



HEALING

Refugee Week 2022
Overview & Selected Highlights

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Background on Refugee Week

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

The vision of Refugee Week is for refugees and asylum seekers to live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can continue to make a valuable contribution. Refugee Week activities work towards this vision by helping to bring about more informed and welcoming attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers.

Refugee Week is an annual week-long festival that celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary, it is held every year around World Refugee Day on the 20 June.

Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, and anyone can get involved by holding or joining an event or activity that is aligned with Refugee Week's [shared values & principles](#).



Refugee Week

Refugee Week UK is a partnership project coordinated and managed by Counterpoints Arts (Refugee Festival Scotland, Refugee Week Wales and Refugee Week Northern Ireland are coordinated by Scottish Refugee Council, Welsh Refugee Council and NICRAS respectively)

Key partners and participating organisations range from mainstream national institutions to grassroots groups, including schools, faith groups, councils, libraries, arts organisations, universities, refugee organisations and local activist networks and more. Illustrating how Refugee Week is rooted in local communities in cities, towns and villages across the UK (including in every region of England, Wales and in Scotland) to promote community connection, deepening our understanding of refugee experiences, and provide a platform for the voices and creative work of displaced people.

You can read more about Refugee Week's vision and aims by exploring our [Theory of Change](#)



Summary of stats

Refugee Week 2022 was the 24th annual festival. It saw our incredible growing network of partners deliver more activities than ever all the while adjusting to the ongoing COVID landscape and responding to difficult and challenging global and political landscape of war, conflict, crisis and their effects around the world.

At a glance 2022 key stats:

- 1000+ UK events (↑25% from 2021 and double since 2015)
- Over 700 participating organizers
- Estimate of 1.6 million people took part in Refugee Week in 2022 (this data is from research conducted by [Month of Community](#))
- 5 new International Refugee Week festivals in: Greece, Malta, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Berlin
- Over [10 city-wide Refugee Week Festival](#) programmes across England
- 500+ UK schools participating (↑30% from 2021)
- 200,000 web views to Refugee Week UK website
- 20 million people reached on social media (during month of June 2022)
- 143 news articles (↑22% from 2021)
- TV coverage on main broadcast channels
- Extensive online media & press coverage

We hope you'll find inspiration in this report and join us in being part of the growing Refugee Week movement, for 2023 and beyond.

This Report

This report is based on:

- Information submitted to Refugee Week calendar
- Debriefs with national partners, the Refugee Week Network Groups and other stakeholders
- A round-up of media coverage, by IMIX
- Social media analytics
- Partner's own evaluation reports
- Google analytics
- Data from research by Month of Community

This report is not intended to be an exhaustive evaluation of Refugee Week. Only a very small number of events are highlighted as examples to give a sense of the volume, variety and range of activity that took place across UK and globe.



Overview of 2022 Theme: Healing

Every year Refugee Week UK has a different theme. This creative process is led by Counterpoints Arts in consultation with the Refugee Week network (Advisory Group, Ops Group and Steering Group as well as the Refugee Week co-chairs).

The theme is a creative response to what is happening in the world and serves as an invitation for participate in Refugee Week. As always, everyone was invited to take part - by holding or attending an event, getting involved at their school or doing one of eight 'Simple Acts'.

For 2022, the theme was [Healing](#)

“Healing means recovering from a painful experience or situation, so that we can continue to live. No-one understands this better than those who have lost their homes and had to build new lives from scratch”

The theme “Healing” was open for everyone to respond to and 2022 saw many groups, artists and activists explore. Some examples can be seen below:

- [A young mentee at Hope for the Young](#)
- [Communities planting trees in Northumberland](#)
- [Museums as a Place of Healing](#)
- [One World Choir](#)
- [Refugee Week Ambassadors](#)



Nima Javan's Healing

About the Lead Artwork

Illustrator Nima Javan was commissioned by Counterpoints Arts to create a new artwork (depicted on p.5) in response to the theme. *“Employing his characteristic style which fuses Persian art alongside more modern figures, Nima has created a complex blue and white image full of animals, people and structures. They are all interconnected and grouped around the word ‘healing’, embodying the idea of collective nurturing that is needed by refugees and communities seeking asylum as a whole”* ([Shado Mag](#))

This bright and eye catching design was then shared online, in free posters and postcards as well as the event organiser pack encouraging others to use the artwork to promote their involvement in Refugee Week 2022.

