

More Information about Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Useful Websites

Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)

www.refugeecouncil.org.au

RCOA is the national umbrella advocacy body working on refugee issues in Australia. All information relating to Refugee Week 2009 will be posted on the Council's website as it becomes available and will include a poster to download, a Calendar of Events which will be updated regularly, and other information to assist community groups and others in their planning for Refugee Week 2009.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

www.unhcr.org and Australia for UNHCR

www.unrefugees.org.au

UNHCR is the United Nations agency mandated to respond to refugee crises around the world. The UNHCR website provides a wide range of resources including up to date information, news, current statistics relating to refugees and displaced persons worldwide.



It is also a fantastic source of photographs and images of refugees worldwide. As long as these are sourced and acknowledged correctly, these images can be used in presentations or on posters and promotional materials for your event or school project. Check the website regularly as these photographs are updated and change frequently.

The Australia for UNHCR website is also a great resource for teachers and students alike, and includes a school curriculum that incorporates refugee and asylum seeker issues into learning. Australia for UNHCR also has ideas and suggestions for interesting events and activities you can organise in support of refugees and to raise awareness about refugee issues.

A Just Australia www.ajustaustralia.com



The core mission of A Just Australia is to campaign for changes to government policy on refugee and asylum seekers. A Just Australia runs a national campaign that incorporates a series of public awareness activities including public events and meetings, advertising, lobbying, research, and letter-writing. The A Just

Australia website has information on a range of refugee and asylum issues.

Amnesty International Australia www.amnesty.org.au

Amnesty International Australia's website provides detailed information and research relating to human rights issues, refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. In addition to commentary on recent and topical refugee issues in Australia, the Amnesty website also contains specific resources for schools.

http://action.amnesty.org.au/hre/comments/refugees_rights_classroom_resources/

The Australian Red Cross www.redcross.org.au

The International Committee of the Red Cross www.icrc.org

The Australian Red Cross assists asylum seekers with health support, counselling, accommodation, material aid, education, legal referrals, and social support. The website has a FAQs section, a News Room page, and a library resource.



The International Committee of the Red Cross website has an extensive photographic library which can be used for school projects and presentations. Please be sure to acknowledge the ICRC if you are using any of their images.

Australian Human Rights Commission (AHREOC)

<http://www.hreoc.gov.au/education/index.html>

HREOC has a number of educational resources on multiculturalism, racism and diversity, including: Face the Facts and Voices of Australia. Resources are available for both students and teachers.

National Council of Churches of Australia www.ncca.org.au

An education kit and many resources for schools are available for download from this site which has gathered resources for the National Council of Churches Refugee and Migrant Sunday and are also great for Refugee Week.

OXFAM www.oxfam.org.au

A recent Oxfam project Refugee Realities: Your Rights in Crisis has educational materials for teachers and students and can be accessed on Learning Space at:



<http://www.oxfam.org.au/refugee/learning/index.php>

Victorian Department of Education & Training

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs/esl/refugees/refugeweek.htm>

This site provides resources and classroom activities on refugee issues.

Foundation House: The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture <http://www.foundationhouse.org.au/home/index.htm>

This website offers lots of information about the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers as well as having a fantastic schools page with great resources that can be used in the classroom.

Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR)

www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org

Rural Australians for Refugees is an informal group of citizens working for more humane Immigration policies. The RAR website provides comprehensive up to date information and news, as well as providing ways you can become involved in supporting refugees in rural and regional areas. The website also has fantastic information about books and videos that look at refugee issues.



Refugee Action Collective – Victoria

www.rac-vic.org

Established in 2000, RAC is a democratic, grassroots collective, representing a broad cross section of the community.

To contact the Refugee Action Collective (Victoria), email refugeeaction@hotmail.com

Key Agencies Working with Asylum Seekers

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) Melbourne

www.asrc.org.au

For those wishing to access information about community based asylum seekers in Melbourne, the ASRC website provides a range of resources, including excellent information relating to Temporary Protection Visa holders and also lists volunteer and internship positions available at the Centre. The website also has some fantastic fundraising ideas, perfect for Refugee Week.

