

One World Week 2016

Some suggestions and resources for interpreting the 2016 Theme:

INCLUDING YOU

Acting Together for One World in Peace ¹

¹*This strapline is the theme agreed between our European partners in the Global Education Week Network. OWW and its national UK partners decided to focus on the inclusion element, particularly as it relates to migration.*

Background

One World Week (OWW) is an education charity working in solidarity with its partners in the European Global Education Week Network and in the UK. Every OWW event, whether large or small, is a significant contribution to inspiring people to work together for a just, peaceful and inclusive world.

We hope that people gaining a better understanding of the issues they hear about in the media will empower them to respond positively to what is happening locally and globally. This is particularly relevant now as we hear of and encounter global movements of peoples on such a large scale.

Hence in 2016 we will continue to use the image OWW created last year of many peace doves coming together to build one strong dove of peace carrying the scales of justice.

2016 context

The reactions to the terrorist attacks and to the arrival of refugees in Europe in 2015/16 suggest that OWW needs to draw on our tradition of seeking to bring people together to hear each other's perspectives and share common values. The current situation calls for us to redouble our efforts to pursue this agenda by encouraging groups to work together locally to inspire citizens and each other to build a culture of inclusion.

An article in the Guardian in early 2016 encapsulated that need and emphasised the timeliness of this theme:

"Diversity, as experienced across Europe, by Europeans and non-Europeans alike, is the next looming horizon. It is a compelling, gripping transformation – a story that we are all part of, and one we should start talking about in new ways." [Nougayrède, \(5.01.2016\)](#)

We need to address the question of *"how a hopeful future can be built on the new diversity"* ([Nougayrède, 2016](#))

The EU Referendum

There is evidence that xenophobia and racism erupted in the UK in response to some of the rhetoric used to demonise migrants during the Referendum Campaign. 3,076 hate crimes and racist incidents were reported to police forces across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the weeks preceding and following the European Union membership referendum. (June 16 - 30 2016). This

shows a 42 per cent increase over the same period in 2015. ([National Police Chiefs' Council](#)) The same source, which monitors trends weekly, suggests that reported incidents have since fallen.

"Everyone has the right to feel safe and confident about who they are and should not be made to feel vulnerable or at risk. The police service has no tolerance for this type of abuse but we need to be made aware that these crimes are taking place so that we can investigate."
([Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hamilton, 08 Jul 2016. – read more](#))

Why “Including You”?

The theme title emerged from the fact that everyone is affected by current issues around migration and refugees, diversity and inclusion, including extremism and Islamophobia. Locally and globally, our society needs to address these to enable us all to live together in peace.

How can we build a culture of inclusion?

- **address people’s fears** and concerns about being overwhelmed by confronting myths and prejudices (fuelled by the media and politicians) with facts. Elements of public opinion are urging limiting or excluding refugees and migrants just when the exodus of desperate people seeking a safe haven from the turmoil in the Middle East and beyond is running into millions. Increased tensions and concerns over security in the wake of terrorist activity in destination countries have fuelled suspicion and fears of “others” already living here.
- **stimulate understanding** and compassion by seeing the people behind the numbers and telling their individual stories about why they have chosen to leave their homes and risk their lives on the dangerous journey to Europe. The worsening impact of climate change on communities around the world is also increasingly spurring people to move.
- **explore ways** in which we can all, including you, support, meet with and make welcome refugees and other newcomers, to understand their situations better and to include them in our communities. Sharing the experiences of those who already enjoy the richness of inclusive relationships can inspire ideas for others to join in with hope and confidence to build a culture of inclusion.

Links to Stories

OWW will put links on the website to relevant stories. We will build on last year’s theme of “Hope in Action” by sharing stories of hope to a wider audience about what individuals and groups are doing to help people fleeing from danger and destitution as well as dealing locally with the causes.

We shall encourage:

- our European and UK partners to share their stories;
- OWW event organisers to use these stories at their local events;
- visitors to the website to share them further on social media.


What can we do through OWW events?

