

**Refugee Week 19 - 25 June 2006**

**Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and promote understanding about the reasons why people seek sanctuary. Since it began in 1998, as a response to the increasingly negative perceptions of refugees and asylum seekers held by the general public in Britain, Refugee Week has developed into a high profile event that challenges stereotypes and brings people together on a national scale. Last year over 450 Refugee Week events were held throughout the UK.**

There is no specific theme for Refugee Week 2006. Instead, the events are organised around the idea that Refugee Week is a **space of encounters** between different communities and an opportunity to use creative ways to address relevant issues and attract new audiences.

Our work around Refugee Week this year will aim to deliver positive messages that celebrate the contributions that refugees make to Norfolk and the UK; and counter the fear, ignorance and negative stereotypes of refugees and asylum seekers through arts, cultural and educational events.

For more information, visit [www.refugeeweeknorfolk.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweeknorfolk.org.uk) or contact Finbarr Carter on 01603 610993 email: [finbarr@nead.org.uk](mailto:finbarr@nead.org.uk)

**Celebrate Refugee Week**

It is an ideal time for your school to get involved in celebrations, campaigns, fundraising or raising awareness, and have loads of fun in the process! Wherever you are, whatever kind of school you are in, there are many things that you can do – and you can make a difference.

**Brainstorm ideas** with the class on different ways they can support refugees and asylum seekers (in schools, locally, nationally) – it could be to learn more about the culture of countries where refugees in your local community come from or it could be to make refugees in your school feel welcome when they arrive.

**Assemblies** – Pupil led assemblies could include poetry, stories and other readings, particularly refugee testimonies, participatory activities, opportunities for contemplation and reflection or performances (there is a teaching resource available, *All You Need for a Refugee Assembly*, see p 2).

**Speakers** – Invite a speaker into your school. Hearing personal stories first hand can be incredibly powerful (see back page).

**Balloons for Peace** – One of the major reasons people are forced to leave their homes is conflict. Students could write a message for peace which could be attached to helium balloons and launched together during Refugee Week. Put the school address on the messages, you may get some responses which will show you how far the balloons travelled!

**Fundraising** – Put on a play or a concert in aid of refugees; or hold a non-uniform day where pupils pay £1 to charity for the privilege of not wearing their school uniform for a day.

**Sport** – Hold a mini World Cup football tournament, with all the different nationalities at your school represented.

There are more ideas such as these at [www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)

# Teaching Resources

These teaching resources – and more – are available for loan and/or for sale from NEAD. To order, for more information, or to receive a copy of our full list of 'Resources for Teaching about Asylum Seekers & Refugees' or our Resources Catalogue 2006, contact Sarah on 01603 610993 or email: [sarah@nead.org.uk](mailto:sarah@nead.org.uk)

## Home from Home

A guidance and resource book for the welcome and inclusion of refugee children and families in school.

All ages *Save the Children/Salusbury World* £20.45

## The Colour of Home

by Mary Hoffman

A storybook about Hassan who is a Somalian refugee, recently arrived in a cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture of his home in Somalia in bright sunny colours, but the harsh reds and blacks he adds reveal a darker side to Hassan's experience of the homeland he has recently left behind. By the end of the story, he is able to appreciate the colours of his new home.



Ages 5-9 *Frances Lincoln* £5.99

## Supporting Refugee Children in 21st Century Britain

This handbook provides information on many different refugee groups in British society. It explores new approaches to education for refugee children, using expressive arts with young children, parental involvement, and family literacy.

Ages 3-18 *Trentham Books* £19.99

## Moving Here – The Refugee Experience

A teaching activity book for Citizenship, PSHE and English containing a collection of activities on the theme of migration and a wealth of photocopiable material, including case studies and testimonies. *Moving Here* helps teachers and pupils make links between the refugees of today and other migrants, past and present, including Roman soldiers and British workers in Saudi Arabia.

KS2/3/4 *Sheffield Ethnic Minority Service/DECSY* £7.25

## All You Need for a Refugee Assembly

Material for three assemblies and three complementary lessons on refugees to help teachers inform and educate pupils about refugees, and challenge myths and stereotypes. A range of photocopiable material includes photos of famous refugees, case studies, a refugee quiz and a rap.

KS2/3/4 *RISC* £4.00

## Global Communities: Learning about Refugee Issues

**FREE** Primary School Teaching Resource, containing a wealth of information and activities to help you teach about refugee issues and global citizenship.

To obtain your **FREE** copy, go to:

[www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)

For a sample activity from the book, see page 3.

