

World Refugee Day Prayer Guide

Every June 20th we mark World Refugee Day to honour the strength and courage of refugees: the 84.4 million displaced people who have fled their homes due to war, violence and persecution. We also invite you to use this day as a prompt towards prayer.



1. **Start by praying for countries affected by war and terror.** In 2021 the most affected countries are Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar. We pray for these complicated conflicts, for those fighting and terrorizing, and ultimately we have the audacity to pray for peace on earth.

"My mom was doing her daily prayers when the bomb hit our home. We dug through the rubble for 6 hours before we found her alive."

2. **Pray for the "in between places":** About 25% of refugees live in camps, while a majority live in city centres with limited rights. We pray for food, for security, for human rights, and for every provision as millions wait in limbo.

"In the refugee camp, I started a small business, but I faced extortion and again had to run for my life."

3. **Pray for the unique internal battles, stressors, grief and trauma that refugees face.** We pray for healing and peace in the darkest and deepest places of the soul.

"I know that Canada is safe, but I still can't go outside alone without feeling scared. I lived too much of my life in fear."

4. **Pray for refugees starting their new lives in Canada.** We pray for the journey of starting again: for language, jobs, housing, relationships, and connection with God through Christians. Pray for organizations like New Hope who are committed to welcoming and supporting refugees.

"I was born three times - once when I was born a baby, once when I met Jesus, and once when I came to Canada. I never imagined I would have a new life like this."

5. **Pray for refugee children.** Globally, half of refugees are under age 18. We think of parents who have taken extremely sacrificial risks for the sake of their children, and we pray over these precious kids' futures.

"When I came here, I didn't have any friends, and now you all gave me friends and a family."

The Lord is
a refuge for
the
oppressed, a
stronghold
in times of
trouble."
Psalm 9:9

Founded in 2004, New Hope Community Services is a non-profit organization that provides transitional housing and community to newcomer refugee families. All purple quotes are from New Hope residents living in our apartment building in North Surrey.