

Leaders Notes

To accompany powerpoint

Slide 1: On the screen as the group gathers

Slide 2: In the SVP, we always start our meetings with a prayer. This can be read by the students together.

Slide 3: There are two definitions on the screen, one belongs to a refugee and the other an asylum seeker, but which one is which? Ask the group to have a quick discussion and decide.

Slide 4: The students can now see if their predictions are right. Spend some time discussing this information. What surprised you? How does this information make you feel? What's fair or unfair? You could make a few notes of student comments on the board as this will be good for them to refer back to when it comes to the action they will take at the end of this session.

Slide 5: Split the group into working groups and give each group a copy of Appendix 1. Give them a few minutes to decide which statement relates to a refugee and which relates to an asylum seeker. Get them to write them on their sheet.

Slide 6: The answers for Slide 5 are displayed. Spend some time discussing this information. What surprised you? How does this information make you feel? What's fair or unfair? You could make a few notes of student comments on the board as this will be good for them to refer back to when it comes to the action they will take at the end of this session.

Slide 7 & 8: On these slides have a discussion around the the facts on the screen. What did you not know before? Has it surprised anyone?

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Slide 9: While the students and young people put the shopping list together, open or create an account for the Asda or Tesco online grocery shop. Using their lists put items into the basket ensuring they stay under the budget. As we have previously seen, asylum seekers cannot work when they arrive in the UK. They have to live on £39.63 per person, per week, which means £5.64 a day for food, hygiene and clothing. This activity will give the students an opportunity to see just how difficult it is to live on £39.63 per week. You could highlight that the average weekly food shop is £26.50 per person in the UK, according to *Average UK Household Cost of Food | NimbleFins*, which will put into perspective just how little asylum seekers are expected to live on.

Slide 10: Get the group to add on the unexpected costs that came up in the week. Did they have enough to cover it all? Did they spend everything? Did they save anything? Why didn't they choose certain things? If they didn't have enough for everything they needed, what might that mean?

Slide 11: Go round the group and get them to share their answers. Try not to let them repeat someone else's answer, and write them on a board or flipchart.

Slide 12: This is the part of the session in which the students are encouraged to think about some questions which will make up the content of their letter to their MP. This slide will act as a guide to help the students to write their letter to the MP. It doesn't need to be long. The aim is to begin a dialogue with the MP, challenge them, and to encourage our young people to speak up about issues they are concerned about.

For further information you can visit our website:
Migrants, Refugees and People Seeking Asylum | St Vincent de Paul Society (svp.org.uk)



Appendix 1

