

Refugees into Schools supports refugee volunteers to visit schools in London, giving interactive presentations to help children and young people understand the impact of conflict and why some people are forced to seek sanctuary. Each refugee volunteer is matched with an experienced mentor who provides guidance and support. *Refugees into Schools* supports schools to develop a culturally inclusive curriculum and to have due regard for equalities, as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Schools Resource Pack - Volume 2

In order to help schools incorporate a visit from a refugee into the curriculum, we provide a free resource pack which includes preparatory exercises, lesson plans, and sources designed to support classroom activities.

The latest version of pack, which features new activities for primary and secondary schools, including role-plays, up-to-date statistics and a 'refugees in the UK timeline', can be found online at www.employabilityforum.co.uk



A special training event for teachers on using this resource will take place this Spring. Please email t.shakhli@employabilityforum.co.uk to register your interest in attending.

London Councils consultation — We need your support!

London Councils are running a new public consultation on the grant scheme which currently funds *Refugees into Schools*. They want to know:

- Whether the current projects should have their funding extended to March 2013 and;
- What principles and priorities should be applied for the next round of funding from April 2013.

We would really appreciate your support in the consultation. *Refugees into Schools* is set to end in June 2012. Extending our funding (currently through the policy and voice strand) by 9 months would mean we could visit an additional 48 classes, meeting with an additional 1,200 children. We would also expand the *Refugees into Schools* resources available to all London schools and develop our work with local refugee community organisations to link them with schools in their area.

To take the survey please follow <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/grantsconsult>

One year on: Hall Mead School, Havering

"We were very pleased to be able to host a visit from Wisdom last year. The visit was successful in opening the eyes of our pupils to the lives of others around the world and nationally.

"Speaking with pupils now they remember the key messages from the visit and have a clearer picture of what the issues are. In my own subject, RE, pupils have shown a greater ability to have more sophisticated discussions about the impact of war and the issues refugees face."

(The presentation was delivered in July 2011 by Wisdom Munhapa, a refugee from Zimbabwe)



Evaluating Refugees into Schools

We are currently collecting data for an evaluation of *Refugees into Schools*, using feedback from teachers and from refugee volunteers to explore the impact of the project and describe the lessons which can be learned about collaboration between schools and refugees. This month we will be contacting schools we have visited in the past in order to collect survey information for the evaluation.

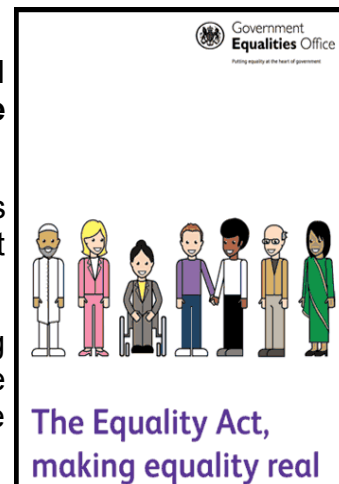
Helping schools meet Equalities requirements

The Public Sector Equality Duty, part of the 2010 Equality Act, means that all schools (including academies) must show due regard for the need to **eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations.**

The Department of Education's guidance on the Equality Act explains that having 'due regard' for equalities means that schools need to think about the impact of all their decisions, including the delivery of the curriculum.

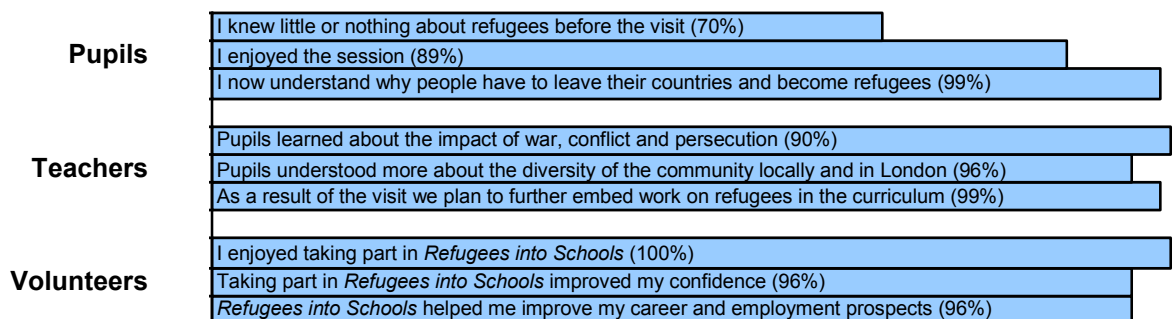
'Fostering good relations' involves 'tackling prejudice and promoting understanding'. *Refugees into Schools* visits help pupils understand the wide range of cultures which make up British society and act against negative stereotypes of people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in the media.

Visits from *Refugees into Schools*, and the free resources we provide, can help support teaching in subjects including citizenship, PSHE, geography, and history.



Feedback from our visits

Over 4,000 pupils have received visits from *Refugees into Schools* since 2009. Our feedback shows:



Refugee Story: Edwin Addis



Edwin Addis comes from the Bosnian town of Brcko on the south bank of the river Sava, which follows the border with Croatia. When war broke out in the former Yugoslavia, the bridge across the Sava was bombed, cutting off escape from the warzone.

Edwin evaded capture by taking refuge in his neighbour's house when the paramilitary soldiers came looking for him. Eventually he and his family found a flight to the UK and were offered asylum.

Edwin works full-time as a teacher in a London secondary school, and chose to participate in *Refugees into Schools* to share his refugee experience and talk about the issues around adjusting to life in the UK.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the welcome I received in the schools I visited and the importance they attached to this topic. Refugees into Schools is a worthy project and a cause that I was more than happy to take time off work to contribute to"

To find out more about the Employability Forum and the RiS project visit www.employabilityforum.co.uk/refugeesintoschools

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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

If you are interested in getting involved with *Refugees into Schools* or would like more information about it, please contact Tom Shakhli: t.shakhli@employabilityforum.co.uk



Refugees into Schools is funded by London Councils