## Web links

Here are just a few web links for you and/or your students to follow up. For more, visit [www.nead.org.uk](http://www.nead.org.uk) for archive schools' newsletters and [www.refugeeweeknorfolk.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweeknorfolk.org.uk)

[www.cafod.org.uk/resources/primary\\_schools/family\\_and\\_home/where\\_is\\_my\\_home\\_exercises\\_ks1\\_ks2](http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/primary_schools/family_and_home/where_is_my_home_exercises_ks1_ks2) - *Where is my home?* has been designed for use with Early Years, Key Stages 1 and 2. Various classroom activities are based around the use of a colourful poster depicting life in a refugee camp for stimulating discussion and introducing the subject of refugees. Teachers' notes on a range of National Curriculum-linked activities included.

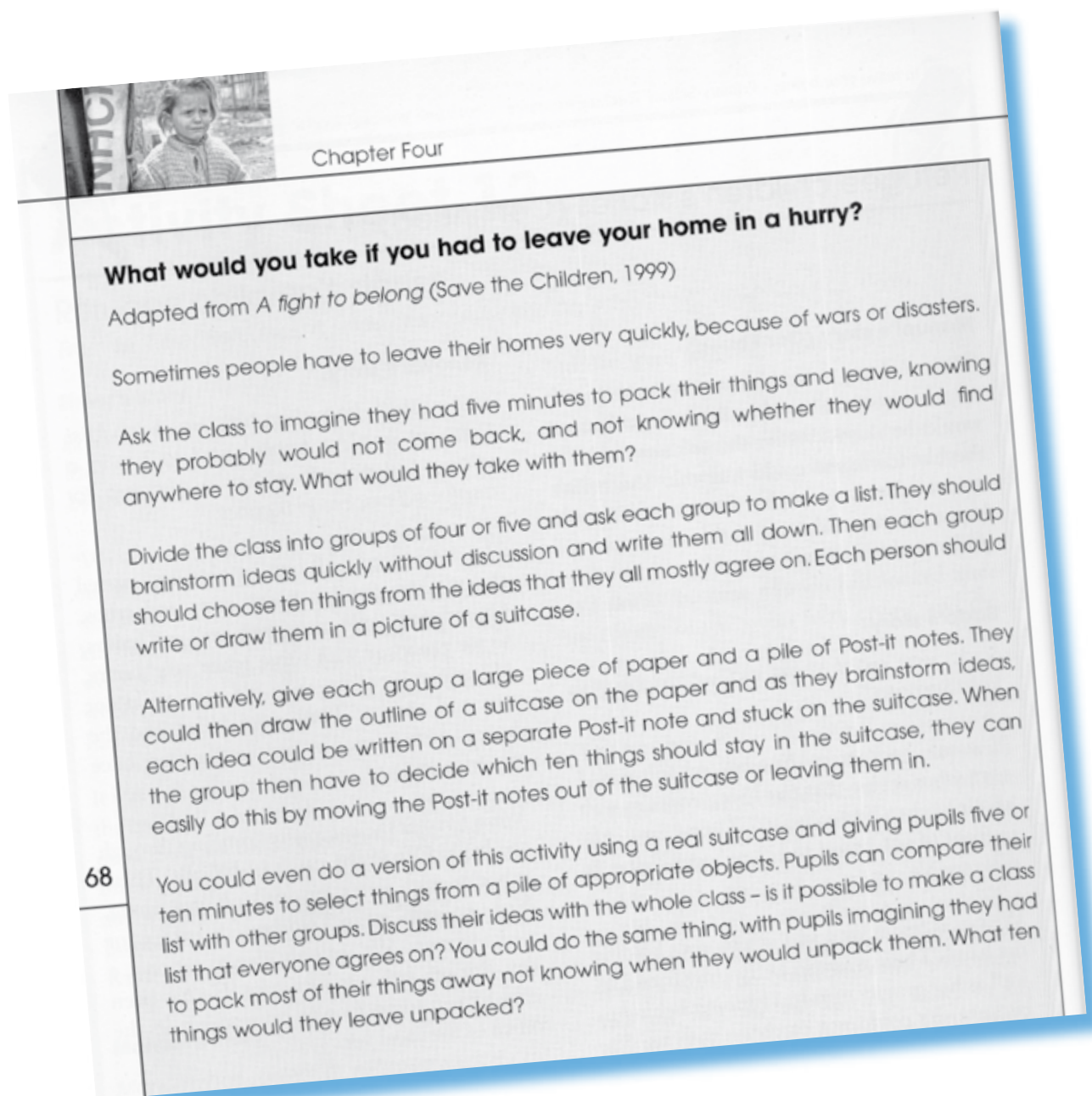
[www.web.amnesty.org/web/web.nsf/print/hre\\_first](http://www.web.amnesty.org/web/web.nsf/print/hre_first) - This manual, available in many different languages, is for teachers and others who work with young people and want to bring human rights into their educational practices. It is designed to be a basic introduction, with age-specific activities for younger and older children. There is also advice on methodology, and help for those who want to go further into this subject. The approach stresses the practical rather than theoretical.

