

Join Refugee Week 16-22 June 2025
COMMUNITY AS A SUPERPOWER

A GUIDE

TO ORGANISING A LOCAL GROUP EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE

Amnesty International UK is once again partnering with Refugee Week, a nationwide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking asylum.

This year the festival takes place from 16-22 June with the theme 'Community as a superpower'. And we're asking you to get involved again.

There are many ways to join in as part of your work raising awareness and showing solidarity with refugees and people seeking sanctuary. This pack is to help you plan inclusive community activities during the week or throughout the summer so please share it with your group. It provides guidance, resources and guidelines. We are also excited to include new Amnesty event materials, and the official Refugee Week poster created by artist 8bitFaz on this year's theme.

Whatever your group does, big or small, we hope you have an amazing time preparing for and taking part in Refugee Week 2025 – and don't forget to send us updates and photos.

Charlotte and the Amnesty UK local activism team



© Marie-Anne Ventoura/AI

I am responsible for supporting the community organising team at Amnesty UK on our three strands: youth, networks and local activism. I work closely with the local activism team as the Refugee Week project is part of our local activism strategy. I'm here to answer any questions and offer help with your Refugee Week events. I'd also like to hear your ideas, so please get in touch at any point.

Charlotte Vigueur
Refugee Week project lead
charlotte.vigueur@amnesty.org.uk

ABOUT REFUGEE WEEK

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the positive impact of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Established in the UK in 1998, this growing international movement takes place annually around World Refugee Day (20 June). This year it will be 16-22 June.

Theme 2025: Community as a superpower

The theme for Refugee Week 2025 is 'Community is a superpower', emphasising the power of communities to come together to make a stronger welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.



INCLUDED IN THIS PACK

- Guidance for running events
- Amnesty branded Refugee Week poster
- 2025 Refugee Week poster by artist 8bitFaz
- Bunting
- Badges
- Stickers

To order more materials email charlotte.vigueur@amnesty.org.uk

OPEN TO ALL

Refugee Week is a community-powered festival, with everyone invited to make it happen including schools, communities, football clubs and organisations.

Over the past 20 years, local groups have organised various activities, from football matches, vigils and film screenings to exhibitions, creative workshops and community walks and talks, often in collaboration with partners, schools and other local organisations and hubs.

Through an extensive programme of activities and events like this, Refugee Week brings people from different backgrounds to connect and foster a deeper understanding of why people are displaced and the challenges that come with it.

The vision is for refugees and people seeking asylum to live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can continue to make a valuable contribution.

In 2023 Refugee Week, Comfort Angels refugee team visited Westminster to speak to MPs about the status of women refugees in the UK and the importance of football in the community © Marie-Anne Ventoura/AI



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Amnesty International UK has been Refugee Week's national partner for almost 20 years, collaborating with the network on various events (pictured).

In that time, local groups have been brilliant contributors, and we are committed to supporting you to build on this, in the planning and delivery of your community events.

We believe local groups are closer to their refugee communities – many of you are already working and partnering with them – so you can collaborate more effectively.

This will increase community ties and promote local refugee support.

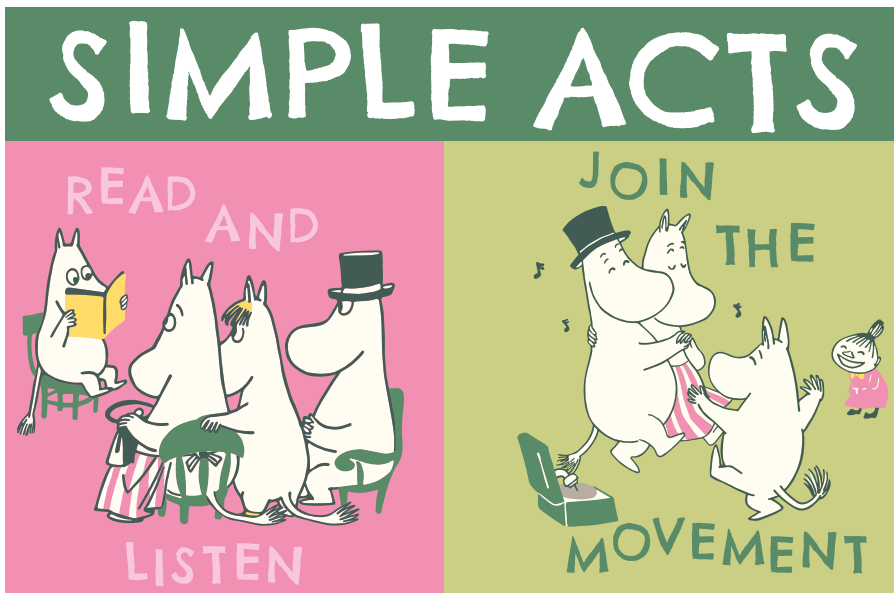


Participants from Seeking Refuge Project create a communal cyanotype mural, Refugee Week 2024
© Charlotte Vigueur

HOW TO TAKE PART

There are three main ways you can take part in Refugee Week.

1. Find and support events and activities in your area <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/events/> Share them with your networks. Ask the organisers in advance if you can run an activity or talk, or attend the event and make new connections.
2. Take part in Simple Acts <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/> with your group, small everyday actions, like a shared meal or film screening, to show solidarity with refugees.
3. Organise your own event or activity (see page 8).