The centre also runs a catering service – fantastic if you’re organizing an event – click here for more information:

www.catering.asrc.org.au

Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project (ASP) Melbourne

www.hothammission.org.au

The Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project provides essential care and services to asylum seekers living in Melbourne. The ASP website provides information and resources on community-based asylum seekers and provides ways for the broader community to become involved through volunteering.

Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) Sydney

www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au

Since September 2003, the ASC has assisted over 2,700 asylum seekers. It relies on donations and the assistance of volunteers who fill a variety of positions. This site provides details on how to donate or become involved in a volunteer capacity with the Centre.

Refugee-Related Movies and Documentaries

For more recent releases visit

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/InfoCentre/refugees-in/films/>

Lucky Miles (2007)

A movie inspired by several true stories. In 1990 an Indonesian fishing boat abandons Iraqi and Cambodian refugees in a remote part of the Western Australia. Whilst most are quickly caught by officials, three men with nothing in common but their misfortune and determination escape arrest and begin an epic journey into the heart of Australia. A movie with a rather different approach to the story of refugees arriving illegally on our shores.

Live and Become (2005)

Live and Become follows the life of an Ethiopian boy who is passed off as a Jew to escape his ravaged country. In 1984 in a Sudanese refugee camp sheltering Ethiopians displaced by civil war and famine, the Israeli army has begun "Operation Moses", airlifting thousands of African Jews to Israel. A Christian mother persuades a Jewish woman whose own son has just died from starvation, to allow her son to assume his identity.

Unveiled (Fremde Haut) (2005) by Angelina Maccarone

A stunningly beautiful portrait of an Iranian refugee struggling between survival in small-town Germany and her love for a local woman.

The Art of Flight (2005) by Davin Anders Hutchins

The Art of Flight is a guerrilla documentary that was shot illegally in Egypt on camcorders and a laptop. This feature-length film tells the story of three people - a refugee from southern Sudan, a human rights activist from northern Sudan and an American journalist in self-imposed exile - all living in Cairo.

Anthem: An Act of Sedition (2005)

Tahir Cambis (*Exile in Sarajevo*) and Helen Newman's powerful award-winning documentary, chronicles the human rights struggles of our times. In the age of the 'War on Terror', *Anthem* bears dramatic, intimate witness to the last five years of history, which saw the emergence of a more militaristic and racist Australia, following America in its footsteps. An epic journey of the heart and mind, *Anthem* is a provocative meditation on our ideals of freedom in a country still unsure of its identity or vision for the future. (DOCUMENTARY)

In the Shadow of the Palms (2004)

Life in Iraq before and during the most controversial war of the 21st Century - A multi-award winning production. (DOCUMENTARY)

Molly and Mobarak (2004)

Molly and Mobarak follows the emotional journey of Mobarak Tahiri, a young Hazara refugee from Afghanistan living on a Temporary Protection Visa, as he struggles to adjust to life in the regional NSW town of Young. Molly Rule and her mother Lyn provide friendship and support to Mobarak. The narrative centres on the interactions between the townspeople of Young and the Afghani community, through the characters of Molly and Mobarak respectively. Mobarak has escaped war, persecution and danger in his homeland, but his journey in Australia has only just begun. (DOCUMENTARY)

Cargo (2004) by Clive Gordon

Based upon a series of true stories, *Cargo* is the intense tale of four refugees escaping from Croatia to the UK in the back of a lorry in the early 1990's, at the height of the Balkan wars. But are they genuine refugees, persecuted by likes of Milosevic or are they impulsive opportunists?

God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of Lost Boys of Sudan (2004) by Christopher Dillon

Four boys from Sudan embark on a journey to America after years of wandering Sub-Saharan Africa in search of safety. (DOCUMENTARY)

Turtles Can Fly (2004) by Bahmjan Ghobadi

Near the Iraqi-Turkish border on the eve of an American invasion, refugee children like 13-year-old Kak (Ebrahim), gauge and await their fate.

