

CSBQ Discussion paper

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Pray for Refugees.

Pray for the refugees and ask that prayers be included in your Church prayers each Sunday. Also pray for peace so all people can live safely in their homes.

Make a Contribution to Lutheran Community Care.

- Organise a collection of non-perishable foodstuffs in your church on a regular basis. This will help Lutheran Community Care with its emergency assistance program in settling refugee families in Adelaide. (A list of what makes up an emergency food hamper is available.)
- Collect street directories to give to new arrivals as they learn their way around Adelaide. These do not have to be new directories; UBDs or Gregory's up to 7 years old are fine.
- Organise a collection of household items for refugees. Good saucepans, frying pans and cooking utensils are always needed, along with any crockery and cutlery. (Second hand whitegoods and furniture are in demand and needed by the Australian Refugee Association.)
- Blankets are desperately needed for the winter months.

Become a Mentor and Friend.

Make up a group of people who are willing to act as a support group to take refugee families out on social outings.

In liaison with the Australian Refugee Association, the Refugee Committee at Lutheran Community Care is working on ways to encourage individuals and congregations to help refugee families settle in their area.

Use the Media Effectively.

There is much misinformation in the media about refugees. If you hear any use of emotional language in the media, for example, terms such as 'illegals' or 'queue jumpers', write letters to the editor or call into radio stations expressing your concerns.

Get Informed about the Facts.

There are many organisations such as Lutheran Community Care that offer more balanced information about refugees. We suggest that you familiarise yourself with the issues surrounding the movement of refugees and why people are coming to Australia as asylum seekers.

Write to Asylum Seekers.

A number of organisations have names of asylum seekers in detention centres. You can obtain their names and write a welcoming letter to them asking how you may assist them while in detention.

Speak Out for Refugees as People.

Encourage others to see refugees as individuals who have suffered great hardship in being forced to leave their families and loved ones to escape persecution and, in many cases, death. Refugees are not just 'statistics'.

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