

# Children on the Move

IT'S ABOUT US



**Aim: To explore the lives of “people on the move”, refugees and migrants**



**Objectives:** Young people will...

- Learn about “people on the move”, refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and displaced people.
- Explore their attitudes and build an understanding of what life is like for people forced to flee their homes.

**Background Resources and Links:**

[Understanding Syria: From Pre-Civil War to Post-Assad](#)- Article by The Atlantic

[Melissa Fleming: How to help refugees rebuild their world](#)- TED talk

**You will need:** Picture handouts and cut up question sheets

**Teacher’s Note:** Many people including children are talking about the refugee & migrant crisis currently unfolding in Europe. This workshop aims to give a brief introduction to children’s lives from the perspective of a refugee or migrant. It can be helpful for children to have time to discuss this over two class periods. Some of the content can be upsetting so it is important to prepare the children ahead of the lesson and give them time to discuss their feelings or views on the matter especially if there are asylum seekers or refugee children in your class.



5m

**View:**

Younger Children [Three years in Za'atari Refugee Camp](#) - 2015

Older Children [Children on the Move](#)

Discuss the definitions in the pages below, with the class and, if there is time, you can view the map together.



**25m**

### **Introduction:**

Imagine if Ireland became a war-zone. Imagine having to leave your home, your friends and most of your family. Imagine leaving behind your pets and most of your belongings. Imagine no longer knowing where your next meal will come from or when you will, if ever, find safety. Imagine being forced to go somewhere without knowing whether you will arrive, without knowing whether you and your family will be welcome, without knowing whether you will be able to survive. Imagine living in a place with a different language or no facilities to bring you comfort. In smaller groups spend the next 10-15 minutes imagining what life might be like for a refugee or migrant.

**Group Work:** Divide participants in to smaller groups. Give each group a photograph and the selection of questions. Tell them to take turns answering the questions based on the picture and story of the person they were given. Find the questions and photos below.

**Ask participants to feedback their discussion to the larger group**



**5m**

**Closure:** A lot of what was talked about today is upsetting, one way to deal with your upset is to take an action that might help the situation. It doesn't have to be a big action. Can anyone think of an action they could take?

Before you leave write on a piece of paper a feeling or a thought that you would like to leave behind in the class.



10m

### At Home: Choose one of the two assignments below

Please read the excerpt below and write a short reflection (a couple of paragraphs) on how it applies to what we have discussed today.

“Modern man has brought this whole world to an awe-inspiring threshold of the future. He has reached new and astonishing peaks of scientific success. He has produced machines that think and instruments that peer into the unfathomable ranges of interstellar space. He has built gigantic bridges to span the seas and gargantuan buildings to kiss the skies. His airplanes and spaceships have dwarfed distance, placed time in chains, and carved highways through the stratosphere. This is a dazzling picture of modern man's scientific and technological progress.

Yet, in spite of these spectacular strides in science and technology, and still unlimited ones to come, something basic is missing. There is a sort of poverty of the spirit which stands in glaring contrast to our scientific and technological abundance. The richer we have become materially, the poorer we have become morally and spiritually. We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.”

An excerpt from Martin Luther King's Nobel Prize acceptance speech



### In the News; Daniel Etter for The New York Times

Laith Majid, a Syrian refugee from Deir Ezzor breaks out in tears of joy, holding his son and daughter, after they arrived safely in Kos. The group crossed over from the Turkish resort town of Bodrum and on the way their flimsy rubber boat, crammed with about 15 men, women and children, lost air.



This is a photo of his subsequent safe arrival with his family in Berlin where he will be able to build a new future for him and his family. Laith Majid and his wife Nada Adel (43) together with their sons Moustafa (18), Ahmed (17), Taha (9) and daughter Nour (7), who we recognise from the first picture.

Write a couple of paragraphs on your thoughts of these two images.

