

Activity (11+): To flee from home - about the right to seek asylum

This activity has been adapted from an activity originally created by [UNICEF Norway](#).

Aim: To help participants understand the importance of the right to seek asylum, and what it means for those who are forced to leave their home.

Tip: Follow up with the activity “Refugee Simulation” later in the day or later in the camp.

Activity time: 1 hour

Participants: 5-40 (just need to adjust number of groups and group sizes)

Materials: Facilities to show the film [“Mustafa goes for a walk”](#). The Kompaz film about refugees’ rights. Things to write on and with.

Part 1: About home

Divide them into groups if necessary - there should be no more than 7 people in each group, and each group should have a facilitator.

Tell participants to close their eyes and imagine their homes. Ask them to use their senses - sight, smell, taste, hearing, feeling - and ask them to write down what is special about their home, i.e. what sensory experiences they associate with homes. Help them with examples: *When I’m home, I hear... (e.g. my dog barking, my brother playing, cars in the streets etc)*. Try to get them to write down at least three things for each sensory impression. Additionally, ask them to think of what they like the most about their home, e.g. *“I’m extra happy when my mum makes pizza”* or *“I really like to sit in my favourite chair watching films with a cup of hot chocolate”*.

In the groups, do a quick round where everyone presents their sensory impressions from home, showing that a “home” can mean many different things. Then, start a small discussion of how important a home is, and what it would be like to have to leave it behind with questions such as *“How would you feel if you suddenly had to leave home?”*, *“What would you miss the most?”* or *“how would you keep in touch with your friends?”*

Part 2: The film

Watch the film clip about [Mustafa](#).

Part 3: Reflections around the film

Have a small group discussion about Mustafa: What did he have to leave behind, and what does he miss from home? What do you think he misses the most?

Ask them to imagine that they suddenly had to leave their home due to an emergency (flood, earthquake, conflict, or anything else). They do not know if they can ever return. They can only take with them things that could fit in a backpack. Ask them to imagine going through their house one last time – what would they bring and why?

Discuss in the small groups, then in plural.

Debrief:

Show the Kompaz film about refugees' rights (only if you're not doing the activity "Refugee Simulation" later in the camp).

Reflect:

- What would it take for you to leave your home behind?

Generalise:

- What do you think it feels like for those who have been forced to leave home to come to new countries they do not know? Come to a place where they do not speak the language, don't have any friends or anything that they think associate with "home"?
- Is it the duty of other countries to give a new home to those who had to flee from theirs?

Apply:

- What can you do to help refugees feel at home in their new country?

Notes:

Be aware that there may be participants in the group who have gone through experiences such as this, so be sensitive or choose another activity if necessary.