



REFUGEES INTO SCHOOLS

January 2011

Edition 2

Refugees into Schools supports refugees to visit schools in London to help children and young people understand the impact of conflict and

I thought that it was an honour to meet these refugees.

(10 year old from Enfield)

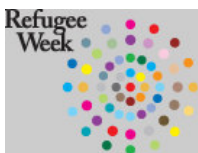
why people are forced to flee their countries. Each refugee volunteer is matched with an experienced mentor who provides guidance and support. *Refugees into Schools* also supports schools to develop a culturally inclusive curriculum and promote community cohesion.

Introducing...

My name is Toghrul Baghirov, I am from Azerbaijan and I am a volunteer for *Refugees into Schools*. At the time when I finished university, Azerbaijan seceded from the USSR and this was an exciting time for a young person. Many things happened in the newly established country and I decided to become a journalist, which was a passion of my life. I made a successful career in journalism and worked as an Editor-in-Chief of a national newspaper and TV production company. I also worked for the BBC World Service for five years before I came to Britain in 2008.



However, when I came to Britain, I understood that this is the time to change my career. Of course I decided that I must be a mathematics teacher. I want to teach because I love mathematics and enjoy engaging children in the world of maths, helping them to realise that plunging in this ocean of knowledge will open new, exciting horizons for them. *Refugees into Schools* is giving me the opportunity to visit schools across London and develop my confidence in speaking to groups of children about my experiences. In addition to working with *Refugees into Schools* I have received much advice and support from RAGU (Refugee Assessment and Guidance Unit) and Refugees into Teaching and have started a placement at Islington Arts & Media School of Creativity as a teaching assistant. I am steaming towards teaching!



Refugee Week 20-24 June 2011

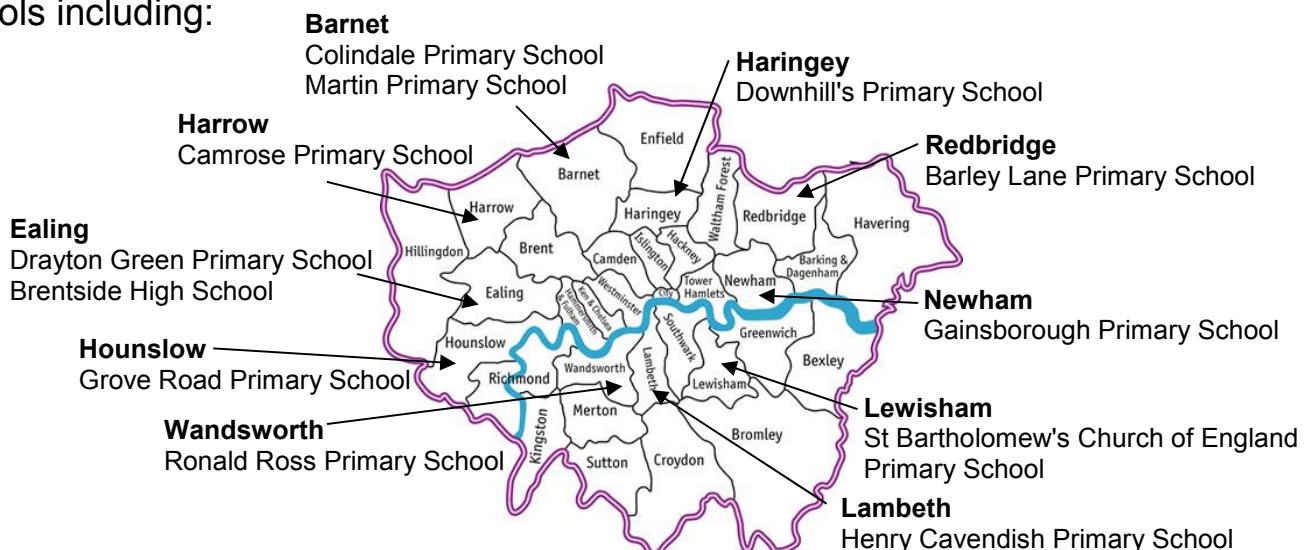
Refugee Week is a

unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK. A great way for children to engage with refugees is through *Refugees into Schools*. You can invite one of our refugee volunteers to speak to your pupils about their experiences and give the children and young people an opportunity to ask questions about why people have to flee their countries. If you are interested, please contact us at: ris@employabilityforum.co.uk or 0207 250 8332 .

Which schools are we visiting?

By April we will visit 20 more

schools including:



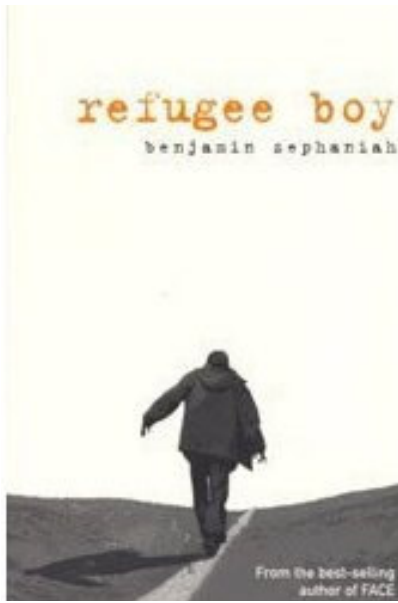
Recommended Read

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

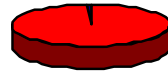
Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian and his mother Eritrean and with both countries at war, he is welcome in neither place.

Abandoned in London, Alem is left on his own and faces a struggle to get asylum.

Refugee Boy is a powerful and thought-provoking novel.

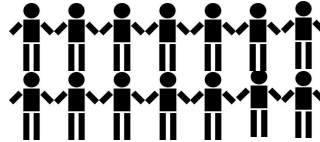
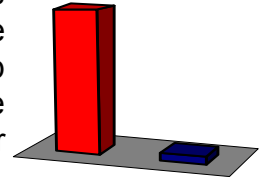


RiS Statistics



99% of pupils said the refugee volunteer helped them to understand why people have to leave their countries and become refugees.

95% of participating schools said that as a result of the project, they plan to develop their curriculum to be more culturally inclusive and further embed work on refugees.



By the end of January 2011, the project will have visited over **1400 pupils** across London.

Refugees into Schools continues

We are delighted that London Councils have confirmed that funding for *Refugees into Schools* will continue until June 2012.

This will allow us to meet with a further 1,600 pupils across London and share our learning with schools, local authorities and voluntary sector agencies. In 2011 we will also be developing practice guidance for schools and refugee community organisations. This will provide help to schools and RCOs who want to organise similar visits to those in *Refugees into Schools*. We will also be running a training session for some schools and refugee community organisations.

Keep reading our newsletter and checking the Employability Forum website for information on *Refugees into Schools*. Please contact us if you want more information or to get involved.



I have learned the risks and responsibilities people take to be an activist on human rights and how some people suffer in silence.

13 year old pupil from Newham

Get involved!

If you are interested in getting involved in ***Refugees into Schools*** or would like more information about the project, please contact:

Kirsty Anderson
Employability Forum
ris@employabilityforum.co.uk

The Employability Forum

The Employability Forum is an independent organisation that promotes the employment of refugees and the integration of migrant workers in the UK.



Employability Forum

The Employability Forum works with the voluntary sector, employers and government, using evidence from pilot projects and its network to develop practical policy recommendations.



Refugees into Schools is funded by London Councils