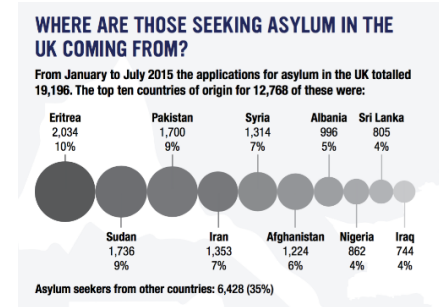
1. We can encourage people to look at the context of migration in various ways:

- a) **Counter myths with factual information** about migration

Check out or share examples on our **Facebook page**. Here are also some resources you can use:

- [Facts about refugees](#) from Refugee Action;
- [A Guide: Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants](#) , Welcoming the Stranger. This guide, written by the Justice and Peace Commission in conjunction with other church leaders is right up to date - you can read it here on the [Liverpool Asylum Info for Churches website](#).

-  **Oxfam** has produced an online quiz about refugees [see it here](#). It might be possible to develop this kind of information into a quiz for use at events or online – *(if anyone knows of such a quiz in existence or would volunteer to produce one we could share, please let OWW know)*.




(see example of Natalie’s use of a few salient statistics in her article: “[Today around 7% of the European Union’s population was born outside the EU. More than a million refugees and migrants arrived in Europe in 2015, but that’s a tiny proportion – less than 0.2% - of the EU’s total population.](#)” (In other words it is just 2 out of every 1000 people)

b) Seek to **understand why people have moved**

- A new report on *Migration – Thinking again, and Thinking critically* is available from Think Global ([here](#))
- Telling individual stories that illustrate the global issues. e.g. film “the Good Lie” about South Sudan: <http://think-global.org.uk/putting-the-human-back-into-stories-about-migrants/> with discussion guide: <http://archive.damarismedia.com/the-archive/the-good-lie/>



Also, this example, from the Guardian, shows how a farmer displaced from his farm by an aid-supported agricultural project became a refugee: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/12/ethiopian-refugee-who-took-on-the-british-government>).

-  **Global Justice Now** **This is not a “migrant crisis”**. You can send for a pack including ‘explainer’ leaflets which open into useful A3 posters [here](#), and a very stimulating policy briefing paper: “*Migrant crisis or poverty crisis?*” which examines the fundamental causes of migration and explores issues of free movement (you can download it [here](#))



- Our partners in development organisations engage with people in crises of various kinds around the world – they may be able to help with background materials and resources.



For example, [look at the stories of people Action Aid has been working with in Greece](#) to help refugees arriving there; and [Refugee Voices](#) from Refugee Action



- c) Seek to **understand the plight of refugees** in the UK - by listening to refugees telling their own stories to Refugee Action: (<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/refugee-voices>)
- d) The United Reformed Church has a new programme, “[@ home in a strange place](#)”. Amongst its resources is a film (25minutes); [and you can see it on You Tube here “When Truth is Blind”](#); and [you can see a trailer here](#). The film is based on a stage play by Richard Becher and stars: Delroy Brown (from ITV series Scott and Bailey); John Sugden and Celia Morris-Sanchez)- you might consider using this in an event as a discussion starter. There are resources to help you with this and worship activities [here](#). While it is designed for use in churches much could be adapted for general use at OWW events. These resources are being added to all the time so revisit.

2. Inclusive Action

There are many activities we engage in to “Act together for one world in peace”. Think about how we can implement the “together” by making the actions more inclusive: e.g. by:

- a) **Being Green together**
- i) (see [BEN](#)) – allotments, environmental conservation and participation projects.
 - ii) The Climate Coalition have a week of action on Climate Change in the week before OWW – can you encourage inclusive action in any actions you get involved with?
[Islamic Relief](#); [The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences \(IFEES\)](#) and [MADE](#) are all members of the **Climate Coalition**; as is the [Jewish Social Action Forum](#); and many other faith groups have strong environmental values.
- b) **Trading Fairly Together** – a growing number of Mosques and Synagogues are now [Fairtrade](#) so local OWW organisers could invite them to run Fairtrade stalls at OWW events together with Traidcraft reps. Fair trade is one of the ways though which people can improve their lives where they live so they do not need to migrate to seek a better life elsewhere.
- c) **Tackling Poverty together** – Development agencies including [Action Aid](#), [Christian Aid](#) and [Cafod](#), [Islamic Relief](#), [Oxfam](#) etc. are all involved in addressing poverty in places where refugees come from and in providing emergency services for refugees.
- d) **Caring together** – see 3 (above) and find examples of more faiths groups joining in food banks etc. (e.g. [London Sikhs’ help desk helps destitute migrants](#))– engage with local faith organisations and find out what they are doing.
- e) **Campaigning together** for justice (e.g. with [Global Justice Now](#)) who have been exposing how some DFID aid is being used to support projects that drive people from their land into poverty. [The Guardian article, referred to in 1b above, is about one such refugee from Ethiopia, who sued DfID.])



