

World Refugee Day

June 20

World Refugee Day is organized every year by the United Nations. It is designed to celebrate and honor refugees from around the world. The day was first established in 2001 to recognize the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Status of Refugees Convention.

This day recognizes the strength of the refugees who have fled conflict and persecution in their countries in hope of finding sanctuary and living a better life. Refugees often flee countries which suffer from famine and hunger. They seek food, shelter, and opportunity for their families. World Refugee Day tries to educate others in understanding their plight. Leaving everything behind in search of sanctuary and food security illustrates their resilience and courage to rebuild their future.

On this day we should experience, understand, and celebrate the diversity of the refugee communities.

Refugee Facts

- A refugee is an individual who leaves their country due to hunger, war, persecution, or violence in order to find safety in a different country.
- Most refugees come from backgrounds where they have been employed and are eager to work.
- Refugees create a more diverse culture in the host community providing an opportunity to learn from each other.

Prayer

Heavenly Protector,

As you protected your son when his family fled to Egypt, protect, and bless all who seek refuge. May their needs for safety and for home be met. Move our hearts to welcome them.

We pray for the cessation of war and to bring justice to nations that no one will need to flee again.

Hear our prayer

Particularly watch over and bless all vulnerable children who are journeying alone in this world. Comfort those whose parents have been taken from them by violence.

Provide for refugee children who are far from home and do not know where their families may be. Guide migrant children who take dangerous journeys to find family or opportunity.

Hear our prayer

Adapted from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Resources

For more information on how Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is helping refugees visit: <https://www.lirs.org/>

Activities

Check out LIRS' Virtual Book Series: Insightful Interviews with Immigration Authors.
<https://www.lirs.org/virtual-book-series>

Free resources to celebrate World Refugee Day <https://www.globetrottinkids.com/world-refugee-day-resources-activities-for-kids/>

These resources require payment but provide a variety of activities for learning about refugees <https://tinyurl.com/2f7wade8>