“I wanted the image to showcase different people’s lifestyles and to highlight that healing is about having the freedom to go after opportunities, whether that’s doing activities you enjoyed in the past or looking for new activities to pursue in the future.” - [Nima](#)

About Nima Javan

Born in Iran, Nima studied graphic design and painting. He arrived in the United Kingdom in 2019 as an asylum seeker. Of the theme Nima created said “For Nima, [healing is a perfect theme](#) for Refugee Week. “We all need healing to grow and enter into society, and in that sense progress is unavoidable. It’s our destiny.” ([Shado Mag](#))

As well as being shared widely online Nima secured media coverage and press interviews, illustrating the potential of Refugee Week as a platform for: artist development, professional development and profile-building of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.



Photo Credit: Nima Javan

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**

REFUGEE WEEK 2022

No Direction Home

COUNTERPOINTS.



Resources and Inspiration

In 2022, Refugee Week continued to be an open platform encouraging as many people to list their own events on our events calendar across the UK. As well as encouraging people to create their own events (in line with our shared principles & values) the Refugee Website served as an online hub filled with free resources to inspire people to take part. A few of the ways Refugee Week encouraged people to take part:

HOLD AN EVENT

[Event Organiser Pack](#)

A free resource that provides an overview of Refugee Week, ways to get involved, ideas for getting started, templates, things to consider, tips on how to fund and/or promote your event, checklist and a free resources index.

[Social Media Pack](#)

Open Google Drive folder with free digital, design and print assets and artwork inc. social media assets for people to share on their own channels.

[Shop & Free Materials:](#)

Our shop platform where people can buy free posters and postcards or explore a market place curated by Anqa collective supporting refugee business owners.

SIMPLE ACTS

The Simple Acts campaign is about inspiring people to use simple, everyday actions to change perceptions of refugees and displacement.

In 2022, Simple Acts consists of a 8 actions that anyone can do to help us show solidarity with refugees, learn more about refugee experiences and make new connections in our communities:

1. [Send a Message](#)
2. [Share a Dish](#)
3. [Have a Chat](#)
4. [Watch a Film](#)
5. [Read a Book](#)
6. [Walk Together](#)
7. [Plant a Seed](#)
8. [Join the Movement](#)

You can read more about the philosophy of Simple Acts [here](#)

YEAR ROUND COMMUNITY

On 07 & 11 February hundreds of people from across the UK and the world gathered online for the Refugee Week Conference 2022, sharing inspiration, learning and ideas. Recordings and resources from the conference were shared [here](#)

Highlights from workshops and talks included:

- [What happened when a Syrian Refugee met a committed Brexiteer](#)
- [Bridging the Digital Divide](#)
- [Welcome through Football](#)
- [Climate and Refugees](#)
- [Creating Participatory Spaces](#)

Totalling **7,591** views- illustrating the potential of digital to expand of the reach of Refugee Week conference and video-related resources (which was previously capped at venue capacity)



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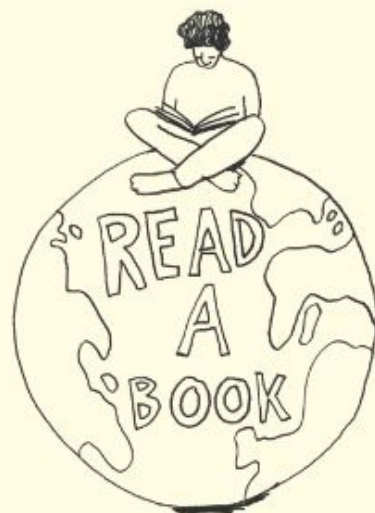
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SIMPLE ACTS

Engaging Schools & Young People

The involvement of schools and educators continues to be a strategically important way for Refugee Week to reach large audiences that represent a wide cross-section of society.

In 2022 Refugee Week continued to partner with Schools of Sanctuary and National Education Union to spread awareness of Refugee Week and encourage schools to participate in Refugee Week in a variety of ways. Beyond Refugee Week, we encourage schools to explore ways they can continue to commit to Refugee Week's vision year round and we are delighted every year to see a growing number of schools announce their commitment to be School of Sanctuary.

