

HOW ARE YOU WALKING IN STEP WITH REFUGEES?

worldpartners.emcc.ca/instep

World Refugee Sunday

June 14 or 21

CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

This World Refugee Sunday, we participate In Step with followers of Jesus and others from around the world. Through increasing awareness of what's happening with refugees in our churches, our communities, and the world, we can discover the needs and opportunities. By sharing the resources we each have, we can gain hope with refugees as Jesus' followers.

These Five Sections may guide you in how you participate with the Church.

1. LET US REFLECT ON THESE WORDS FROM GOD.

"The LORD watches over the foreigners, and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked." Psalm 146:9

"So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt". Deuteronomy 10:19



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2. LET US AFFIRM OUR BELIEFS ON HUMANITY.

EMCC Article of Faith and Practice on Humanity begins...

"We believe that God created humankind in His image, male and female, to enjoy a loving relationship with Him and with one another."

Respond: Lord, we thank you for the wonder of all the peoples you've made, who reflect Your image.

(from EMCC [Articles of Faith and Practice](#), 2017)

3. LET US CALL ONE ANOTHER TO COMPASSIONATE ACTION.

EMCC Statement on Compassionate Action:

We respond to people made vulnerable by circumstances of injustice, poverty, and disaster, with the love and compassion of Jesus.

Respond: Lord, may it be true of us.

EMCC Statement on Refugee Sponsorship

We invite the church to learn, and to explore ways of responding to the needs of displaced people seeking refuge, and to sponsor refugees, and help New Canadians to integrate into Canadian life, and experience the love of Jesus through community.

Respond: Lord, open our eyes and our hearts to our near and our Global neighbours, to experience Your love together.

(from [EMCC World Partners](#) Strategic Direction, 2019.)



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4. LET US PRAY.

Jesus, please increase our awareness as we pray

For Ourselves,

That we no longer ignore an invitation to invite more people into our social circles,
but may live openly.

For Displaced People,

Who are removed from their homes, that they may receive provision of shelter,
food, medication, and safety.

For Refugees,

Who have and who are being resettled within Canada, for their hopes and dreams
to be realized, and for their fears to subside.

Pray for Government and Humanitarian leaders,

that they might have wisdom to respond with compassion and justice.

For peace,

and an end to wars and unrest, genocides and mistreatment of people for power,
or land or resources. May all people be honoured as Image bearers of our Creator
God.

Lord, open our eyes to needs and opportunities as we pray

For Ourselves,

That we might respond to refugees with openness and sensitivity in unique and
simple ways.

For God's wisdom, provision, and compassion

for those within countries currently overwhelmed by refugee claimants and asylum
seekers.



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God Above All, we acknowledge resources you have given to all, as we pray

For Newcomers,

May we acknowledge and connect with these individuals and families, each with gifts to offer, who may be longing for mutual friendship, hospitality, or advocacy.

For all Followers of Jesus,

to live lives of blessing others, expressing generosity, care, inclusion, welcome, and cultural interest.

Holy Spirit, invite us to participate in step with refugees as we pray

For Ourselves,

May we grow in expectancy around refugees' contributions to all of our lives, and for ability to allow others to give to us.

For Newcomers,

To encounter hospitality and friendship extended by members of the communities in which they live. May their experience of cultural immersion be positive and help create a sense of belonging in a new place.

For People,

In receiving and offering hospitality to near and Global Neighbours. May each discern how they can participate in the hopeful stories that refugees are living, and the future these near neighbors are creating for themselves.

For churches across the globe,

seeking to respond and reflect Jesus well in building community and extending hospitality.



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5. LET US LEARN, CONNECT, and MOBILIZE.

CONTINUE YOUR LEARNING

Links to Agencies, and organizations this week, and additional resources for World Refugee Day, go to worldpartners.emcc.ca/instep

CONNECT WITH OUR FRIENDS, WORKERS, and STORY-TELLERS

Reach out to any of the EMCC people who've shared their stories with us, at worldpartners.emcc.ca/instep

MOBILIZE TOGETHER

How might I respond today? I might be moved to:

- pray,
- join a friendship circle,
- volunteer as a mentor or get involved in ESL,
- offer and receive hospitality and friendship with neighbours,
- sponsor refugees through our church, or together with other churches,
- get involved with immigration services or New Canadian Agencies
- make a financial contribution to our [Refugee Fund](#) (assisting refugees and the churches sponsoring them).

Something beautiful happens when we walk this path together. We serve together, in step with one another, and with God.

In the love of Christ,

Pam Hicks

Nicole Jones-Qandah

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for the World Partners Team of the EMCC



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