# Definitions



Word	Definition
<b>Refugee</b>	A person who has fled their country to escape <b>war</b> or <b>persecution</b> and is unable to return because of it. By law refugees cannot be sent back to countries where their lives would be in danger or where their life or freedom would be under threat. <b>They must, however, prove this.</b> which can be difficult if they have fled without identity papers like passports or birth certificates.
<b>Migrant</b>	A person who is moving from one country to another for reasons <b>other than war</b> or persecution. Migrants may be fleeing extreme poverty, gender based violence, or be trying to join family members or seeking better opportunities and employment.
<b>Asylum Seeker</b>	<p>A person who is seeking safety and protection in another country and is waiting for a decision on their <b>application for refugee status</b>. If they do not get refugee status they are expelled unless they get permission for leave to remain on humanitarian grounds.</p> <p>In Ireland, asylum seekers are sent to 'direct provision' centres until their case for refugee status is decided.</p>

# Definitions



Word	Definition
<b>Direct Provision</b>	<p><b>Accommodation</b> centres for <b>asylum seekers</b> in Ireland. Originally set up to provide short term shelter for asylum seekers. Today, many asylum seekers have spent years in conditions which most agree are damaging to their health, welfare and life-chances. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work. They are not entitled to social welfare. All their meals are provided for them in the centres. In all, more than 4,300 people, including 1,600 children, live in 34 accommodation centres spread across Ireland. The centres, which include former hostels, hotels and a mobile home park, are run by private contractors who receive about €50 million in State funding annually. "<b>The Outsiders</b>", is a radio documentary giving a view inside the Irish direct provision system through the eyes of two 13yr old girls.</p>
<b>Displaced person</b>	<p>A person who has been <b>forced to leave their home</b> because of war, natural disaster or persecution. According to the UN there are approximately 60 million displaced people in the world. In 2014, 42,500 people per day were becoming displaced. Syria is the world's biggest producer of both internally displaced people (7.6 million) and refugees (3.88 million at the end of 2014). Afghanistan (2.59 million) and Somalia (1.1 million) are the next biggest refugee source countries.</p>

Photocopy this page to provide one for each group. Cut out the questions and give each a set.

What do you think the person in the photo is thinking?

What do you think the person in the photo is feeling?

What do you think the person in the photo has lost?

What do you think the person in the photo would like to do?

Where do you think the person in the photo has come from?

Where do you think the person in the photo would like to be?

What would you like to say to the person in the photo?

What do you think their journey to where they are now was like?

What do you think the person in the photo misses most?

Who do you think the person in the photo misses?

What do you think the person in the photo needs?

What human/ children's rights of theirs are being violated?

What do you think the person in the photo wants?

What do you think the person in the photo's accommodation is like?

How long do you think it will take for the person in the photo to get back their normal life?

When do you think was the last time the person in the photo was in school?

What do you think the person in the photo wants to be when they grow up?

What do you have in common with the person in the photo?

What do you think the person in the photo dreams of?

What do you think the person in the photo did yesterday ?



On 26 August, comforted by a man, a young child cries while looking up at uniformed officers from the special police forces of the former Yugoslav Republic of [Macedonia](#), in the town of Gevgelija. A girl stands nearby.

In late August 2015 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, more than 52,000 people have been registered at the border by police in the town of Gevgelija, after entering from Greece, since June 2015. Since July 2015, the rate of refugees and migrants transiting through the country has increased to approximately 2,000 to 3000 people per day. Women and children now account for nearly one third of arrivals. An estimated 12 per cent of the women are pregnant. Many are escaping conflict and insecurity in their home countries of Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

There are children of all ages traveling with their families. Some are unaccompanied minors aged 16–18 years who are traveling in groups with friends. They are arriving in the country from Greece, transiting to Serbia and further to Hungary, from where they generally aim to reach other countries in the European Union.



On 21 July 2015, Maryam, 10-years-old, in Rafah, southern [Gaza Strip](#). “I live in a tiny house in Khan Younis refugee camp. During summer, it gets very hot inside; and outside there is nowhere to play as it is very crowded in the camp. I love coming to the sea where I can play and have fun, but it is far from my home. I wish that my refugee camp will have a park and playground one day.” One year on, Palestinian children in Gaza are still trying to recover from the devastating effects of 51 days of hostilities last year, compounded by the slow pace of reconstruction. Those older than six have now witnessed three conflicts in their short lives, and children aged 10 or less have only known life in Gaza under closure. To this day, there are more than 308,000 children still in need of psychosocial support. Many continue to live amidst ruins; the reconstruction of over 12,600 housing units totally destroyed is yet to start, prolonging the hardship of some 100,000 people, half of whom are children. Families struggle to get by with one of the highest unemployment rates in the world at 44%. Eighty per cent of the population rely on humanitarian aid and have limited or no access to basic services such as electricity or clean water (over 95 per cent of Gaza’s aquifer water is unfit for human consumption) in an enclave where half the population are children.