Feedback from previous years was that teachers/ educators found that selecting activities for their school/ class was difficult due to volume of activities on offer (which is how the School & Young People's Activity pack emerged originally). With this in mind we will continue to be responsive to teacher and school's changing needs and capacity to ensure Refugee Week is providing relevant and inspiring resources in partnership with our amazing network of partners.

Some school activity highlights:

- [Schools and Young People's Activity Pack \(which includes activities for different key stages, suggested reading lists, watching lists, what to do year round\)](#)
- Day of Welcome: Author Webcasts with acclaimed writers, **Michael Rosen** and **Miriam Halahmy** on they have been inspired by stories of migration and displacement.
- **100** teachers attended trauma-informed workshop on "How can teachers and schools staff best support the psycho-emotional needs of students from sanctuary seeking backgrounds?" (led by Schools of Sanctuary) [since viewed 485 times on youtube]



Credit: St. Peter's School, Year 1, via Twitter

Some stats

- 11,000 school children across the UK watched Author Webcasts
- 500+ schools participated in Refugee Week
- 2000+ downloads of Children & Young People's packs
- 360+ schools across the UK took part in [A Day of Welcome](#) (coordinated by Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary)
- 382 Schools have been awarded/ accredited Schools of Sanctuary (up from 318 in 2021)

Events

Over 1000 events were held across the UK, organised by over 700 participating organisations**

After two years of online and hybrid, Refugee Week 2022 saw an big return to live and in person events and activities.

- Over 1000+ events took place across the UK (an increase from 600 in 2021)** as listed on Refugee Week UK website
- 11 city wide Refugee Week festivals took place in England
- 120 events were planned for Refugee Festival Scotland

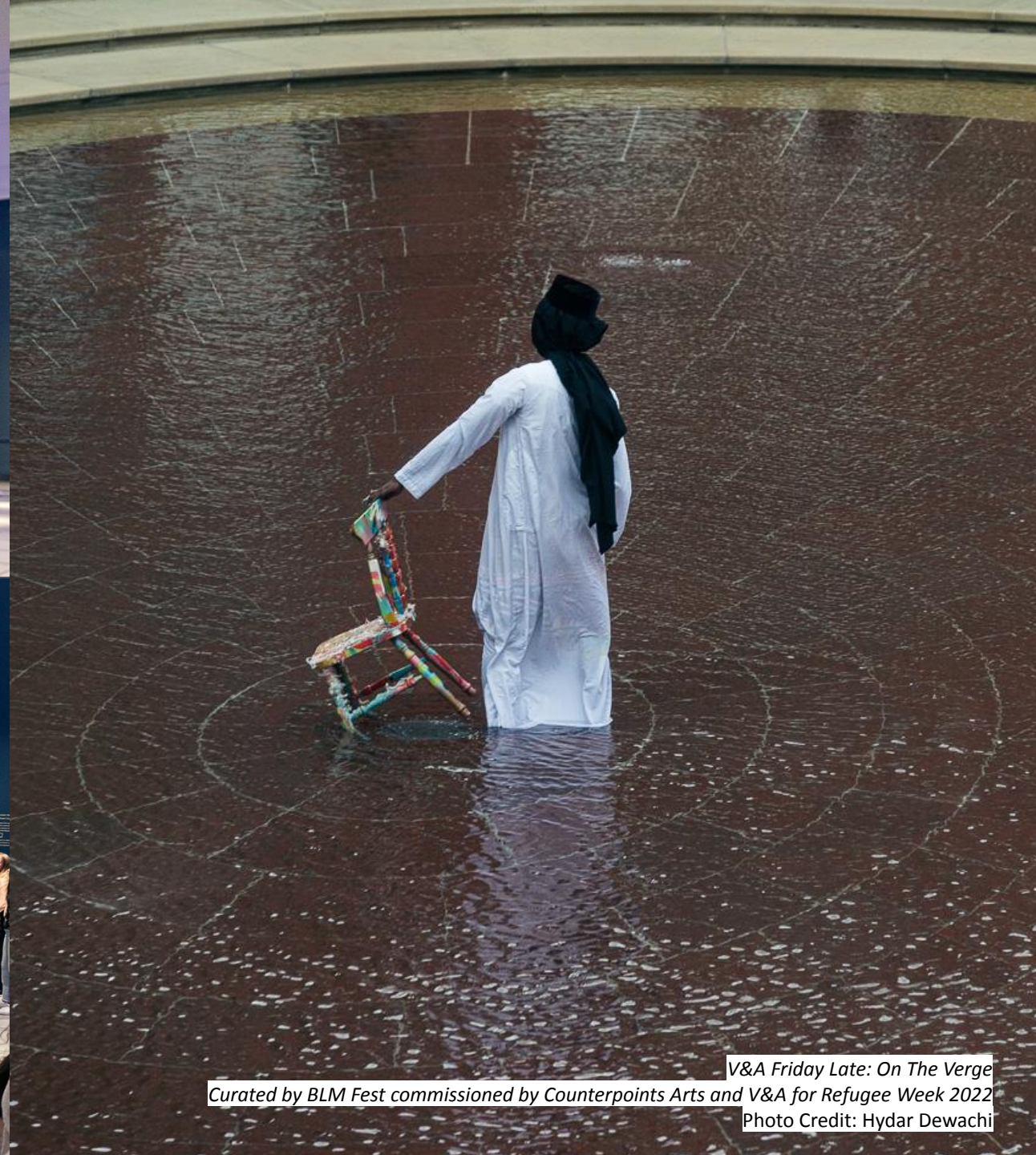
Some event highlights included:

