



REFUGEES INTO SCHOOLS

May 2011

Edition 4

Refugees into Schools supports refugee volunteers to help children and young people understand the

I would encourage every school in Hackney to take part in this project as it is an opportunity not to be missed.

Gayhurst Primary School, Hackney

impact of conflict and why people become refugees. Each volunteer is matched with an experienced mentor who provides guidance and support. *Refugees into Schools* also supports schools to develop a culturally inclusive curriculum, to engage with refugee community organisations and to promote the duties of the Equality Act 2010.

Introducing... My name is Sajwaa Ibraheem. I am originally from Iraq, where I lectured in English Linguistics at the University of Baghdad and also worked as an editor and news translator for radio and television.



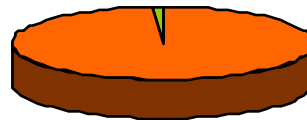
Being a mother has motivated me to get involved with children and young people's education. As a refugee myself, I am able to recognise the particular needs of refugee learners and it gives me great pleasure to be of assistance to them. Alongside volunteering with *Refugees into Schools*, I teach GCSE and A level Arabic at a secondary school in London.

The opportunities I have had through work and volunteering have given me confidence. I am happy to share my experiences with children through *Refugees into Schools*. The children are always appreciative because they learn why people have to leave their countries. I strongly believe that sharing one's experiences with others contributes towards a happier and more balanced society. I feel it is my duty to have a positive impact on our children's education as a token of gratitude to Britain and to the British people for accepting refugees as part of their society.

Impact. From the **2450 pupils** we have visited so far :

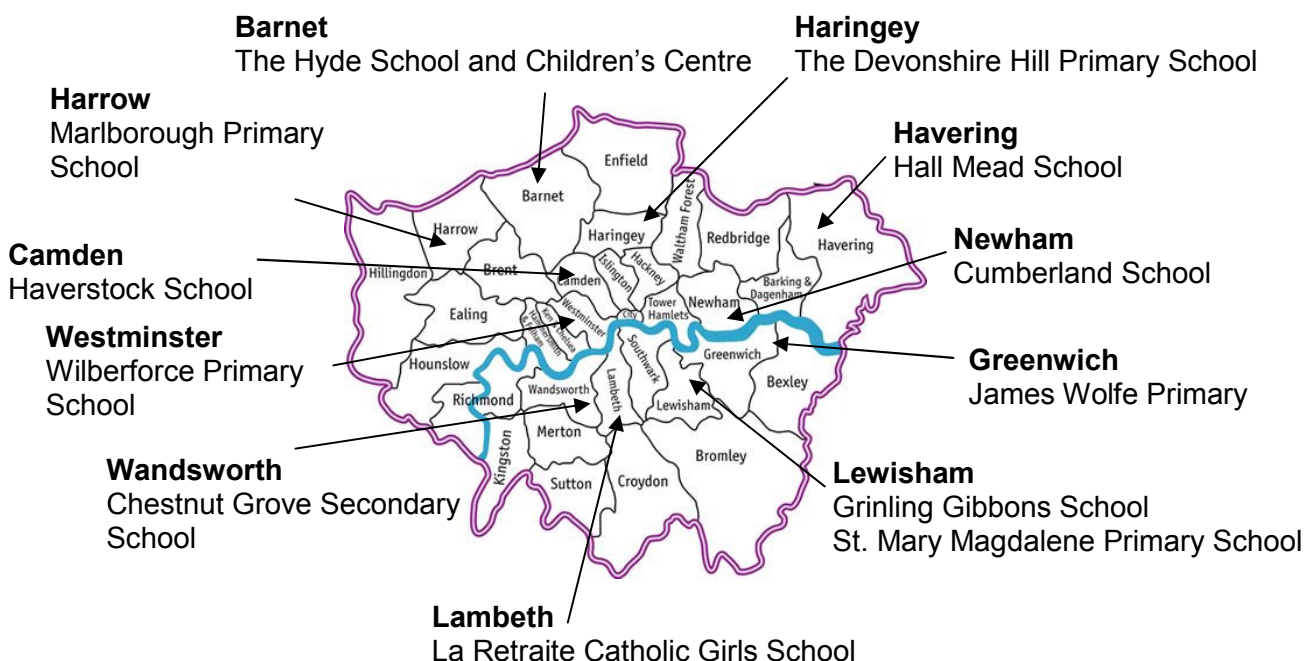


72% said they knew little or nothing about refugees before the visit.



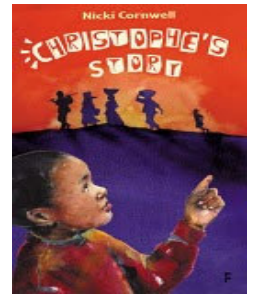
99% said the visit helped them understand why people become refugees.

Schools we are visiting this term include:



Recommended read

Nicki Cornwell: Christophe's story is a novel about an 8 year old Rwandan refugee boy. He describes his and his family's experience during the war in Rwanda. The book covers issues of refugees, ethnic diversity, genocide, immigration, racism, democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and colonisation. It is often used for the teaching of PSHE and citizenship .



Follow up activities

Students became a lot more interested in the topic - in lessons afterwards they were applying what we learnt to Mo's case.

Eastlea Community School

Schools have organised a variety of activities to continue the learning and discussion about refugees:

- Letter writing campaigns to Amnesty International
- Pupil-led assemblies with the whole school
- Class discussions on current conflicts in Libya and in the Middle East
- Writing poetry and creating posters

Refugees into Schools is preparing an information sheet for schools with ideas for preparation and follow up work to the visit. If you would like to be first to receive a copy, or would like to feed in your experience, please email ris@employabilityforum.co.uk

New releases from the Employability Forum



Engaging with schools

A guide for refugee organisations:

This publication supports refugee community organisations to build effective relationships with local schools. It provides ideas for activities that could be delivered together, including those that raise awareness of why people become refugees.

To request a copy of either document please email to ris@employabilityforum.co.uk

Understanding difference

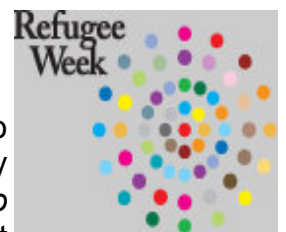
How working with refugees can help your school:

This publication illustrates how working with refugees can be linked with the curriculum; foster good relations between communities and help children understand why people seek asylum. Our work with many schools, through *Refugees into Schools*, provides an effective challenge to myths and negative stereotypes about refugees.



Refugee Week 20-26 June 2011

Refugee Week is a chance to celebrate diversity and the contribution of refugees to society. An entire week of cultural events takes place around the themes of identity and home. 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, giving the children and young people an opportunity to ask questions about why



Get involved!

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

Employability Forum
ris@employabilityforum.co.uk
072508332

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



Employability Forum



Refugees into Schools is funded by London Councils