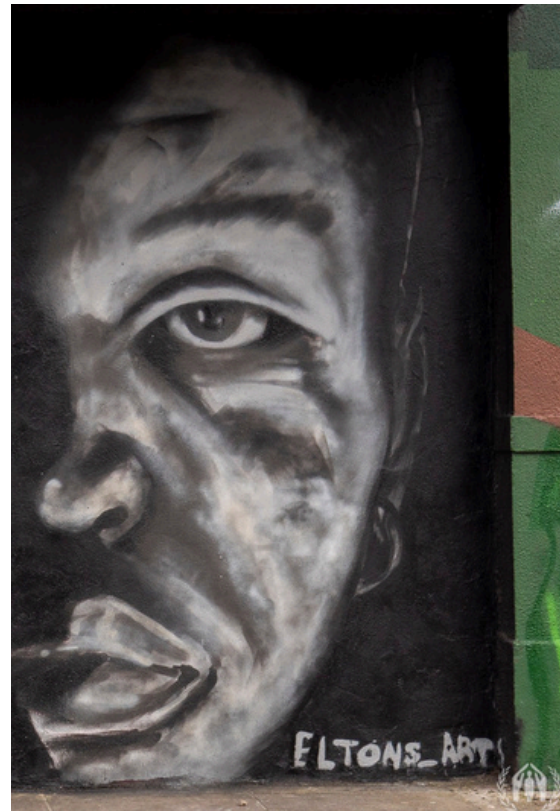




 Refugee
Week
Ireland

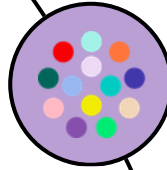
15-21 June 2026

Event Organiser Pack



REFUGEES
= WELCOME =

Pack Overview



What is Refugee Week

About the festival, its background, vision & values



Theme for 2026

About this year's theme "Courage"

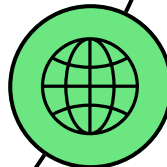


How to take part

(1) Share the message, (2) Simple Acts and (3) Support Local



Resources



Partners

About Refugee Week

Refugee Week is the world's largest arts & culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of people seeking sanctuary.

Refugee Week brings people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels, as well as foster a deeper understanding of why people are displaced, and the challenges people face when seeking sanctuary.

When and where does it happen?

This is Ireland's fourth year taking part.

It's been running in the UK since 1998 and is always the week around World Refugee Day (20 June). This year it will be 15-21st of June 2026.

It is an umbrella festival with activities happening everywhere. There are events taking place all across the world including Ireland as well as many new international festivals.

Can I take part?

Refugee Week is for everyone. Everyone can get involved whether you have 5 months, 5 weeks or 5 minutes.

Background

Our Vision?

The vision of Refugee Week is for refugees and asylum seekers to live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can continue to make a valuable contribution.

Refugee Week activities work towards this vision by helping to bring about more informed and welcoming attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers.

Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, and anyone can get involved by holding or joining an event or activity that is aligned with Refugee Week's shared values & principles. You can read more about Refugee Week's vision and aims by exploring our [Theory of Change](#).

Who We Are?

Refugee Week Ireland is coordinated through a steering committee. Members include UNHCR Ireland, Irish Refugee Council, Irish Red Cross, Doras, Nasc, Jesuit Refugee Service, Sanctuary Runners, Dignity Partnership and the Ukraine Civil Society Forum.

The Irish Steering Committee works with Counterpoints Arts UK to bring Refugee Week to life.

Do I need to ask for permission to take part?

No, that's the brilliant thing about Refugee Week. Because it's an umbrella festival everyone can take part. We just ask that everyone taking part be aligned with our vision and values which are:

We All Have the Right to be Safe:
Everyone deserves a home

Refugees are not a Single Group:
We recognise the different barriers and experiences people face

There is a Bigger Us:
We are interconnected. The safety of each of us matters to all of us

Celebrating Contributions:
Everyone has something to give, no-one has anything to prove

Reclaiming 'Refugee':
We use the term positively, and respect people's right to self-define

Open to All:
Our events are welcoming and inclusive

Leadership Matters:
Supporting lived experience leadership

Arts and Culture Make Change:
Creativity helps us see things differently

A Space for Many Stories:
No single narrative represents 'the refugee experience'

Read more about our shared values and principles [here](#)

Theme: Courage

The theme for Irish Refugee Week 2026 is 'Courage'. In Ireland, courage takes many forms.