- [Citizens of the World Choir concert at Glastonbury Festival](#)
- [The Pivotal Point: Refugees & Resettlement, Houses of Parliament](#)
- [Muslim Hikers' The Great Walk Together](#)
- [Comic Relief & The Worldwide Tribe's Asylum Speakers Podcast](#)
- [National Maritime Museum Refugee Week 2022](#)
- [People's History Museum, Refugee Walk Guided Tour,](#)
- [Sheba Festival](#)
- [#tech4refugees](#)
- [Libraries of Sanctuary Webinar](#)
- [Diala Brisly / Illustrating Hope – solo exhibition, Brighton](#)
- [Refugees, healing and museums, British Museum](#)
- [Open University's Covid Chronicles from the Margins](#)
- [The Soundseekers Audio Festival](#)

And many many more!



Little Amal / Good Chance / Southbank Centre
Photo credit: Marcia Chandra



V&A Friday Late: On The Verge
Curated by BLM Fest commissioned by Counterpoints Arts and V&A for Refugee Week 2022
Photo Credit: Hydar Dewachi

UK city-wide festivals

We are so excited by the growing local movement across the UK seeing city-wide festivals popping up across all regions to celebrate Refugee Week such as:

1. REFUGEE WEEK SUNDERLAND
2. BRADFORD REFUGEE WEEK
3. REFUGEE WEEK PRESTON
4. SHEFFIELD: MIGRATION MATTERS FESTIVAL
5. REFUGEE WEEK CALDERDALE
6. REFUGEE WEEK DERBY
6. NOTTINGHAM REFUGEE WEEK
6. NORWICH REFUGEE WEEK
6. BIRMINGHAM REFUGEE WEEK
6. REFUGEE WEEK IN OXFORD AND READING
7. BRISTOL REFUGEE FESTIVAL

Some hyper local highlights:

www.refugeeweek.org.uk/whats-on-2022-festivals/

More info on National & Regional programmes:

www.refugeeweek.org.uk/contact/national-and-regional-contacts/

For more information on Refugee Festival Scotland, visit the Scottish Refugee Council.

For more information on Refugee Week Wales, contact the Welsh Refugee Council.



Press & Media

Despite the challenging news environment Refugee Week 2022 saw an increase in secured media covered.

Refugee Week achieved a range of local and national media coverage with the aim of reaching new and broader audiences as well as shifting dominant mainstream narratives. Media pieces ranged from mainstream outlets to niche: local, national and international.

IMIX again led the press campaign and has collated the below summary.

