



World Refugee Week 2021

World Refugee Week begins today. Across the UK, events are taking place to celebrate the **contributions** refugees make but also the **difficulties** they face.

The week runs from today up to World Refugee Day on 20th June.

The United Nations (UN) started World Refugee Day in 2001.

On their website, they say, "World Refugee Day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees."

What is a refugee?

- A refugee is someone who has had to leave their home and country, as they are unable to stay. It may be due to **persecution**, war, natural disasters and more.
- Refugees are often unable to return to their home countries, as it would not be safe for them to do so. Refugees could be individuals, families or even children.



Illustration: People around the world.

Glossary

- persecution** Being treated cruelly or unfairly because of being different.
- contributions** Doing things which make something better or more successful.
- potential** Skills or abilities that can make someone successful.

Those dreams include Olympic glory in Tokyo next month. That's because, for only the second time, a Refugee Olympic Team will be taking part in the Olympic Games.

Last week, it was announced that 29 athletes would make up this year's team.

They'll be competing in 12 sports including cycling, karate, swimming and wrestling.

Filippo Grandi works for the UN. He said, "It shows what is possible when refugees are given the opportunity to make the most of their **potential**."

"A reminder that everyone deserves the chance to succeed in life."

Reflect

What is your favourite Olympic sport? Why?



Questions

1. Summarise the key information in the article using 20 words or fewer.

2. Tick to show whether the statement is true or false according to the article.

	True	False
World Refugee Day begins today.		
The Refugee Olympic Team is competing in 29 sports.		
This is the first year a Refugee Olympic Team is competing at the Olympics.		
World Refugee Week begins today.		

3. On their website, they say “World Refugee Day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees.” What does the phrase ‘shines a light’ mean in this sentence? (tick one)

Points a torch at something.

Hides something.

Makes people notice something by bringing it to their attention.

Switches a light on.

4. According to the article, give one reason why someone might become a refugee.