- f) **Welcoming refugees together** – OWW is seeking information resources about various faith organisations who are working together to welcome refugees and asylum seekers; here are two:

E.g. 1 - [Jewish Social Action Forum](http://www.jewishsocialactionforum.org.uk/) has set up a website:

<http://www.supportrefugees.org.uk/> which indicates various organisations OWW events could involve.

E.g. 2 - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CBTI) have just launched a website which has news, resources, policy and opportunities for faith communities to take practical action. An essential port of call for faith groups, but really useful for anyone looking to get involved with refugees. [Visit “focus on refugees” here](#)

focus on refugees
a programme of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

- g) **Faith communities acting together - Inter faith / multicultural:** find examples of meaningful OWW interfaith events to emulate or adapt to your local situation. The Inter Faith Network has a list of examples on its page about [social action in an inter faith context](#) and a [list of local inter faith organisations](#). Think about getting involved in Interfaith Week activities. [Website here](#).

Links to some examples of local community organisations’ activities, can be found on the FBRN ([Faith-based Regeneration Network](#)) website.



3. Link with OWW’s partners’ work and campaigns.

If you are working locally to put on a OWW event with local groups of OWW’s [Partner/Supporter organisations](#), encourage them to consider how their campaigns and development work might highlight some causes of migration. Apart from giving aid to refugees in developing countries, the links for some may not be immediately obvious. However, further consideration shows that they are often addressing the conditions which cause people to migrate or to seek safety away from their home countries. Many of our partners address those conditions whether the context be one of war, climate change, poverty, denial of access to land, denial of human rights to protest, persecution, etc. Individual or community stories will help people to understand why people leave their homes.

4. Actions: Welcoming Refugees

Various kinds of action to help refugees might become part of OWW events or outcomes of OWW events. If you know of people involved in local actions during 2016, you could use OWW to summarise them in an exhibition, talk about them or review the actions and experiences in a meeting.

Actions, in consultation with those active in your community, might include:

- a) Contacting people of various faiths in your local communities to plan a meeting to share perspectives, experiences and explore what social action might be taken together. (See para.2g.)
- b) Often people want to help but don’t know where to start so one OWW group plans to produce a directory or guide about local activities and organisations that people might want to get involved with.

**Inter Faith
Week 2016**
13-20 November

- c) Putting on a joint event related to “welcoming the stranger” (or similar topic on which faiths have a similar view) followed by food (contributed by participants) and socialising or discussing further joint action;
- d) Using the United Reformed Church materials, “At home in a strange place” (see 1-d)
- e) Organising a meal for local refugees with one or a variety of local minority or faith groups preparing food from their cultural backgrounds. Include the refugees in the cooking where appropriate. Include activities for children. Invite the Mayor and/or local MP and, of course, the local press.

5. Counter Islamophobia, Antisemitism and other manifestations of religious discrimination and racism:

5.1 Share how these groups contribute positively to our society:

- a) Muslim community action campaigns: such as:
 - i. Islamic Relief’s volunteers responded to York floods <http://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/news/islamic-relief-responds-to-york-floods/>
 - ii. Local mosques contribute to food banks (e.g. the Al Mahdi Mosque in Fareham)
 - iii. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community stands for education, integration and interfaith peace. It welcomes all to visit its mosques, seminars and events that bring people together to understand more about each other. It is also committed to helping others, engaging local communities and working for the common good. Click on the logo to go to its website.



“We’ve had volunteers from Leeds, Bradford, Hull –helping families prevent flood water getting into their homes and then helping with the clean-up,” says Zia Salik, Islamic Relief’s National Community Fundraising and Volunteer Manager.