Letters To Ali (2004) directed by Clara Law

It's the story of a 15-year old Afghan boy who's seeking asylum in Australia, and about the Australian family who befriend him.
(DOCUMENTARY)

Hotel Rwanda (2004)

Don Cheadle stars in the true-life story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who housed over a thousand Tutsi refugees during their struggle against the Hutu militia in Rwanda.

Osama (2004)

Inspired by a true story, a tale which centres on three generations of women, deeply affected by the advent of the Taliban's rule in their land, Afghanistan.

Marking Time (2003) by John Doyle

ABC TV/Beyond Productions

At the outset, the town and the country are intoxicated with the spirit of the Olympics, and the anniversary of Australia's federation. Hal gets his driver's licence, his first car, the right to drink, the right to vote, and falls in love with Randa, a young Afghan refugee. But there is a shifting of consciousness in the town and the nation about refugees, border protection and their place in the world. Hal's heart is broken when he realises that his town is one in which he no longer belongs. Marking Time is the coming of age of a boy and a nation.

Beyond Borders (2003)

A wealthy woman who is transformed into a humanitarian aid worker (UNHCR), starring Angelina Jolie.

The Lost Boys of Sudan (2003) by Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk

The Lost Boys of Sudan is a feature-length documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America
(DOCUMENTARY)

Olympics in Camp (2003) by Majid Majidi

Some kids in a refugee camp in Afghanistan gather the bullet-shells and change the battle field into a playing field for eternal friendship in the hope of a future with no war and no violence.

In This World (2002) by Michael Winterbottom

Follows two young Afghan refugees on their journey to London. Based on true events and using refugees themselves as the actors.

Jenin Jenin (2002) by Mohammad Bakri

This is the story of the eight day bombardment by the Israeli Defense Forces of the autonomous Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin (Palestine) during April 2000. A film of despair, human tragedy, hatred, cynicism and last but not least, of hope.

Woomera (2002)

Woomera was a notorious mandatory detention centre in South Australia, a particularly arid and inhospitable part of the desert. In 2002, about one thousand people gathered at Woomera to protest about the Government's policy of mandatory detention for asylum seekers. This locally made work is a telling document about a particularly contentious chapter in Australian history that continues to divide opinions about this policy. (DOCUMENTARY)

Dirty Pretty Things (2002) by Stephan Frears

An illegal Nigerian immigrant discovers the unpalatable side of London life.

Australia's Refugee Dilemma (2002)

This film investigates what is a refugee, why people become refugees, people smuggling and what happens to people who come to Australia, claiming to be refugees. (DOCUMENTARY)

Tampa and Beyond (2002)

Covers Tampa incident, the establishment of off-shore detention centres, and explains relevant laws. (DOCUMENTARY)

Australia's Pacific Solution (2002) by Kate Durham and Sarah McDonald

Explores Australia's Pacific Solution and the involvement of Nauru. (DOCUMENTARY)

The Cage House (2002) by Angela van Boxtel's

Award winning short movie, inspired by the drawings of 6 year old Shayan Badraie in Villawood Detention Centre.

Frontiers of Dreams and Fears (2001) by Mai Masri

Powerful, passionate and often disturbing *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* tells the heart-breaking story of two young Palestinian girls growing up in refugee camps in Beirut and Bethlehem. The film focuses on these two young girls, their daily life, their dreams, hopes and aspirations and their friendship.

Baran (2001) by Majid Majidi

In a building site in present-day Tehran, Lateef, a 17-year-old Kurdish worker is irresistibly drawn to Rahmat, a young Afghan worker. The revelation of Rahmat's secret changes both their lives.

Last Resort (2000) by Pawel Pawlikowski

When Tanya steps off the plane in London, she might think she's never left Moscow. The pretty single mum can't get past immigration with her \$85, her son, and her story about meeting her British fiancée, so she comes up with a spur-of-the-moment plan: demand political asylum in order to buy time, call her fiancé, and live happily ever after. She has no idea what a big mistake this will turn out to be.

A Time for Drunken Horses (Zamani Baraye Masti Ashba) (2000)
by Bahman Ghobadi

A movie about a group of orphan Kurdish children who live on the poverty line in a village near the Iran-Iraq border.

