#LETTERS OF HOPE

CLASSROOM

An interactive curriculum on refugees

Activity Guide

In collaboration with

EU/ECHO/Edward Echwalu/CARE

FALL 2017
Activity 1: Introduce the “refugee” (15 min.)

Materials: Dry-erase board or flip chart, pens

Step One:
- To introduce the “refugee” and provide the foundation for the activities. Begin by leading a group discussion. Discussion questions:
  - Who are refugees?
  - Where do they come from and why?
  - What does a refugee look like?
  - Are there refugees in our community?
  - Does anyone know whether they have family that came to America as refugees?

Step Two:
- Share with the group that there are 22.5 million refugees worldwide (2017).
  - In June 2017, the UN announced a record number of displaced people worldwide: 65.6 million
- Facilitate a group definition of the “refugee” and write it on the board.
- Share the dictionary definition of “refugee” and write it on the board also.
  - Depending on the outcomes, you can compare and contrast the definitions.

Step Three:
- Lead a discussion about the difficulties an individual faces when they choose to escape a war or conflict in their country and become a refugee in a new country.
- Facilitate a group discussion about the difficulties of leaving one’s home country. List them on the white board or flip chart. Examples may include:
  - You leave behind people you love.
  - You leave your job.
  - You may not speak the language in the new country.
  - You leave your culture.
  - You may not be accepted in your new community.

Activity 2: Sculpture by Frances Bruno Catalano (20 min.)

Materials: A photograph of Catalano’s sculpture. Or a projected online photo from a Google search; paper/pens. Photo is available for download at care.org/lettersofhope.

Step One:
- Distribute photos of or otherwise display the Sculpture of the Refugee by the artist Frances Bruno Catalano. The artist symbolizes the vacuum created by being forced to leave your land, your life and your society.
- Discussion questions:
  - What is missing on the refugee’s body?
  - What can it mean to be missing your heart? Where could his heart be now?
  - What can it mean to be missing a hand?
  - What do you think the refugee is carrying in his suitcase?
  - Remind participants that whatever is in his suitcase is all he has taken with him to begin his new life.
Step Two:
- End the art exploration activities with a reflective writing exercise.
- Entry-point questions into the free writing can be:
  - How did the sculpture speak to you?
  - What have you learned about refugees and does it change how you view the world?
- Depending on the time left, invite participants to share their writings.

Activity 3: Refugee Story Cards (15 min.)
Materials: Story cards, which can be downloaded at care.org/lettersofhope

In this activity, participants will hear first-hand accounts of refugees’ journeys.

Step One:
- Invite several participants to read the personal story-card journeys aloud to the group.

Step Two:
- Invite participants to come up to the board or flipchart and write directly on it (or use Post-it Notes) an adjective describing one of the refugees whose stories they heard from the story cards.

Step Three
- Read the adjectives out loud. This will create a unified and reflective feeling among the group.

Activity: Partner Writing (10 min.)
Materials: Blank paper, pens; #LettersOfHope message template (available for download at care.org/lettersofhope)

- Ask participants to pair up with partners.
- Hand each set of partners a blank piece of paper and a pen.
- Explain that they will write a message to one of the refugees whose story they read or heard.
- Ask them, “If you could share one thing with a refugee, what would it be?”
- Make sure they know there is no right or wrong answer.
- Using the #LettersOfHope message template, ask the pairs to write their messages on the template, then take a photo of themselves holding the message.
- Post the photos/messages to social media using #LettersOfHope and tagging CARE.

Optional: Get Creative!
Post a message of hope in social media using #LettersOfHope and tagging CARE (25 min.)
As an optional art extension, brainstorm with participants the many creative ways their messages can be shared. Ask them to write a poem or a song (how about a rap?), make a drawing, record a video greeting, write the message out in chalk on a sidewalk and take a photo of it — the possibilities are endless! The group can do this either collectively, individually or as partners from the previous activity. Participants can then share their messages through their favorite social media channels, using #LettersOfHope and tagging CARE:
Facebook: @CAREfans
Twitter: @CARE
Instagram: @care.org

Stay informed with CARE

Learn more about refugees and CARE at care.org — and join the conversation!

facebook.com/carefans
twitter.com/care
youtube.com/user/careusa
instagram.com/careorg
linkedin.com/company/care
pinterest.com/careorg
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