For refugees, it's means navigating complex protection systems.

It is local volunteers supporting homeless people seeking protection, organising English classes.

It is sports clubs opening their doors and waiving fees. It is families giving time, money, transport and opening doors to refugees.

It looks like building friendships that cross cultures, religions, and histories.

COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!



Getting Started

How to Take Part?

There's three key ways to take part in Refugee Week:

1

SHARE THE MESSAGE

Whether we do this on online or offline, in our offices or over the dinner table, all of us can help raise awareness of Refugee Week.

2

SIMPLE ACTS

This is all about taking small steps towards positive change. Simple Acts are everyday actions that anyone can do to help show solidarity with refugees, learn more about refugee experiences and make new connections in our communities.

Explore the Refugee Week 2026 [Simple Acts](#)

3

SUPPORT LOCAL

From small activities to big events, everyone is invited to organise their own Refugee Week event. Why not link in with your community to help organise or offer your premises as a venue.

1 Share the message

Whether we do this on online or offline, in our offices or in over the kitchen table, all of us can help raise awareness of Refugee Week.

By sharing the message, you can help change the narrative around migration and displacement.

How to share the message

- Create a post or simply reshare content on social media using #RefugeeWeekIreland
- Share your support for Refugee Week through your newsletter
- Display your values through t-shirts or signage
- Tell your colleagues about Refugee Week via staff bulletins, intranets and forums
- Share a positive story during Refugee Week with friends and family on Whatsapp

2 Simple Acts

Simple Acts are easy, everyday actions we can all do to stand in solidarity with refugees and make new connections in our communities.

Whether you build your own event or activity around a Simple Act or simply take part during the week itself, you'll be part of a movement of people everywhere taking small steps to create a big change.

[Read Artwork Guidelines Here](#)

[Download here](#)



Have a Courageous Conversation



Watch a Film Together



Share Food & Stories



Walk & Talk



Read a Book



Get Drawing & Painting



Let Nature Inspire You



Move Together



Join the Movement

Refugee Week Simple Acts 2026

Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities.

www.refugeeweek.org
@refugeeweekuk
@refugeeweek

Refugee Week
SIMPLE ACTS
Illustration © Growth Base

3 Support Local

Everyone is invited to hold their own Refugee Week event, from food events, to sport matches to film screenings and music festivals- events of all shapes & sizes are welcome!

By supporting local you can get involved with what is happening on your doorstep and make connections in your local community.

Here are some useful things to consider.

Partners

Who can you partner with that might bring new experiences, expertise or audiences? Can you co-organise with someone from a different background, or partner with a group that can reach a new audience? Find others in your local area who would like to be interested in Refugee Week. Good places to start could be:

- [Your Local Authority Integration Team](#)
- Local library
- Local community development organisation
- Men or Women's sheds
- Local NGO

Audience

Does your event aim to reach a particular group, or bring together different communities? Think about which platform or location you will choose and how you will publicise your event in order to reach your target audience. Resources Refugee Week UK: [Reaching New Audiences](#) | Britain Talks: [Healing Divisions](#)

Who decides?

Can someone with refugee experience help lead your event?

[Resource from Refugee Week UK: Who Decides?](#)

Continued on next page



3 Hold an Event

Things to consider when planning your event (continued)

Safety + Wellbeing:

How can you help protect people in vulnerable situations and ensure wellbeing? You might start by preparing a friendly code of conduct for your event, or do a simple 'safeguarding risk assessment'. For online events, it's safest not to share Zoom publicly, and to disable the share screen.

If personal stories are being shared, how can this be done in a safe and empowering way?

Resource from Refugee Week UK: [\(Beyond\) Storytelling](#).

