



Leader's guide: SVP Forget-me-not further discussion

Dive deeper into the topic of refugees and asylum seekers

Slide 1:

Welcome to our Forget-me-not SVP Lenten Reconciliation Service further discussion. The aim of this session is to dive deeper into the topic of refugees and asylum seekers with our children and young people, to be better able to differentiate between the two terms and explore the support and entitlement both groups have when they are here in the UK. The call to action is to encourage children and young people to write to their local MP to express their concerns about what they have learned today and get their voices heard. We hope this will be a fruitful session and leave our children and young people eager to learn more in the future. This guide accompanies the PowerPoint presentation for further discussion.

Following on from the Forget-me-not SVP Lenten Reconciliation Service

Slide 2:

The Forget-me-not SVP Lenten Reconciliation Service gave the children the opportunity to think and learn about the experiences of people looking for safety in our country.

Now they are going to learn a little bit more about refugees and asylum seekers and how they can continue to support them.

Opening Prayer

Slide 3:

In the SVP, we always start our meetings with a prayer. This can be read by the children together.

What's the difference between refugees and asylum seekers?

Slide 4:

Start off by getting the children to match the terms 'refugee' and 'asylum seeker' to the correct definition. Explain that you are now going to have a deeper look at both terms and what that means in terms of the support they can access.

What support do refugees and asylum seekers get in the UK?

Slide 5:

This activity gives the children an opportunity to think about the differences between refugees and asylum seekers in terms of support and entitlement. Put the children into pairs or groups and give them a print-out of both characters above (Appendix 1). Get the children to read and write the sentences on the correct paper, according to who they refer to.

Were you correct?

Slide 6:

The children can now see whether their predictions were 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.

Managing the cost of living

Slide 7:

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 makes it £5.64 a day for food, hygiene and clothing.

This activity will give children the 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.

Putting the children into groups, explain that they have to think about how to manage their money and spending for the week ahead. They have £39.63 to start with, but they need to think about saving some money for any unexpected situations. Get them to discuss what is available on the shelves and make a shopping list for the next week.

The children can add up what they've spent and then discuss their choices. 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?

Turn your concern into action

Slide 8:

This is the part of the session in which the children are encouraged to think about some questions which will make up the content of their letter to their MP. Take some time to discuss the questions together and make a note of their answers on the whiteboard so that they can refer back to them when it comes to the writing task.

Writing your letter to your MP

Slide 9:

This slide will act as a guide to help the children 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 children and young people to speak up about issues they are concerned about.

Closing Prayer

Slide 10:

We bring everything we've read about and talked about to God in our closing prayer. This can be read all together as a group.

Thank you for joining us to explore this topic further. Please don't forget to send in your Forget-me-not flowers with your prayers for all refugees and asylum seekers to youngvincentians@svp.org.uk