Summary:

- Over 143* pieces of coverage for the fifth year in a row and 22% increase in coverage from last year's festival (**IMIX only able to capture online coverage, unless IMIX directly involved which means total figure will be substantially higher once broadcast and print factored in*)
- Dedicated Ambassador programme which supported 16 people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary to speak to the media, most of them for the first time.
- Spread of coverage across media enabling new audiences to engage with issue; from mainstream to niche, across political spectrum and local to national.
- All achieved in a challenging news environment

To read IMIX's full report of media coverage please visit [here](#)

Or to read more national and local press coverage you can read this blog [post](#)

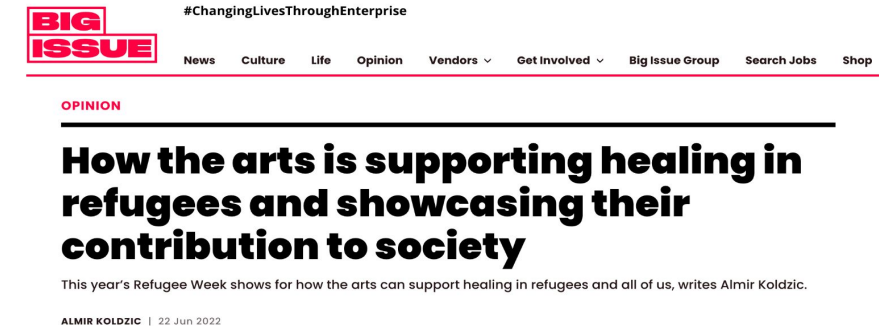


Photograph: Elina Giounanli

Six ways to get involved with Refugee Week in London

Dance with Little Amal on the South Bank or listen to Afghanistan's 'King of Folklore'

Written by [Alex Sims](#) Monday 20 June 2022



Evening Standard NEWS SPORT BUSINESS EVENTS ES MORE LOG IN

Refugee week 2022: History, theme and events taking place in London

When is Refugee Week in London, and what does it represent?

VIEW 3 COMMENTS

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Refugee Week Ambassadors

Refugee Week Ambassadors are spokespeople who use their lived experience and expertise to help wider audiences understand what it means to be a refugee. The Refugee Week Ambassador Project was founded in 2019 to support and provide a platform for people who have experienced displacement to share their stories and perspectives during Refugee Week.

It is run by Refugee Week UK Coordinators **Counterpoints Arts** and **IMIX**, a charity working to create a more welcoming conversation about immigration and displacement.

Ambassador programme highlights:

- Blog Post: [Meet the 16 Ambassadors for 2022](#)
- Short Film: [Watch the Ambassadors short film](#)
- Human Journeys – stories that sit on IMIX's website featuring stories of people who've experienced migration or displacement in their own words. Shared two by Ambassadors [Kushinga Hare](#) and [Ali Ghaderi](#)
- IMIX work closely with ambassadors to develop their skills, profile and identify and achieve their media goals e.g. "For Kushinga, it helped build up her profile as a writer." IMIX supported (Ali Ghaderi) to make a reel by assisting with script and editing. "Supporting ambassadors to create the content that they want is always positive as it helps develop their voice and reach new online audiences"



**“Healing means
forgiving yourself
and others,
accepting yourself
for who you are
and finally
realising that you
deserve
happiness.”**

