

# Refugee families are our families

Across Canada, churches have a powerful role to play in extending welcome, cultivating belonging, and advocating for justice with and alongside refugees. Whether through hospitality, prayer, learning, or public witness, these actions invite your congregation to live out compassion in tangible ways, both locally and globally.

## 10 WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

**1. Host a global potluck:** Invite congregation members and neighbours to bring dishes from their home cultures. Host it on World Refugee Day (June 20) or perhaps after worship on Refugee Sunday (June 28). Create space for sharing music, stories, or traditions so everyone can learn from one another.

**2. Create a story-sharing gathering:** Host an evening where people can share their journeys to Canada. Invite a few speakers with different experiences—refugees, immigrants, and long-time Canadians—and include time for small-group discussion so participants can reflect on and share their own stories of migration, welcome, or belonging.

**3. Hold an evening of prayer for refugees:** Set aside time to pray for refugees affected by conflict, displacement, and resettlement. Include prayers, readings, and songs from churches around the world to reflect the global body of Christ.

**4. Organize a prayer walk:** Together, walk through your church grounds and neighbourhood, pausing to pray for refugees, newcomers, and all who are seeking safety and belonging. Pray silently, in pairs, or as a group. Conclude back at the church with a shared reflection, reading, or closing prayer.

**5. Attend a World Refugee Day Event:** Many refugee-support and settlement organizations host public events around World Refugee Day (June 20). Gather a group from your church or neighbourhood to attend one together as an act of solidarity and learning.

**6. Partner with local settlement organizations:** Reach out to refugee-serving agencies in your community to ask how your church can help. You may offer meeting space, assemble welcome kits, offer language conversation groups, or volunteer time and skills.

**7. Support refugee sponsorship efforts:** Learn about private refugee sponsorship in Canada through World Renew. Or explore how your congregation can participate by sponsoring a family, contributing financially, or supporting an existing sponsorship group with housing, transportation, or friendship.

**8. Advocate with your Member of Parliament:** Gather a small group to meet with your local MP. Share why refugee welcome and justice matter to your faith community, and encourage your MP to support policies that strengthen Canada's commitment to refugee protection and resettlement.

**9. Learn together as a congregation:** Host a study series, sermon, or discussion group on refugee issues. Use videos and testimonies or a guest speaker from World Renew to deepen understanding and challenge misconceptions.

**10. Participate in an awareness campaign:** Engage with “We’re Better Together,” a campaign created by the Canadian Council for Refugees ([bettertogethercanada.ca](http://bettertogethercanada.ca)) and involving charities from across the country. Their free resources can help your congregation learn more, take collective action, and join national efforts to offer a strong and compassionate welcome for refugees in Canada.