



Refugee Week

Conversation cards

Something I know
about refugees in
Australia is

...



Keeping it light

One thing I would like
to know about being a
refugee in Australia is

...



Keeping it light

Why do you think
refugees choose
Australia as a new
home?



Keeping it light

How do you think God
wants us to respond to
people who are new to
Australia?



Keeping it light

Imagine that you were forced to leave Australia because you feared for your safety and/or your family's safety:

Where would you go?

What would be the top five things you would need on arrival?

What would you expect when you arrived in the new country?



Keeping it light

Name one thing that people who are new to Australia might do to make it a better country?



Keeping it light

Can you think of a time when you felt like you didn't belong?

What was that like for you?



Keeping it light

What would you do to connect if you were in a new country with no friends or extended family?

How would this change if you did not know the language?



Going Deeper

Where have you seen injustice, racism or discrimination in the treatment of refugees in Australia?



Going Deeper

What is one thing you could do to address injustice, racism or discrimination in the treatment of refugees in Australia?



Going Deeper

How does The Salvation Army respond to or assist refugees in Australia?



Going Deeper

What are some practical ways that you could personally support or welcome new arrivals to Australia?



Going Deeper

How does Scripture inform how we should respond to refugees?



Going Deeper

What would you change about how you live now if you knew you could be forced to leave your country at any minute?



Going Deeper

What challenges do you think refugees face on their journey to seeking asylum?



Going Deeper

What challenges do you think refugees face after resettling in another country like Australia?



Going Deeper

What are some of the positive contributions that refugees make to Australia?



Going Deeper

This set of cards contains questions for discussion, but they also provide facts.

Talk about the question in your group

Listen to everyone's ideas

Learn together from the facts included



Fact Check

Does helping refugees take resources away from disadvantaged Australians?

Fact check

- We should help people in need, even if they are not yet Australian citizens
- People seeking asylum often face additional disadvantages such as not being able to access services and benefits
- Even if we had unlimited resources it still wouldn't solve problems like poverty and homelessness
- Refugees make many positive contributions to our society

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check



Fact Check

Should we be trying to establish a more orderly asylum process?

Fact check

- People who are seeking asylum often need to leave quickly and secretly
- It may not be safe for them to apply for documents and wait for processes
- Many countries do not allow people to apply for protection in other countries or even leave to visit another country
- There are things that could be done to make the journey safer for people seeking asylum, but the process will always be messy

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check



Fact Check

Do you think that people who seek protection in Australia could have stopped in other countries before arriving in Australia?

Fact check

- People often do travel through several countries before they find safety
- Many countries do not protect refugees
- They may face violence, exploitation or abuse
- They may be detained or returned to their country of origin
- Visit the Refugee Council website to learn more about refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific refugeecouncil.org.au/tag/asia-pacific

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check



Fact Check

Do you think that 'stopping the boats' would help to save the lives of people seeking asylum?

Fact check

- People who seek asylum do not wish to leave their homes, families and friends
- They take this risk as a last resort in order to escape persecution and find safety and security for themselves and their families
- If we turn back the boats or punish those who arrive in this way, we do not save their lives but place them in more danger

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check



Fact Check

Do you think it is illegal for people who seek asylum to come to Australia by boat?

Fact check

- People who seek asylum by boat are not breaking the law
- According to Article 14 in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, seeking asylum is a human right
- In 1954, Australia ratified the Refugee Convention, which means Australia must process asylum claims fairly and efficiently
- While these claims are being processed, those who are seeking asylum must also be cared for
- It is not a crime to come to Australia without first getting permission; entering without permission is the way most refugees find safety

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check

un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights

unhcr.org/en-au/news/press/2017/8/59a558104/australia-coerce-vulnerable-people-return-harm.html



Fact Check

Are people seeking asylum who arrive by boat a security threat to Australia?

Fact check

- People seeking asylum go through strict processes before they can stay
- They are detained when they first come
- They must pass identity, health and security checks before they can be released into the community
- They go through a strict process of determining whether they are a refugee
- If they are found to be refugees, they must pass more security, health and character checks
- It is therefore very unlikely that a criminal or terrorist would choose such a difficult and dangerous method to come to Australia
- If people have committed war crimes, crimes against peace, crimes against humanity or other serious non-political crimes, they cannot be refugees under the definition in the Refugee Convention

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check



Fact Check

How many people do you think are seeking asylum in Australia?

Fact check

- People seeking asylum are waiting on a decision about whether or not they will receive 'refugee' status
- As of 31 August 2021, 38,513 people were seeking asylum in Australia 4452 were minors
- The majority were in New South Wales and Victoria

refugeecouncil.org.au/asylum-community/



Fact Check

How do you think asylum seekers travel to Australia

Fact check

- Some people come to Australia by plane then seek asylum
- Some asylum seekers come by boat
- The way they arrive affects whether they are detained, the conditions of their visas and how their claim for protection is determined

refugeecouncil.org.au/asylum-community/



Fact Check

Do you think that every person seeking asylum in Australia is allowed to stay?

Fact check

- Some people who seek asylum in Australia are allowed to stay
- Many of them create new lives and contribute in wonderful ways to our communities
- Some are detained on Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea
- Some are resettled in a third country
- Some are returned to their country of origin

refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/



Fact Check

What is the difference between people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants?

Fact check

- People seeking asylum and refugees are forced to leave their country because of war, violence, conflict or persecution
- Migrants may also have experienced challenges, but they leave by choice
- All refugees were seeking asylum at some point
- Some people become refugees before they arrive in Australia
- Asylum seekers have applied for refugee status and are awaiting a decision
- They may or may not receive refugee status

unhcr.org/en-au/what-is-a-refugee.html?query=what%20is%20a%20refugee

unhcr.org/en-au/asylum-seekers.html

emergency.unhcr.org/entry/44937/migrant-definition



Fact Check

Is a person who pays people smugglers thousands of dollars to bring them to Australia a 'genuine' refugee?

Fact check

- A refugee is someone in danger because of their race, religion, nationality or membership in a particular social or political group
- Rich or poor, a person may be a target for persecution
- Tough border policies can make it difficult for refugees to leave safely in other ways

refugeecouncil.org.au/fact-check



Fact Check