



Refugee Week

June 14 - 20

The theme of refugee week is this year is

‘We cannot walk alone’

Refugees are people just like us except that they have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, famine or persecution.

Refugee Week is a chance to show our support for refugees around the world and those who have come to Scotland, including many in our own area.

“We cannot walk alone”: this comes from Martin Luther King’s historic “I have a dream” speech. It’s a theme that especially rings true this year where we have seen the need to work together to deal with Covid-19.

Refugees in Scotland

Refugees and asylum seekers are living in every single local authority area in Scotland. More than 3,000 Syrian refugees have been resettled in Scotland over the last 5 years and over 4,000 asylum seekers live in Glasgow.

How many refugees are there around the world?

Around **80 million** people round the world, 1% of the world's population, have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly **26 million refugees**, around half of whom are **under the age of 18**. There are also **millions of stateless people**, who have been denied a nationality and lack basic rights like education, health care, employment and freedom of movement.

How many in the UK?

As at the end of 2018 there were 126,720 refugees, 45,244 pending asylum cases and 125 stateless persons. That’s around one quarter of a percent (0.26%) of the UK’s total population. (The country hosting the most refugees was Turkey, with almost 3.7 million refugees, 3% of Turkey's total population.)

Will you join with us in raising awareness and in welcoming New Scots?

We are making 'people chains' to illustrate that 'we cannot walk alone' and we need your help!

It’s planned to have some of these up around the area in recognition of our common humanity and as a sign of welcome to refugees in our own area.

See below for some examples and ideas of what you can do.



Making chains of people – suggestions and resources

There is a myriad of different ways we can approach this and lots of different materials that can be used. Even if not very environmentally friendly we may wish to use up things we have stored away.

How to make your chains: Templates are available by Googling “making paper doll chains” e.g. <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-People-Chain>; for a video see making an origami chain of people

Materials etc

These will be displayed in public places during the week so materials that will stand up to the weather will be good.

Brushing PVA over card, paper or fabric makes it waterproof to an extent. If you have access to a laminator, that could be helpful.

You could experiment with very robust building paper, wall paper etc which you might have in the house; even leftover bits of vinyl etc could be used as firm backing. Plastic tablecloths or book covering sticky backed plastic could be a possibility.

Diversity is important and great if we can reflect that in our figures. The idea of kilted people was suggested, especially for those welcoming new Scots. Skin colour, clothing etc are important – and fun!



Here are some examples, they can be displayed in shop windows, in churches or schools, on railings or around trees. Anywhere they will be seen.

Size

Probably 6-9 inches/15-25cm tall. Writing should be large enough to read without glasses if possible!!

Slogans

'We cannot walk alone' also perhaps 'Welcome to....',



Please share this widely – it would be great to see people chains all over the place in June!