It is a structured event in which individuals assume the role of refugees



On the Move

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future.

For the WORLD:

From our local communities we can have an impact at the global level. We are citizens who must be active to defend what happens in our borders and around the world. Active to fight for the right of people to migrate, to look for a safe place, to receive quality education and to be able to build their future. To defend just policies that protect the most vulnerable people and that build a more fraternal and equitable world.

How can I actively advocate for the rights of migrants and forcibly displaced persons to change their reality at global and local levels?

At JRS, advocacy involves empowering forcibly displaced people to claim the rights to which they are entitled, assisting them in exercising those rights, and supporting them by engaging others in promoting their rights. This involves addressing the public perception of the forcibly displaced, lobbying for governmental and institutional action to address challenges that they face, and working towards sustainable and durable solutions.

→ **Sign up to receive JRS/USA Action Alerts:**
We send out emails periodically to encourage our advocates to take action around issues affecting the local and global refugee community



Action Alerts

→ **Learn more about key advocacy issues**



Policy Briefs and other materials

→ **Organize a petition drive with help from JRS/USA**
Write to your members of Congress. Encourage policymakers to make the U.S. a beacon of hope and freedom that supports refugees around the world.



JRS/USA Statements

Total forced displacement now exceeds 123 million people.

This means 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee – a dramatic milestone that few would have expected a decade ago. It is not a humanitarian crisis; it is a political crisis.

With such urgency, JRS is pleased to work with you to make a real difference in response.

Contact information



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Sign up for our newsletter



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ADDRESS SERVICE

REQUESTED



Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic organization serving refugees and other forcibly displaced people. Founded as a work of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1980, in direct response to the humanitarian crisis of the Vietnamese boat people, JRS today works in more than 50 countries worldwide to meet the educational, health, and social needs of more than one million refugees.

JRS/USA is the U.S. office for JRS based in Washington, DC. JRS/USA provides support to the broader JRS network - through funding, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation - to JRS projects and programming throughout the world. JRS/USA also serves forcibly displaced migrants in the U.S. through our Detention Chaplaincy Program.



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visit www.JRSUSA.org to get more information and get involved