– Kushinga Hare,
Refugee Rights Advocate and Writer



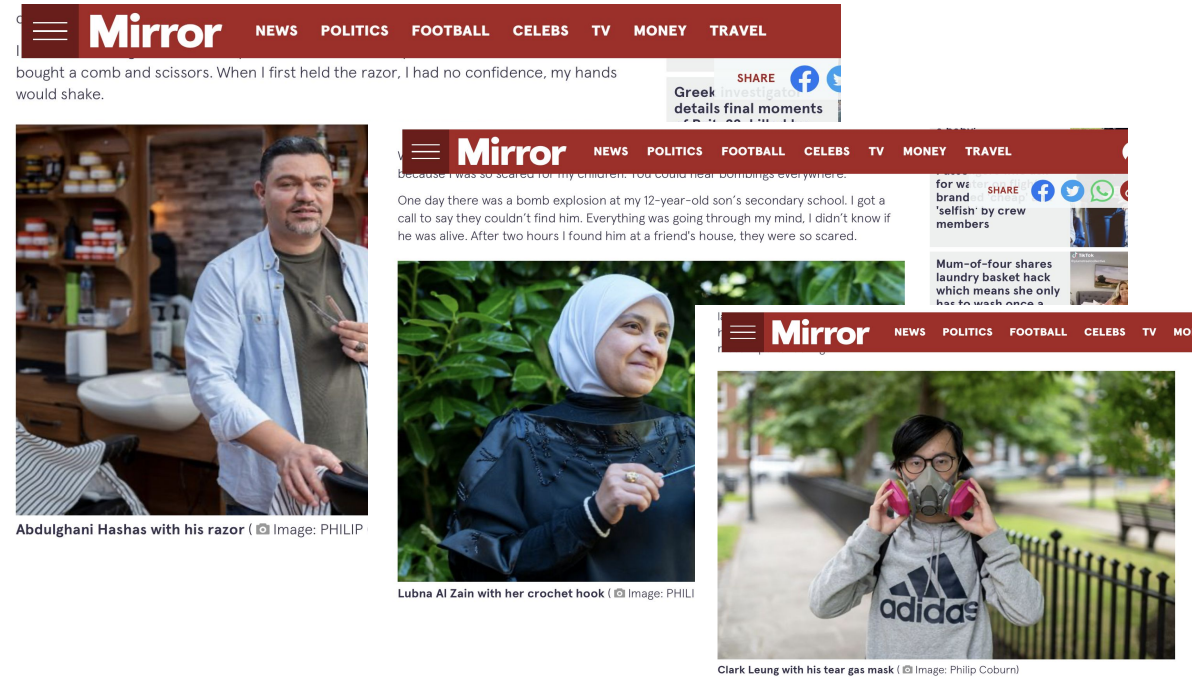
Media Case Studies



Media Outlet: BBC Sunday Morning Live

Overview: Interview with Refugee Week ambassador Ali explaining why he is an ambassador and why Refugee Week is important. Link to coverage [here](#)

Audience Figures: 1.2 million viewers a day



Media Outlet: The Daily Mirror

Overview: #PeopleMove is an Instagram-led project by the Daily Mirror to celebrate Refugee Week. It then got to the online and print version of the Daily Mirror featuring our amazing Refugee Week Ambassadors and the objects that connect them to home. Link to coverage [here](#)

Audience Figures: 85.6 m unique visitors each month and 832,000 daily print circulation

Social Media

Across June 2022* Refugee Week had a potential reach of 20 million* people on social media and we saw 154.9K interactions across all platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)

We saw engagement with Refugee Week from a range of figures and organisations that continue to support our mission of reaching new audiences. Online interaction included engagement with posts made by public figures, community groups, schools, grassroots organisations, museums, galleries, councils and local government, and many more.

Content shared included: Simple Acts responses, sharing Nima Javan's Healing artwork and other online assets, sharing relevant articles and think pieces, platforming Refugee Week ambassadors content and more.

The overarching sentiment was positive, with our social listening analysis suggesting that 4.1K interactions** were positive in intent versus 878 negative interactions with Refugee Week.



Jeremy Corbyn
@jeremycorbyn

Our society is stronger because of the contribution of refugees.

[#RefugeeWeek](#)



English National Opera
@E_N_O

As part of [#RefugeeWeek2022](#), we welcomed 150 people from different refugee organisations to the [@LondonColiseum](#) yesterday for what was a joyous and moving day in celebration of community and creativity 🎉🎨🎵

📷 taken during the singing and percussion workshop
[#HealingTogether](#)



Aston Villa Foundation @AVFCFoundation · Jun 25

This week we are celebrating [#RefugeeWeek2022](#) through our partnership with [@AmnestyUK](#)

Our weekly Football Welcomes activity shows we stand with refugees and help them make new connections in our communities through football. 🏈



Michael Rosen @MichaelRosenYes · Jun 20

Talked today to 1200 school students about my family history in the Holocaust, read my poems, we all wrote poems, made music - all for **Refugee Week** building up to a concert in Cambridge Corn Exchange on Sun. Details to follow. All thanks to: [@historyworkstv](#)



4



59



452



*Potential reach captures all related content to Refugee Week across all channels and hashtags (e.g. Simple Acts) etc

**Our social media listening tool for 2020 and 2021 became defunct this year, so we moved to a new tool – Brand Mentions. This means our data collection and categorization is different to the previous two years, which is why we have not compared figures like-for-like in this evaluation.

For our full social media listening analysis report visit [here](#)

Growing International Movement

Refugee Week is a growing international movement, with programmes and festivals [taking place in Europe and across the world](#).

Refugee Week UK also plays a central role in the growing international movement: providing guidance, support, assets, partnerships and more to support organisers establishing Refugee Week programmes across the globe. Refugee Week UK also convenes this supportive and collaborative network of international organisers with online meet ups.