- b) Stories of Jewish social action <http://www.jhub.org.uk/aboutJHub>
- c) Sikh Gurdwaras feed the hungry in the UK ([Article in the Independent](#)) and offer help worldwide through [Khalsa Aid](#) , their aid agency.
- d) Find examples of how faith-based organisations support people in financial need [here on the “Public Spirit” Website](#)

5.2 Offer active support for the vulnerable

- a) Christian Aid’s programme [“Change the Story”](#) offers ideas and resources for writing to local newspapers to “... tell a story that upholds those escaping injustice and war, and that celebrates those who offer a welcome.”
- b) Volunteer with a local support group: become a befriender in Birmingham (see [Restore website](#)); or a friend in Portsmouth (see [Friends without Borders](#)) or [contact your local Red Cross group](#) to find out what’s happening near you.
- c) For more about support for victims of Islamophobia visit the [TellMAMA website](#)



6. Engaging people with little personal contact with refugees

Event organisers in rural areas often tell us it is difficult to engage people who have little or no contact with diverse communities, so here are some ideas. (Note: These could appeal to OWW organisers anywhere.): –

- a) show a film about the issues; (CTBI's website, 'Focus of Refugees' has [a list of suggestions](#))
- b) suggest that book clubs choose books by an author from a culture or faith that doesn't predominate in their area;
- c) Contact a refugee support group in a nearby town (or locally) and find out how the local community could help appropriately. For example:
 - i. A day or weekend in the country?
 - ii. A farm visit?
 - iii. A visit to a village fete?
 - iv. A harvest supper?
 - v. A collection of winter clothes?
 - vi. Put together welcome packs for newcomers or support packs for those struggling to survive.
 - vii. Perhaps some refugees (particularly those who have been here some time) would be prepared to talk to a school, church congregation or a local group about their experiences; cook for a local event (be sure to pay for ingredients in advance).
- d) More ideas for Churches to take action can be found on [CTBI's website here](#)

focus on refugees
a programme of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

More resources and suggestions will be added to the website in due course, including our OWW 2016 leaflet, worship and other materials for you to download.

Return regularly for what's new that might prove appropriate to your situation.

OWW is an awareness-raising charity with national partners who do active fund-raising for their own campaigns. OWW still needs core financial support for its website, admin and working with our partners and supporting organisations, so if your event raises any contributions, please consider sharing them with [OWW](#).

Appendix

[Nougayrède. N. 2016 "Diversity could be the making of Europe – let's talk about it"; the Guardian, 5th January 2016](#) (Natalie Nougayrède is a columnist, leader writer and foreign affairs commentator for the Guardian. She was previously executive editor and managing editor of Le Monde)

Here are a few quotations from the article which relate to the OWW theme and raise questions about how we might respond.

She comments on: the need for reassurance of people who fear change and the lack of preparation by governments to help adapt to the influx of refugees

"it is hard to reassure the many Europeans who struggle to see how diversity can be truly dealt with. There is a growing sense that a certain way of life is about to disappear. Simply telling people that diversity must be embraced, or that immigration is needed due to demographic change, overlooks the lack of preparation, the concrete difficulties and the fears that can arise from ignorance or stereotyping."

The need for civil society across Europe to initiate a citizens' debate about diversity

*"... It is a safe bet that politicians will not supply the answers – they are too stuck on short-termism. ... If a promising dynamic can be created, it must come from civil society – and serious media organisations have a role to play. **Now is the time to launch a Pan-European citizens' debate on diversity. This would help to prepare for a future where our democracies can resist populist pressures or social disintegration.** (my emphasis) ... Using online platforms and the linking of communities beyond borders, to share experiences, life stories, to map out problems areas and the ways people can work to overcome them could be a good option."*

She suggests a lack of communication between European activists – is that the situation? If so, how could OWW and its partners in Global Education Week begin to change that?

"Our continent is changing, but the debate is happening within national silos. Why is it that those who help refugees in Calais have so few organised contacts with those who do the same in Berlin? Or that virtually no one from liberal west European circles has engaged with those, Hungarians and others, who have become convinced their nation is being "swamped"?"

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