On 18 July 2015, Sabah, 10 years old at the Markazi refugee camp for **Yemenis** in Obock, **Djibouti**. Heavy and dusty winds are common in Djibouti during the summer. They lived a normal life in Yemen until the war.

In March, they were returning from a visit to Somalia where her mother originally comes from. The war was already raging but they managed to make it to where their house was but it was no longer there. It had been flattened by rockets.

Then Houthi fighters came and told them that they can't leave. That they should die there.

"But we managed to escape on my uncle's boat". It was a one-day trip, and with the strong waves one woman fell into sea and died. "I was so tired and afraid", Sabah said. In their new life as refugees in Djibouti, Sabah's mum struggles to provide for her and Ahmed, her younger brother. Sabah says she misses home and all her clothes which got burned when their house burned of rocket fire. Sabah misses chocolates, apples, bananas and peanuts. Most important, she misses her doll, Amira – it got destroyed with the house. Now, she has no doll to play with. Despite all this, Sabah's dreams are still valid. She wants to become a doctor in the future so that she help her mother.



Ali (name changed) is 13 and lives with his family in the **Palestinian Camp** Bourj Barajni. His family fled the outskirts of Dara in **Syria** after the exchange of fire caused their house to collapse. Ali's father (55) and oldest brother worked as taxi drivers in Syria, all children were in school, they owned their house in Syria, and had health cover. Now four generations - around 12 people live in two rooms with hardly any possessions.

Ali's father talks about Syria: "It was much, much better before, we were living a good life.

His father stopped working after his car was hit by shelling. "I tried to fix the car to get it working again but I couldn't, it was too expensive, I couldn't do anything."

Even though family is safe now, they don't feel safe. They are very nervous and scared. Even thunder brings back the memories of bombardment.

The family decided to settle in the camp because they have some friends here but also because the cost of living in the camp is cheaper. They need \$300 for rent, \$50-60 for electricity and another \$100 for food. It is Ali and his older brother Ramy (17) who provide for the family. While Ali's brother works in the TV shop and Ali has been working in the Shisha cafe. He starts at nine the morning and some days does not come back home before 2 am and earns \$200 a month.



16 year old Shifa has lived in **Za'atari** refugee camp for more than a year. She fled from Dera'a, southern **Syria**, with her mother and father, three brothers and two sisters. "There was bombing in our village so we got into the car and went to the border. It was very frightening and scary. It took three days to get to Za'atari."

Shifa's uncle and her eight year old cousin were injured in Syria. Her cousin was shot in the head but she survived and is also now living in Za'atari. Her uncle was captured and forced to stay in Syria. Shifa misses her uncle and also her brother who still lives in Syria but she speaks to them on the phone.

"For the first month I used to cry every day, but after that I got used to it. Life is different. We had a good living situation in Syria but now it's bad. I miss my home. Even though there's bombing, I want to go home. I miss Fatema, my friend from school."

Shifa is in Grade 9 at School 3; one of three schools set up and managed by Unicef. "I enjoy coming to school and seeing my friend, Salam. Since I was a little girl I've liked school. I study maths, English, Arabic, history, science and geography. I intend to become a pharmacist. I want to help people, back in Syria."



On 21 March, a boy holds his registration number following a ceremony formalising his release from the **South Sudan** Democratic Army (SSDA) Cobra Faction armed group, in the remote village of Lekuangole, in Jonglei State. On 21 March 2015 in South Sudan, up to 250 children – including four girls, one as young as 9 – were released from the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA). Another 400 are being released over the next two days. The release happened in the remote village of Lekuangole, in Jonglei State. It is the third release of children following a peace deal between the Faction and the Government. The Government's National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC) and UNICEF are working together to care for the children and reintegrate them in their communities. The Cobra Faction has advised UNICEF that they have up to 3,000 children in their armed group. In a ceremony led by the NDDRC formalising the children's release, the children exchanged their weapons and uniforms for civilian clothing. UNICEF then took responsibility for looking after the children at an interim care centre in the village, where they are being provided with food, shelter and medical care. UNICEF and partners will begin the process of tracing their families and, where necessary, providing psychosocial support.



