WORLD REFUGEE DAY
JUNE 20
...make a difference...

Do One Thing for a Better World.
Together We Make a World of Difference!

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After Hurricane Katrina, thousands of survivors were left without homes. As refugees, they were taken in by communities across the nation. Disasters cause many people to leave their homes around the world, but millions of people have to flee their homes for another reason - violent conflicts cause them to fear for their lives.

Over 50 million people are currently victims of forced displacement. Of those, 14 million fit the international legal definition of a refugee - people who have left their country because of fear of persecution based on their political opinion, ethnic background, religion or nationality.

The United Nations set up UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency in 1951 to help the 1.2 million Europeans who were left homeless after World War II. Since then the organization has helped protect 50 million refugees.

World Refugee Day is an important opportunity to remind us about the ongoing plight of millions of refugees around the world.

"In countries where people have to flee their homes because of persecution and violence, political solutions must be found, peace and tolerance restored, so that refugees can return home. In my experience, going home is the deepest wish of most refugees." ~ Angelina Jolie

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**Do One Thing for a Better World**

- Participate in an event to raise awareness and funds for refugees.
- Find the location of the nearest refugee assistance agency at: tinyurl.com/refugees-location
- Volunteer, contribute, or donate goods to help local relocated refugees.
- Share DO ONE THING Cards.

**Organizations Helping Refugees**

- 10 Million Clicks For Peace (10millionclicksforpeace.org)
- American Refugee Committee (arcrelief.org)
- Amnesty International
- International Rescue Committee (theirc.org)
- Mercy Corps (mercycorps.org)
- Refugees International (refintl.org)
- UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency (unhcr.org)
- US Committee for Refugees (refugees.org)
"I urge you to celebrate the extraordinary courage and contributions of refugees past and present."

- Kofi Annan
"Displaced societies are of value. Their issues are our issues."
-- Cynthia Basinet
"Despite very harsh living conditions and the trauma of what they went through, they [Sudanese refugees] had a lot of dignity."
- Julien Clerc
"While every refugee's story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage – the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives."

~ Antonio Guterres
"A lasting solution, the possibility to begin a new life, is the only dignified solution for the refugee himself."
-- Poul Hartling
"They are safe but they are not in their homes. They are city-less. I think it's just a disaster for everyone."
-- Teri Hatcher

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"In countries where people have to flee their homes because of persecution and violence, political solutions must be found, peace and tolerance restored, so that refugees can return home. In my experience, going home is the deepest wish of most refugees."

~ Angelina Jolie
"I wish to call on you to join hands in the building of a world in which less people will be forced to flee, and in which refugees are protected until they can safely return home one day."

-- Sadako Ogata
"We are all part of the human family and we should be about doing what all good families do - caring for our less fortunate brothers and sisters."

-- Dan O'Neill
"To all the survivors out there, I want them to know that we are stronger and more resilient than we ever knew. We survived, that should be enough but it isn’t. We must work hard to become whole again, to fill our soul with love and inspiration, to live the life that was intended for us before it was disrupted by war and horrors, and help rebuild a world that is better than the one we had just left."

- Loung Ung

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"Today, I wish that the millions of displaced people would be able to return with the necessary conditions of safety and dignity..."  
-- Alirio Uribe Muñoz
BETTER WORLD HEROES

Who Were Refugees
"In the future, human rights will be increasingly a universal criterion for designing ethical systems."

-- Mahnaz Afkhami

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"The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be either good or evil."

-- Hannah Arendt
"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."
--Albert Einstein

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"We are not myths of the past, ruins in the jungle, or zoos. We are people and we want to be respected, not to be victims of intolerance and racism."

-- Rigoberta Menchu
"Look at situations as contingent, not as inevitable, look at them as the result of a series of historical choices made by men and women, as facts of society made by human beings, and not as natural or god-given, therefore unchangeable, permanent, irreversible."

--Edward Said
"We wish for a broad-based government with the active participation of women, which will promote freedom and equal rights for women."

-- Sima Samar