Evaluation

[Here is a template audience survey for you to collate feedback from your audiences.](#)

Access

Think about how you can remove barriers to participation, including relating to disability, neurodiversity, language, income and internet access. Resources Refugee Week UK: [Access checklist](#) | [Creating Participatory Spaces](#)

Search events in your area

Support Refugee Week events and activities in your local area by searching the [Irish Refugee Week calendar](#).

Add your event to the calendar!

Are you ready to upload your own event to the Refugee Week calendar? Submit your event by completing the form [here](#) and help your event reach local audiences!

SUBMIT

IDEAS TO TAKE PART

LIBRARIES

By telling personal stories books can help us understand the human impact of displacement.

- Take part in Simple Acts - Read & Listen
- Use and promote the Children's Books Ireland curated list of refugee specific books in your location.
- Host a book club or a reading circle
- Host a community film screening & discussion

RETAIL

High streets are integral parts of our local communities. They are crucial to fostering a sense of connection and belonging.

- Create a Refugee Week display
- Highlight refugee-made products –
- Build a "Community as a Superpower" Wall – Invite customers to share messages of support.
- Host a workshop e.g. crafting, cooking, or art sessions.

FOOD AND HOSPITALITY

Spaces like cafés and restaurants, bring people together through food, conversation, and culture.

- Take part in share a meal
- Curate a Refugee Week menu
- Display your solidarity
- Collaborate with refugee chefs
- Host a supper club
- Organise a Coffee & Books event
- Exhibit artwork – Share stories of community, migration, and belonging.

SPORTS CLUBS

Sports are vital to well-being and community, fostering connection and belonging.

- Organise a Community Sports Day
- Partner with a local refugee group and design a sport programme with them.
- Provide access to sports facilities or activities for refugees.
- Highlight stories of refugee athletes or teams.

checklist

GETTING STARTED

Find others involved locally

Reach out to new partners

Hold a planning meeting

Explore Simple Acts

THINK ABOUT

Target audience

Leadership

Access

Safeguarding

PRACTICAL STEPS

Decide date and time

Book performers etc

Choose venue/ platform

Add to RW website
+ promote

DURING + AFTER

Capture the event

Share on social media

Evaluate

Celebrate!

Marketing and Promotion

Click on the picture to access free social media assets and other guidance on promoting your event!

Refugee Week Ireland 2026

- Background info for Refugee Week 2026**
 - ✓ The fourth Irish Refugee week taking place from the 15-21 June. Refugee week is a festival where we celebrate compassion and connection, and everyone is welcome.
 - ✓ INSTRUCTIONS: We want you to share the news far and wide. Use this Trello board to help. To access graphics or draft text, click on the card.
- Logos**
 - ✓ White background logo
 - Refugee Week Ireland logo (bottom card)
- Refugee Week Social Media Graphics**
 - ✓ Purple 2 social media graphic
 - 2026 #WithRefugees #RefugeeWeekIreland
- Irish Website**
 - Refugee Week Ireland Website
 - Refugee Week Events Calendar

Resources Index

Fact sheets & specific info

- [Refugee Data Finder, UNHCR](#)
- [Teaching resources, UNHCR](#)
- [Asylum seekers and refugee rights when dealing with the media, UNHCR](#)
- [Reporting on Refugees- Guide for journalists, UNHCR](#)

Refugee Week links

- [Refugee Week Ireland](#)
- [Refugee Week Global](#)

Event Calendar

- [Add your event to the Irish Events Calendar](#)



Ukraine Civil Society Forum

Steering Committee:

Refugee Week Ireland is coordinated through a steering committee. Members include UNHCR Ireland, Irish Refugee Council, Irish Red Cross, Doras, Nasc, Jesuit Refugee Service, Sanctuary Runners, Dignity Partnership and the Ukraine Civil Society Forum.

Feedback & Questions

What did you think of this pack? Send your questions and feedback to:
communications@irishrefugeecouncil.ie



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

Thank you for your participation!

Together, this Refugee Week let's make Ireland a more welcoming, safe and sustainable place for all.