Blackboards (1999) by Samira Makhmalbaf

A group of male teachers cross the mountainous paths of the remote Iranian Kurdistan region. They wander from village to village in search of students, carrying large blackboards on their backs, sometimes using them as shelter, camouflage and as shields for gunfire.

The Plight of Tibet and the Dalai Lama: Interviews with Tibetan Refugees (1999)

This film consists of interviews with Tibetan refugees (predominantly Buddhists persecuted for their religion), including the current Dalai Lama, as well as those people who operate the services in India which assist the arriving refugees. They describe both their treatment at the hands of the country's rulers as well as the general socio-economic climate brought about by the policies of the government of Tibet. (DOCUMENTARY)

Australia Has No Winter (1999)

Stevan Arbutina, a Serb, is married to Georgia, a Croatian. They are forced to immigrate to Australia after the devastating civil war in

Yugoslavia makes it impossible for them to find peace and security in their old country. This compelling film traces the family's journey from Belgrade to Melbourne. (DOCUMENTARY)

Children of Shatila (1998) by Mai Masri

The Shatila Camp in Beirut has become home to more than 15,000 Palestinians and Lebanese who share a common experience of displacement, unemployment and poverty. This is the story of two Palestinian children born and raised in the Shatila Camp - Farah aged 11 and Issa aged 12. It is the intent of documentary filmmaker Mai Masri to present the children's stories of the realities of life in Shatila through their own eyes and words, providing each child with a video camera. (DOCUMENTARY)

Eternity and a Day (Mia Eonio tita ke mia mira) (1998) by Theo Angelopoulos

A famous author, reaching the end of his life, encounters a young Albanian refugee boy who is one of the thousands of illegal immigrants from Eastern Europe coming into Greece. Alexander begins a quest to return the boy home, and when that proves impossible, attempts to give the young orphan the security and opportunities unavailable on the streets. (DOCUMENTARY)

Exile in Sarajevo (1997) by Tahir Cambis and Alma Sahbaz

A passionate and personal account of the siege of Sarajevo, from the viewpoint of Bosnian-Australian Tahir Cambis and Sarajevan Alma Sahbaz. Nirvan, a talented young dancer, dies after a shelling attack. Her family, unable to come to terms with their loss, is forced to leave Sarajevo as refugees bound for America. Eight year old Amira's illustrated diary is poignant testimony of the murder of family and friends. Both stories are set within the context of NATO bombing missions, UN Press Conferences and the liberation and reunification of parts of the city under Bosnian-Serb control.

Mohamed Ali's Happy Day Feast (1997) by Nicky Tyndale-Biscoe

Having survived war in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, but suffering the loss of home and family, Mohamed and his wife Halima arrive in Australia with a renewed optimism, and set about establishing their dream cafe.

La Promesse (1997) by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne

Igor and his father, Roger, are making a decent living renting apartments to illegal immigrants and sometimes working them illegally (among other scams). But when the building inspector pays a surprise visit and Amidou

falls off a scaffold in his hurry to hide, things start to unravel, particularly when Igor makes a promise to the injured Amidou that ultimately exposes the different values of Igor and Roger, and of Amidou's wife, Assita.

Tale of the Three Jewels (Conte des trios diamants) (1994) by Michel Khleifi

A beautiful film of young adolescent love, of dreams and fantasies, which sadly takes place in a world of conflict, hate and violence in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.

Dreams and Silence (Reves et silences) (1991) by Omar Al Qattan

It is the autumn of 1990 in Jordan. The Islamic movement has declared a Holy War against the West and the Gulf War is at its height. Haifa Samhouri is a middle-aged Palestinian refugee living in Jordan. Haifa talks of her life as a refugee. (DOCUMENTARY)

El Norte (1984)

Mayan Indian peasants, tired of being thought of as nothing more than "brazos fuertes" ("strong arms", i.e., manual laborers) and organizing in an effort to improve their lot in life, are discovered by the Guatemalan army. After the army destroys their village and family, a brother and sister, teenagers who just barely escaped the massacre, decide they must flee to "El Norte" ("the North", i.e., the USA).