[www.globalgang.org.uk/planetteacher/refugees](http://www.globalgang.org.uk/planetteacher/refugees) - Lesson plans and activities based on experiences of refugees from three countries, linking to PSHE, ICT, literacy and art, and including background information.

[www.blss.portsmouth.sch.uk/resources/citiz.shtml](http://www.blss.portsmouth.sch.uk/resources/citiz.shtml) - Downloadable activities for years 5-11, including a Refugee and Asylum Seeking Quiz Game which comes in two versions: easy and hard – when you have finished, you can find out how many you got right and print out a certificate.

# Lesson Activity

**Source:** This is a sample activity from *Global Communities: Learning About Refugee Issues - Primary Teaching Resource*. To obtain a copy of this **free** resource, go to [www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)



**\*\*Sale of Teaching Resources\*\***

**\*\*Bargains galore!\*\***

Some @ 50% of original cost,  
others only £1 each.

Call in at **The World Shop**, 38 Exchange Street  
and scoop them up!



# School Visits: Refugees Tell Their Stories

As part of planning for Refugee Week 2006 NEAD has been working closely with the local refugee and asylum community to identify individuals who would be willing to come to talk to schools about asylum in the UK. They are all volunteers and can be contacted through Finbarr Carter on 01603 610993 or [finbarr@nead.org.uk](mailto:finbarr@nead.org.uk). There is no charge but donations to cover expenses would be greatly appreciated. All volunteers have been CRB checked and cleared to work with young people.

The sessions can be adapted to varying ages and will give an introduction into why people become refugees, where they go, how they get there and their experiences on arrival. In addition to this we have activities available that teachers can lead before and after sessions to embed the learning. We are sure you will appreciate that, due to the painful and traumatic nature of these experiences, children will need to be very sensitive in their responses. For this reason we would like any personal questions to be given to us in advance so that the visitors can choose which they feel able to answer.

These are two of the volunteers available to come into schools.

**Name:** Gibbs Humphrey Moyo  
**Age:** 44  
**Country of Origin:** Zimbabwe  
**Availability:** Monday - Friday



**Personal Story:** Humphrey was born in Zimbabwe in 1961 and as a Tonga, Ndebele is his first language, although he is also fluent in English and Shona. Humphrey worked as a teacher in Zimbabwe for over twenty years until he left in 2002. He has three children aged 23, 18 and 6 years from his first marriage. The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) was created in 1999, and Humphrey joined this opposition party in 2000. However, in the same month that he joined, he was beaten up at school, and this affected his wife who had just given birth to their third child, and she died 4 days later of hypertension. Over the following two years Humphrey was again attacked and harassed for his involvement with the MDC and he decided he had to leave through fear of persecution from ZANU PF (the ruling party led by Robert Mugabe) militias. After a period of time in hiding he was able to travel to England in September 2002, but had to leave his kids behind. He initially stayed with his sister in London. In November 2002 Humphrey moved to Norwich to stay with his brother-in-law. Humphrey applied for asylum for fear of returning and was finally granted Refugee status in 2004 after a long and drawn out battle with the Home Office. He has since been able to carry out part-time care work for the elderly and enrol at UEA on a MA course in Education.

**Name:** Gervais Kouloungou Mambis  
**Age:** 36  
**Country of Origin:** Republic of Congo  
**Availability:** Tuesdays and Thursdays only

**Personal Story:** Gervais fled from his country with his young daughter in 2003 as a result of ongoing civil war. Since 1993, prolonged civil wars in the Republic of Congo have resulted in a great number of deaths and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. Gervais's father and brother were killed by the coup led by General Sassou although he, his little daughter and mother managed to escape. Like many asylum seekers and refugees he faced a number of difficulties on arrival in England such as language, culture and social exclusion. In June 2003 Gervais was among the first families dispersed to Norwich as it became one of the National Asylum and Support Service (NASS) dispersal areas. Soon after arrival Gervais started to support other asylum seekers and refugees through the Red Cross as a volunteer. During the last three years Gervais has helped develop the refugee orientation project and has recently been employed as service co-ordinator. Gervais has also got involved in the local community by becoming a lay minister for a local church and a volunteer for the crèche at Norwich Prison's visitors centre. With support from local organisations Gervais established the Norfolk French Speakers Association (NORFRESA) in 2004. Gervais's daughter has made a great start to life in Norwich. She has settled well into school making lots of friends and is doing very well academically. Like many children from incoming families her English now surpasses her father's!

## Regional Development Education Centres (DECs)

DEEL (DevEdEssex Ltd): 12 Museum Street, Colchester, CO1 1TN. Tel: 01206 763380

Harambee Centre: Emmanuel United Reform Church, Trumpington St, Cambridge, CB2 1RR. Tel: 01223 358116

NEAD (Norfolk Education & Action for Development): 38 Exchange St, Norwich, NR2 1AX. Tel: 01603 610993