

2. Background Information

What is the "Refugee Sunday" ?

Due to fear of oppression and persecution, millions of victims worldwide seek asylum and protection. They flee from their homeland, facing the pain of separation from loved ones. These displaced people show incredible strength and perseverance to find hope and security in their lives.

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/76 on 4 December 2000. In this resolution, the General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In solidarity with the African Nations, the United Nations adopted the African Refugee Day to be the Universal Refugee Day. The Assembly therefore decided that from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

The Refugee Sunday falls on the following Sunday to the World Refugee Day

- The Refugee Sunday is a period of common prayer day in which the Churches are encouraged to focus on refugees and refugee related issues.
- It is a time when the Church across the Globe come together, in their own locality, to pray and support the refugees.
- It is a time for the young people and children to be encouraged to pray, worship, reflect, organize workshops, Bible studies and other such activities to bring awareness about Refugees and Internally displaced communities.

Why the Refugee Sunday?

- To help the church to globally focus on a common issue, which affects the church either directly or indirectly.
- To create awareness and solidarity among the Christian community in relation to the struggles and suffering of Refugees and Internally displaced people.
- To bridge gaps across cultures, languages, between communities and church to promote community integration and understanding.

How do we organize “Refugee Sunday” in our Church?

The refugee Highway Partnership will share the experiences and tools for you to organize the Sunday, by integrating the theme in your Sunday worship service, youth groups and Sunday Schools.

You will be able to download, posters, bible studies, sermon notes, presentations, Children’s and youth activities to help you to prepare this Sunday. The churches are encouraged to translate the materials in the local language.

<http://www.refugeehighway.net/>

As the Clock Ticks

Every second refugees somewhere in the world are fleeing from their homes and cities seeking safety. What is our responsibility and response towards these women, men, and children? Their plight is hard for many of us to imagine: forced to leave their homeland with little more than their clothing and a small supply of food, these people are leaving everything behind.