In 2022 Counterpoints Arts partnered with Athens Comics Library to establish [Refugee Week Greece](#). They had around 100 events across multiple cities in the country.

Counterpoints Arts also collaborated with partners to produce [Refugee Week in Berlin](#), featuring screening, workshops and live performances.

Refugee Week has been running [in Australia](#) since 1987. This year Refugee Week Australia also shared the theme of “Healing” and used the main RW branding.

This year also saw new first-time Refugee Week festivals in

- Malta
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan

You can watch interviews with partners in [Hong Kong](#) and [Greece and Malta](#) on our Instagram page.

Click [here](#) to watch a fantastic video of Refugee Week Malta 2022 also inspired by the theme of Healing



Credit: Refugee Week Greece



Credit: Refugee Week Malta



Case Study: Refugee Week Greece

In 2022, Refugee Week Greece ran for the first time organised by core team: Lida Tsene (Founder of Athens Comic Library) and Dina Ntziora (Refugee Week Greece Producer & Community Engagement)

In total **95** activities were delivered across **16** cities reaching over **2000** audience member (activities ranged from: community cooking, football tournaments, skateboarding, movement etc)

Some programme highlights include:

- Neil Gaiman (acclaimed writer and UNHCR Good Will Ambassador) digital interview for launch event with journalist and women's rights activist Mahdia Hossaini
- VR project in partnership with Camberwell Collect of Arts, University of the Arts London. Healing Pods was based on lived experiences of displacement, healing and hope, co-creating virtual spaces of healing
- [Radio Show](#) on Healing (with guests from Greece, UK, Ireland)
- [Comic Book](#) (and co-creation comic workshops with young people)
- [Community mural at Community Centre of City of Athens](#)

Some stats:

- 55 organisations involved
- 11 Capacity Building workshops
- 7 advance Online Meetings
- Media coverage (online & radio)

Refugee Week Greece's full evaluation [report](#)



Click above to watch Refugee Week Greece 2021 film

Refugee Week Greece was made possible through the support of: Municipality of Athens (through Department of Support and Social Integration of Immigrants and Refugees of the Directorate of Social Solidarity), UNHCR Greece, the Special Secretariat for the protection of Unaccompanied Minors and more



Merchandise

For the second time, we collaborated with Anqa Collective, who produced a line of special edition products for Refugee Week 2022 which this year saw 9 refugee business owners sell 12 products via Refugee Week website

Anqa collective is a marketplace led by refugee founders, selling exciting products and experiences from a new generation of refugee-led businesses



Shumba Boutique
Menswear – Anqa
Refugee Week range

[BROWSE](#)



Two Leaves Studio
Homeware – Anqa
Refugee Week range

[BROWSE](#)



Haven Coffee Homeware
– Anqa Refugee Week
range

[BROWSE](#)



Haven Coffee Blends –
Anqa Refugee Week
range

[BROWSE](#)



Maria Callisto
Accessories – Anqa
Refugee Week range

[BROWSE](#)



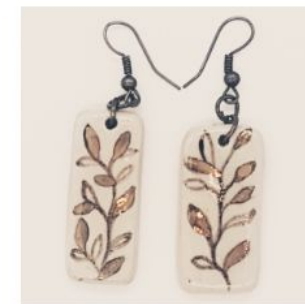
Payanam T Shirts – Anqa
Refugee Week range

[BROWSE](#)



Bees and Refugees Honey
– Anqa Refugee Week
range

[BROWSE](#)



Raaz Pottery Jewellery –
Anqa Refugee Week
range

[BROWSE](#)



