

WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT - LET'S STAND AS ONE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Introduction

The world is in the middle of the greatest displacement crisis since the Second World War. More than 65 million people have been forced to flee their homes by terrifying conflict and violence, millions more by disaster and poverty¹. These are people who have often been torn away from their families, and children who are on their own. People who have been forced to leave their lives behind, often taking just the few possessions they can carry. People who have been pushed into poverty by circumstances beyond their control. The majority of these 65 million people – more than 40 million - are displaced within their own countries and many more shelter in neighbouring countries². Others are forced to risk their lives on treacherous journeys to seek refuge further from home.

Oxfam's Stand As One campaign is calling on everyone to stand as one with people forced to flee and to demand that world leaders act before more lives are lost. This short resource for 8 to 14 year olds uses a short film *We're not so different – Let's Stand As One* to help learners think about our similarities and differences, what we all need to do well in life, and to develop empathy with people who have been forced to flee their homes. See the *Teaching Ideas* for suggested cross-curricular activities to explore these themes in the classroom. Background information about the film, a film transcript and further resources for exploring the refugee crisis are provided below.

Background information about the film

This film aims to encourage people to stand as one with the millions of people forced to flee conflict, disaster and poverty. The first 40 seconds of the film features a number of countries from around the world, including:

- Children playing football in Buporo Camp, a camp for internally displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- A woman and child in an informal settlement for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
- Children playing in the streets in Lebanon.
- A boy jumping into water in South Sudan.
- A child playing with a toy vehicle in Buporo Camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR (2015), www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html

² Grid 2016, *Global Report on Internal Displacement*, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, iDMC (2016). www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/

- Festival goers in the UK.
- A child collecting water at a tap stand in Ethiopia.
- Children sheltering from the rain at a refugee camp in Tanzania. As a result of fighting and unrest, Tanzania has seen an influx of refugees from neighbouring Burundi.
- A child painting at Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

The remainder of the film comes from a range of countries including Greece, Nepal, Serbia, Macedonia, Lebanon and Jordan.

Additional resources and support

- Use Oxfam's *Your Life, My Life!* to help younger learners develop their respect for diversity. This short resource for 5 to 9 year olds provides creative teaching ideas based around a series of film clips featuring children around the world enjoying different aspects of their lives.
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/your-life-my-life
- Support learners to think critically about the differences between "needs" and "wants". Develop English skills and learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. See Oxfam's *Children's Rights* resource for 8 to 11 year olds.
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/childrens-rights
- Try Oxfam's *Schools of Sanctuary: Giving a Warm Welcome* resource for 11 to 18 year olds. Created in partnership with Schools of Sanctuary, this resource enables learners to think about why refugees leave their homes, what challenges they face, how welcoming the UK is to those seeking asylum and our fundamental human rights. Young people can then turn their attention to their own school and the welcome it provides.
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/schools-of-sanctuary
- Explore the issues behind the refugee crisis with Oxfam's *Message in a Book: People Forced to Flee*. Use this creative resource for 9 to 16 year olds to stimulate debate and develop learners' knowledge of the crisis. Learners are given the opportunity to write powerful letters in solidarity with refugees and organise a book collection to raise vital funds for Oxfam's work.
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/refugee-message-in-a-book
- Use the palindromic poem *Refugees* by Brian Bilston with older learners to support critical thinking about stereotypes and perceptions of what a refugee is.
 - brianbilston.com/2016/03/23/refugees/
- Find out more about the refugee crisis, Oxfam's response and the Stand As One campaign which is calling on everyone to stand in solidarity with people forced to flee their homes.
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/emergency-response/refugee-crisis
 - www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/emergency-response/refugee-crisis/stand-as-one
- Read a briefing, published by Oxfam GB in partnership with 12 other agencies, which provides an overview of what the UK should do in order to deliver on its responsibility to respond to global displacement.
 - policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/a-safe-haven-britains-role-in-protecting-people-on-the-move-605192

Film transcript

We're not so different, you and me.

We care and we love

We fight and make amends

We share in the good

And in the bad

At times, we're just thankful to be alive

Thankful for the simple things

For our loved ones

For their health, happiness and safety

For the roof over our heads

A place to call home

So when life falls apart

When disaster takes it all away

When our lives are turned upside down

Separated from our loved ones, torn apart

It can feel as though we're powerless and alone

But we're not

If we stand together fear and hate won't win

We will be heard

We will live in safety again

We will Stand As One