

Coming together for Refugee Week 2024



**Refugee
Week**

Coordinated by
Refugee Council of Australia

*To unconditional love
To strength in times of adversity
To unwavering bonds*

Refugee Week 2024: Finding Freedom: Family

In a world marked by displacement and the search for refuge, this year's Refugee Week theme "Finding Freedom" – with a focus on family – encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that defines the refugee experience. This Refugee Week, we aim to shed light on the transformative power of familial bonds as well as chosen bonds in the face of adversity and emphasise the crucial role families play in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging to those forced to flee their homelands.

This theme invites us to explore the stories of refugees who, despite the challenges they encounter, discover a source of freedom within the embrace of their families. Whether it's the unwavering support of parents, the protective love between siblings, or the communal strength found in extended and chosen families, neighbours, support systems upon arrival in Australia or the financial and emotional backbones that make the journey to safety possible, these connections become a beacon of hope in times of uncertainty.

Finding Freedom: Family

In 2024, we shine a light on the bonds created throughout the refugee journey which have the power to transcend borders and create profound long-lasting relationships that can change lives. The resilience of families torn apart by conflict or persecution inspires communities to come together and extend a hand of solidarity and compassion to those seeking refuge. Let us show compassion and celebrate the resilience that makes up parts of our wider community. For freedom should not be an ask, it should be a way of life.

What does it mean to be free?

To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail. Everyday millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream.



Aims of Refugee Week



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Refugee Week is an important opportunity for us all to experience and celebrate the rich cultures of refugee communities through theatre, music, dance, film, food and other kinds of events that take place all over Australia - and beyond. This participatory festival typically encompasses events hosted by a wide range of people - individuals, community, voluntary and statutory organisations, schools, student groups, faith-based organisations and more. This diversity creates an eclectic and diverse celebration appealing to all ages.

The key aims of Refugee Week are:

- To celebrate the ways in which people from refugee backgrounds enrich our communities and culture.
- To educate the public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia, and to understand the many challenges they face in doing so.
- To foster empathy and understanding and in doing so, encourage a safe and welcoming environment for people seeking safety in Australia.
- To enable communities and individuals to take positive action and stand in solidarity with people seeking asylum and displaced people in Australia and around the world.

