

TAGLINE**SOLIDARITY #WITHREFUGEES**

For a world where refugees are welcomed

THEME

World Refugee Day 2024 focuses on solidarity with and solutions for refugees

With the number of forcibly displaced people at a record high, and at a time of widespread conflict, political and economic upheaval, refugees need our solidarity now more than ever. Solidarity means keeping our doors open and working together for a world where they are welcomed.

It means celebrating their strengths and achievements and reflecting on the challenges they face. Above all, solidarity with people forced to flee is about finding solutions to their plight – from removing the barriers to their full participation in social, economic and political life, to ending the wars preventing them from returning home.

SOLIDARITY

We can all do more to show solidarity with refugees. No action is too small, whether it's welcoming a refugee into your community or advocating for policies that protect and support people forced to flee. Committing to include refugees in our schools, workplaces, health care systems and communities is the most effective way to support them in restarting their lives. It's also the best way to prepare them to return home, when conditions allow, or to flourish if they are resettled to another country. Refugees want opportunities, not handouts. Many come with skills, qualifications and creative ideas. When given the chance, they make significant contributions to host communities and economies.

What do we mean by solidarity?

Providing sanctuary and protection to refugees is an expression of our shared humanity. Beyond ensuring they feel safe and welcomed, refugees need opportunities to thrive in the communities that have accepted them. They need the chance to learn and progress, to earn a living and to feel a sense of belonging. Countries and communities hosting large numbers of refugees also need our solidarity. They cannot be left to do this alone, without support or resources.

What do we mean by solutions?

The world is short on long-term solutions for refugees, leaving millions living in limbo. They need an end to conflict so they can return home in safety. In the absence of peace, they need opportunities to be active members of the communities that have welcomed them, whether through work, school, sports or other activities. For as long as they remain in exile, refugees should be able to use their talents and passions to provide for their families and contribute to the countries hosting them. Low- and middle-income countries where the majority of refugees are received require greater investment so refugees can live in dignity and thrive.

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“We have the ability, we have the capacity, we have the skills. Give us a chance to show our skills to the world.”

LOUANGE KOFFI
REFUGEE YOUTH ADVOCATE

What do we mean by challenges?

In many parts of the world, the right to asylum is under threat. Tougher and more restrictive policies are making it harder for people fleeing war, violence and persecution to access safe and legal routes. In some places, competition over jobs and natural resources is fueling tensions and increasing discrimination and xenophobia directed at refugees, particularly those who come from a different culture, religion or ethnicity. The impacts of climate change are disrupting livelihoods and depleting resources in vulnerable regions, further escalating tensions between host communities and refugees. While many countries continue to welcome and protect refugees, they need more resources to ensure refugees can be fully included and supported. More political will is also needed to end conflicts and find solutions that would allow refugees to return home or resettle in other countries.

“How do we end fragility for refugees? Include us at the table.

Make us co-creators. To end fragility means that refugees get to be employed and earn money, that we get to be assimilated into communities, because then we get to self-actualise. We get to contribute to the community too.”

MARY MAKER
UNHCR GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

CALL TO ACTION

We encourage regional bureaus and operations to utilize calls to action from existing campaigns that meet and reflect regional and country contexts as part of their own localized WRD plans.

ABOUT UNHCR

UNHCR is a global organization, dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. We lead international action to protect and provide assistance for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.