Refugee Week Network, Governance & Structure

About the Refugee Week Network

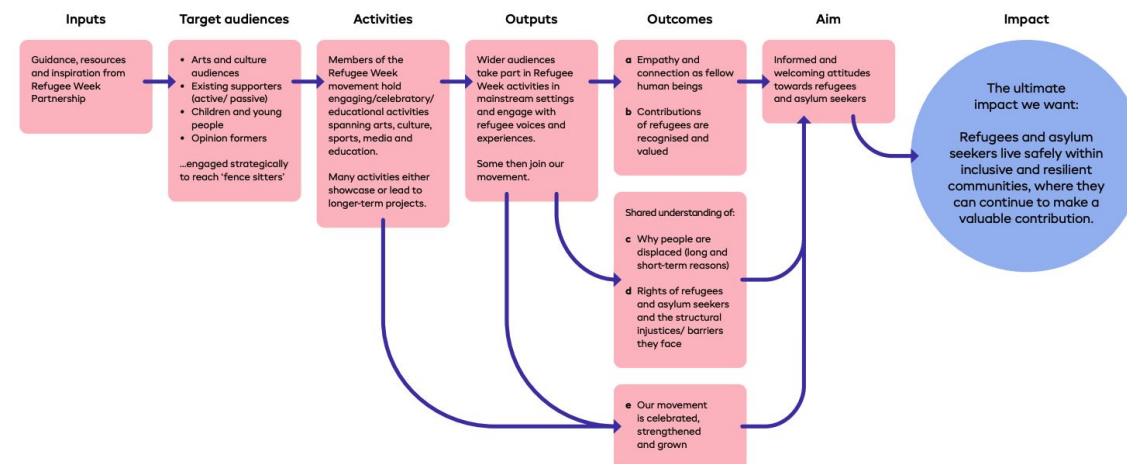
Refugee Week is a diverse and wide-reaching movement that collaborates and shares learning all year round. Every year sees hundreds of organisations across arts & culture, refugee, public authorities and other sectors organising and funding their own programmes to be part of Refugee Week.

About Refugee Week Partnership Membership*

The overall role of the Refugee Week Partnership is to coordinate, promote, develop and help deliver Refugee Week in the UK. The partnership is made up of refugee organisations, NGOs and other relevant organisations operating across the UK, it is coordinated by Counterpoints Arts and includes the coordinators of Refugee Festival Scotland (Scottish Refugee Council), Refugee Week Wales (Welsh Refugee Council) and Refugee Week Northern Ireland (NICRAS).

The key planning and delivery of Refugee Week is done in partnership and consultation with the below groups:

- **Advisory Group:** Founded with the aim of broadening the range of voices that contribute to Refugee Week planning at the national level and enabling Refugee Week to engage new sectors and audiences.
- **Steering Group:** The Steering Group is made up of CEOs, directors or relevant senior staff from Refugee Week partner organisations.
- **Operations Group:** The Operations Group is made up of relevant staff members from partner organisations, and is responsible for the practical implementation of Refugee Week.



Revised 2020, Theory of Change for Refugee Week [here](#)

“Refugee Week festival is just seven days, but the network is connecting, learning and growing all year round”

About Counterpoints Arts

Counterpoints is a leading national organisation in the field of arts, migration and cultural change. You can read more [here](#).

Counterpoints Arts' coordination role over the last decade has seen Refugee Week become one of the largest arts & culture festivals celebrating refugees in the world. In 2022, Counterpoints celebrated their 10 year anniversary (more about in this blog [post](#))



What's next?

In 2022, we announced the appointment of **Dima Mekdad** as Co-Chair of Refugee Week UK to join Co-Chair **Enver Solomon** (CEO of Refugee Council), to guide and oversee Refugee Week, including by supporting the Refugee Week partnership, and acting as a spokesperson and ambassador for Refugee Week.

Based on what we learned over Refugee Week 2022, for 2023 we would like to focus on following areas of enquiry & work streams:

1. Continue to reach new audiences and shift narratives around refugees and asylum seekers and better develop role of our website development, social media, marketing and comms campaign in this mission
2. What approach to fundraising do we need to address our current capacity and resource context to allow us to meet our goals?
3. What infrastructure is necessary to support our growing network of partners locally, nationally and internationally?
4. Continue to embed lived experience leadership in different aspects of Refugee Week planning and delivery
5. What evaluation practices do we need to: better monitor, analyse and understand Refugee Week engagement, participation, reach and impact? How can we share these tools with our growing network

Join us!

Refugee Week 2023 is 19-25 June, and everyone is welcome to take part! Check Refugee Week website for updates & ways to get involved.

In the meantime you can:

Sign up to our [newsletter](#)

Follow us on [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Refugee Week is coordinated by Counterpoints Arts
For any enquiries contact: Lara Deffense
Lara@counterpointsarts.org.uk
www.refugeeweek.org.uk



Thank you to our National Partners!



Refugee Week is coordinated by:

COUNTERPOINTS.