Well Founded Fear

Tells the stories of oppression that brought political refugees to America — but even more interestingly, it looks at the people and the system that decide who gets to stay and who gets sent back, perhaps to prison or death. (DOCUMENTARY)

Barefoot to Herat by Majid Majidi

This film was shot during two trips that Majid Majidi took in Western Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002. In the first trip in November 2001, Majidi visited the refugee camp of MAKAKI in a Taliban controlled area and MILE 46, another small camp situated in a Northern Alliance held area. The second trip took place in February 2002 in the city of Herat now freed from the Taliban and in the hunger stricken camp of MASLAKH, one of the largest in the world.

Spare Parts by Damjan Kozole

The director is a veteran punk rocker from Slovenia whose film focuses on drunk, corrupt and depressed smugglers who reminisce about their former

lives as racing car drivers as they ferry terrified human cargo across the Croatian border to Italy.

Distant Lights by Hans-Christian Schmid

Oder River between Frankfurt, Germany and Sublice, Poland is the featured border, the division between the prosperous west and the impoverished east. As in *Spare Parts*, the ferrymen here are unscrupulous, charging inordinate sums for tremendous danger and no guarantees that refugees will arrive safely.

The Refugee Claimants Support Centre Choir

The 'Scattered People' CD is a collection of songs written and inspired by Refugee Claimants in Brisbane. The 'Scattered People' is the story of ongoing struggles and journey from country of origin to resettlement in Australia.

<http://www.brisbane-stories.webcentral.com.au/scatteredpeople/>

The UK Refugee Council website has compiled an extensive list for more refugee related movies, documentaries and literature.

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/InfoCentre/refugees-in/>

Stories and Voices

ICE (Informational and Cultural Exchange centre) has a wide range of resources – CDs, videos, books and other materials that have been produced collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The Applicant and Colour Blind

Developed in association with the Sudanese Filmmaking Group, these films were produced by ICE as a part of the 'Africa on Screen' Initiative.

The Applicant documents some of the first-hand experiences of African-Australians in the local job market.

Colour Blind is a visual exploration of the experiences of African refugees in Australia.

Darkness over Paradise

The Association of Sierra Leonean Journalists in Exile (ASLJIE) collaborated with ICE to produce *Darkness over Paradise*, a documentary presenting the vivid narrative of the lives of ordinary people and media

workers caught up in civil war, the brutal practice of amputation, and the enormous displacement of refugees caused by the conflict.

The full list of ICE resources and ICE contact details can be accessed on <http://ice.org.au/newswire/2007/10/stories-voices-new-resources-available/>

Online interactive games, stories and resources

Long Journey Young Lives (2002)

Long Journey Young Lives is a story about being a young refugee. It's an online interactive documentary which provides an intimate and unique insight into the experiences of child refugees. From the violence and danger of their homeland, to their dangerous journey and subsequent detention in Australia, young refugees present an exclusive account of their experiences as refugees. The documentary also explores the opinions of young Australians on issues surrounding asylum seekers. Australian school children, all under the age of 12, express their views on mandatory detention, being called 'boat people' and 'queue jumpers', and talk about whether Australia has a responsibility to accept refugees.



http://www.abc.net.au/longjourney/index_flash.html

Virtual Refugee Camp

Today, about 33 million people live in temporary shelters throughout the world. Although some people ultimately return home or move to another country, the number of refugees and internally displaced people continues to grow. To mark Refugee Week, Médecins Sans Frontières has created a Virtual Refugee Camp. A visit to the site <http://www.refugeecamp.org/home/> will show the basic needs - shelter, food, water, sanitation, and health care - of people who, because of conflict or disaster, find themselves in a refugee camp.

Molly and Mobarak clips (2003)

Online clips from the documentary are available on <http://australianscreen.com.au/titles/molly-mobarak/clip3/>

Game for change

Oxfam has developed a Game for Change about Aissa, a refugee who has to flee conflict in Darfur with her four children. The player can help Aissa and her children avoid all the dangers they face, like landmines and guerrillas, and look for food for them.

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/refugee/learning/resources/mobilephonevirtualcamp.php>