© Moomin Characters

GETTING STARTED

Make space for everyone

Amnesty UK is dedicated to raising awareness of the reality of refugee communities while highlighting their resilience and contributions, and the importance of solidarity.

During Refugee Week, it is important to create friendly, inclusive spaces for everyone to connect, learn from one another and convene solidarity.

In line with the principles we share at Amnesty UK and Refugee Week, the spaces will be:

- Community-led and driven
- Inclusive and welcoming to all, and consider every local community

Your activities will help to raise awareness of refugee and migrant rights but also showcase the contributions that refugees and people in the asylum system make to your community.

A collaborative embroidery workshop exploring home, journeys and compassion was delivered by artist Tasnim Mahdy and the William Morris Gallery during Refugee Week 2024. Refugees and asylum seekers created a mural which was displayed at a gallery open night on World Refugee Day.

© Charlotte Vigueur



ORGANISING AN EVENT

Whether you choose a big or small event, start by defining your goals, budget and target audience. Create a realistic timeline and an event checklist:

1. Volunteers

Ask local group members and other grassroots organisations (we suggest 10-15 people on the day, depending on the size of your event).

2. Assign roles

For instance: budget, venue/room booking, publicity, catering, securing speakers or artists, invitations, set up, staffing and cleaning on the day, serving food.

3. Venue

Research and book early. Consider the price, capacity, accessibility and amenities. Does it have wheelchair access, audio/video facilities, a separate praying space, enough seating and tables? Get any permissions from the landowners or local authorities. Do you need a Temporary Events Notice? If it's outside, in a park or open space, you might need permission from the local council.

4. Audiences

Who do you want to reach out to? Defining your audience will help shape your event. Do you want to target a particular group or bring together different communities? Can someone with refugee experience contribute or lead your event?

5. Involve speakers/artists

Think about speakers to share stories, panels with diverse perspectives, workshops on refugee topics. Complete a due diligence report before contacting anyone (contact Charlotte for a due diligence template). Check their fee is within your budget. Brief your guest around the space – how long will they talk/play for, and can children attend?



If you'd like to book a speaker or artist with lived experience of displacement for your event, contact Charlotte at charlotte.vigueur@amnesty.org.uk We might be able to help you through our contacts and partner organisations.

Asylum Speakers also have a network of speakers available for Refugee Week asylumspeakers.com/talks-programme

6. Catering

Where possible, go to local restaurants, bakeries or community cafe initiatives. Provide dietary options and ensure enough plates, cutlery, glasses, napkins, etc.

Partnerships

Do you already have good contacts through your existing work with refugee organisations, or are you looking to build more links? Joining efforts with like-minded partners can help an event flourish. You can:

- Share resources and responsibilities such as fundings, volunteers, skills (eg an activist willing to propose their venue for free);
- Reach a broader audience through their network and contacts (eg your local City of Sanctuary group are involved with Syrian refugee families);
- Have a bigger impact on your community by contributing to the same goals. Partnerships can also lead to lasting relationships and more sustainable future initiatives.

Want to connect with organisations and festivals involved in Refugee Week? See what plans they have and if you can support them: <https://shorturl.at/dT9IH>

Fundraising

Partnering with a local refugee group on a joint fundraising project means you can support work on your doorstep and raise money for Amnesty's work promoting refugee rights in the UK and around the world.

Email fundraise@amnesty.org.uk to discuss your fundraising ideas for Refugee Week.

For more information on fundraising safely and legally and with other organisations: read *Local Group Fundraising Guidelines*

<https://shorturl.at/1P79C>

For 1:1 support

You can book a 1:1 session with Charlotte – for inspiration, any specific support needed for your activities or to reflect on the progress of your planning so far. Scan the QR code.



Spread the word

Let people know they are invited. Use WhatsApp or Facebook invitations. Ask your refugee community and local grassroots organisations to come along if you're not already working with them.

To increase reach and participation, consider reaching out to churches, mosques, synagogues and temples, as well as civic groups like sports teams, local film societies, history societies, etc.

Promotion

Add your events onto Amnesty's website (amnesty.org.uk/add-event), and the Refugee Week website (refugeeweek.org.uk/events/submit-event/).

Put flyers and posters up locally, in community spaces, the town hall, schools. Advertise on your social media. Tell the local press. Ask Charlotte for a template letter to send to your local media for their letters page – a good way to get coverage.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND SAFEGUARDING

Any Amnesty UK hosted event must align with our values on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA) and with Amnesty's Code of Conduct for activists. Read the following before planning your event.

IDEA action plan

amnesty.org.uk/idea-action-plan-amnesty-international-uk

Code of Conduct

amnesty.org.uk/resources/activist-code-conduct

As Amnesty volunteers and activists, you must know how to make your events safe for children, young people and adults-at-risk. Scan the QR code for information on Amnesty's safeguarding policies and procedures during face-to-face events.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Amnesty's current work on refugees and migrant rights

www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/refugees-migrants-and-asylum

More information on Refugee Week

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

THANK YOU FOR JOINING IN

May your Refugee Week events be a celebration of compassion and solidarity. We will be in touch for feedback on your event's success and improvements for next year.

