

## **New refugee campaign ‘I welcome’**

The new global refugee campaign, I Welcome, will now launch in October. The aim of the campaign is that refugees are protected, welcomed and enjoy their human rights, including through strengthened global responsibility-sharing and international cooperation.

This campaign couldn't be more timely, with the international community failing to provide any kind of leadership in response to the global refugee crisis. The latest UNHCR figures show there are more than 21 million refugees in the world today, and the numbers are growing rapidly. Yet instead of co-operating to support those in need of protection, governments across the world have been shifting responsibility and putting up ever more physical and metaphorical barriers.

In the UK the campaign will have a number of strands, both at a national and local level. We want to influence the government to open up more safe and legal routes, so that refugees can seek sanctuary in the UK, but we also want to try to create a more welcoming environment for refugees already in the UK. There will be a huge role to play for supporters to engage with your local communities and partner with others in this campaign.

### **Refugee Community Action Pack & other materials**

We are encouraging you to use the pack to get members of your local communities to pledge to support refugees. The pack is full of ideas and tips for how to do this.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Code</b>
Refugee Community Action Pack	REF16/001
Stickers	REF16/002
Refugees Welcome Placards	REF16/003
Refugee Pledge poster	REF16/004

All can be ordered from our mailing house by contacting them on 01788 545 553 and quoting the relevant product codes.

## **National Refugees Welcome Here march – 17 September 2016**

Last September, the image of young Aylan Kurdi's lifeless body, washed up on a Turkish beach horrified the world.

100,000 people marched in London in response to tell the government that we want to welcome refugees in the UK. Since then, thousands more terrified and desperate refugees, including hundreds of children, have lost their lives trying to reach safety in Europe.

On 19 and 20 September, world leaders will meet to discuss the refugee crisis at two summits in New York. This is the biggest opportunity of 2016 to show the government that Britain is ready to welcome more refugees.

So our priority for September is make the national Refugees Welcome Here march as large and vibrant as possible. Please try to attend in person if you can. If you can't please try to get a pledge from members of your community and send it to Amnesty, where we will turn it in to a placard and

take it to the march for you (please see materials section above to find out how to order a copy of the Refugee Community Action Pack which contains a pledge poster - if you already have a pack but need extra pledges you can order more separately).

There will also be demonstrations happening in Edinburgh and Belfast.

We are also working in other ways for those that can't attend the march to support it in other ways. Please look out for updates at [amnesty.org.uk/refugees](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/refugees)

For more information on the national march in London go to <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/events/refugees-welcome-2016>

## Meeting Point

The meeting point for all London local groups and activists is **outside Green Park Station, SOUTH SIDE, in the park, at 11.30am** on Saturday 17 September. Amnesty stewards in branded t-shirts will be there to welcome you. We will then walk together and join the march and the other organisations on Park Lane for 12.45.

The march kicks off in Park Lane at 1.30 and it will make its way to Parliament Square where it will be a rally from 3.00 to 5.00 pm. We need however to march to Park Lane together, so please do join us at 11.30 for the meeting point and bring your placards ready with you too. Please see a map of the march route attached.

## Useful pages:

The main event's page: <http://swruk.org/>

Amnesty's event page: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/events/refugees-welcome-2016>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1563121147327378/>

## Twitter

The hashtag for the demo is **#WeStandWithYou** and it'd be great if you could add that to any social media messaging.

## Stewards

We have a place here: <http://swruk.org/steward-signup/> for volunteer stewards to sign up.

## Coach Hire Guide

Having coaches hired and ready for people to go down to the march is a great way to ensure that those in your community who are interested in going will be more likely to make the trip.

Things to consider:

- There will probably be a number of coach hire companies in or around the area that you live. It's worth doing a quick internet search to find out what's available close by and check their rates and if they are willing to cover the distance from your hometown to central London.

- Coaches come in different sizes with varying numbers of seats. It may be worth seeing how many people are interested in coming so that you can book a coach that can accommodate everyone interested in coming.
- Once you've hired the coach, you may also need to hire a driver if they are not already included and no one in your party has a PCV license.
- You'll also need to take into account other costs that you may come across. For example, petrol/diesel costs, toll charges, congestion charges etc.
- Once you've arranged all of the above, you can start to charge for tickets on the coach, in order to cover the total cost. An easy and reliable way to do this is through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/l/sell-tickets/>. All you have to do is create an account and then an event page. Online payments can be made in a variety of ways, and you can track payments easily as well as managing any refunds for people who may cancel. The site also allows you to create a guest list in which you can have ready on the day to check the passengers, or you can download the Eventbrite app to check tickets easily and quickly. More information is available on the website or you can call them on 0800 652 4993.

### **If you are booking a coach or looking for a coach in your area**

If you are planning to book a coach and would like to promote it, or if you would like to find out if anyone else is planning to book a coach in your area, check out the dedicated [Facebook page for Refugee march coaches](#). You can post your coach information here and get people in your local area to sign up.

### **Coach parking on the day**

Parking has already been set up by the event organisers. When booking a coach be sure to give your driver these details:

#### Coach Drop off in the morning

There are bays suspended for the demo coaches on the Northbound carriageway of Park Lane between Upper Grosvenor Street and Brook Gate.

#### Coach pick up after the march

This should be at the South end of Millbank SW1P, south of Lambeth Bridge or Albert Embankment