Mohammad, 15, sits in front of the Azraq refugee camp where he lives with his family. He fled two years ago when the conflict in his hometown in the Golan Heights in south-western Syria intensified and has been in the refugee camp for one and a half years. When the first aerial bombs hit "In Syria, we used to play outside till late evening around 8pm. One night, while we were playing, we saw many planes in the sky. We stopped playing and looked at the planes. We suddenly heard very loud bomb explosions, and people started screaming, others shouted, many were lying on the ground injured. I laid down on the ground with my friends. I looked around and everything was dust. I was so scared, and ran home." "The next day I woke up and the bombs landed in front of my house. This was when my family decided it was too dangerous for us stay, and went further into Golan but stayed at the Syrian side for some time, then crossed to Jordan." "I want to go back to Syria, but I am scared to see the bombings and shelling. Even though we currently live in a harsh desert, where this camp is located and even animals could barely live in, we prefer it because we feel safe here."



On 26 August, Lamar, 4, squeezes a blanket, in a reception centre near the town of Gevgelija, on the border with Greece. A woman and other children are nearby. Lamar travelled with her mother for just over two months from the Syrian Arab Republic to the Gevgelija border crossing. They are heading to Germany to reunite with Lamar's father, who managed to reach that country four months ago. Her mother says that their house was burned to the ground and that they have nothing left. The hope of reuniting their family and having a better life gives them the courage to keep moving.



Safa 14 years old, **Syrian** refugee that fled violence two years ago to Kawergosk camp in **northern Iraq**. “Four years has passed since the children here last saw any of their relatives, friends or homes. The ones responsible are politicians. I want tell you politicians, stop this game so we can go back to our country so that children who lost their parents can have a future, so we also can have a future.”

Life goes on, I am still attending the English class, and I go to school every day. Sometimes it rains, and by the time I get back home, I am covered in mud.

Since two years I have not seen my friends in Syria nor my nephews, I also didn't see my siblings. I know that there are Syrian children that have lived in camps twice as long as I have.

There are many children living in these camps, some are my age and others are younger or older.

Many of the children born here in the camp know nothing about Syria.

They don't even know how it (Syria) looks. They don't know how their homes look. Some of them do not even know their relatives. Many of them are young and yet have lost their parents.

Two years passed and still my wish didn't come true. I felt little disappointed, but I have to cope with the situation. It is not up to us to leave the camp and go back. Living here is not like Syria, not at all.



On 18 June, a Burundian girl, carrying her younger sister in a sling pouch on her back, uses a large umbrella to protect them from the sun as she makes her way to a water point, in the Nyarugusu refugee camp in Kigoma Region. UNICEF is providing 30,000-litre water bladders in the camp, where water scarcity is increasing as more Burundian refugees arrive. By mid-June 2015 in the United Republic of Tanzania, more than 63,650 Burundian refugees had sought shelter to escape violence and political turmoil in their homeland. They are among more than 110,000 Burundians – the majority of them children and women – who have fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania to escape the hostilities. The large influx of refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania has resulted in overcrowding and limited access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, posing a threat of disease spread, including cholera. Although a recent cholera outbreak continues to stabilise, a significant risk of disease resurgence remains. In Kigoma Region, the Nyarugusu camp has been expanded to accommodate incoming Burundian refugees in addition to the 50,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have lived there for 20 years.



Globally, one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. If this were the population of a country, it would be the world's 24th biggest. This has been a result of years of ongoing conflict and suffering. Many aid agencies are running out of money to support the growing numbers. The World Food Program cut in half food aid for Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries. Syria's neighbours have taken the vast majority of people fleeing conflict. With conditions worsening, thousands of Syrian refugees have been trying to reach Europe, many attempting treacherous sea voyages.

Going from	Middle East
<b>Syria</b>	<b>7.6 million displaced people, 4 million refugees because of the conflict in Syria. Most are living in the countries below.</b>
Iraq	400,000 Syrian refugees have gone to war torn Iraq for safety.
Jordan	Approximately 673,000 people have sought asylum or refuge in Jordan.
Lebanon	1 out of every 4 people is a refugee in Lebanon. It is a smaller country than Ireland but has a similar population of 4.8 million.
Libya	Many migrants and refugees leave on boats via Libya.
Turkey	Nearly 1.9 million refugees will be living in Turkey by 2016
Going to	Europe
France	Home of "the Jungle" migrant camp in Calais hoping to reach the UK through the Channel Tunnel.
Germany	Germany has agreed to take 800,000 refugees this year
Greece	More than 230,000 people have landed on Greek shores this year and the numbers have soared recently.
Hungary	Hungary is erecting a fence to prevent refugees from entering the country
Ireland	Has agreed to take 4,000 refugees as part of Europe's resettlement plan
Italy	Destination of many boats from Libya
Sweden	Accepts the most refugees per capita in the EU

