

Teachers FAQ

How do I book for Refugee Realities?

There are five ways teachers can book a group tour of Refugee Realities:

1. By calling 1800 034 034 and booking over the phone with one of our wonderful volunteers
2. By filling out the booking form online at www.oxfam.org.au/refugee-realities
3. By filling out the booking form and emailing it back to bookings@oxfam.org.au
4. By faxing the booking form to 03 9347 1495
5. By sending the booking form to Refugee Realities, Oxfam Australia, 132 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Each group can have up to approximately 30 people.

What dates are available for bookings?

Available dates = Friday 22nd February – Thursday 13th March

Available times = Tour start times will occur in half hour increments between 9am-12noon and 1pm – 3pm (ie. 9am, 9.30am, 10am...2.30pm, 3pm etc).

What is the recommended age limit for Refugee Realities?

The event is targeted for ages 10 and upward so Oxfam Australia recommends school groups of Grades 5 and above. Schools wanting to organise groups under Grade 5 please contact us at refugeerealities@oxfam.org.au or on 03 9289 9313.

How has Oxfam developed the educational content of Refugee Realities?

We have a Teachers Reference Group made up of a dozen teachers around Victoria, including primary and secondary, government and private, country and inner city school teachers. We present the educational content of the project to the Teachers Reference Group regularly and incorporate their feedback into the project. We also have two Education Interns working on developing materials for the project. Both interns have teaching experience in Victoria and abroad.

What if I have kids in the class who are former refugees?

Refugee Realities simulates the experience of many refugees in Australia and abroad. As such there is a risk that former refugees who go through this exhibition may experience discomfort, distress or flashbacks. In order to stop this from happening we urge all teachers and group leaders to ensure all group members, parents and guardians are fully aware of the contents of the Refugee Realities experience. Oxfam Australia will send out a full information kit to groups after your booking has been confirmed. You can use this information kit to hold an information night for parents and guardians, or send information home with permission forms. We urge all teachers who have former refugee children in their classes to have a one-on-one discussion with their parents to; invite them to accompany the group as a teacher's aid; and ensure they are able to freely give their informed consent to their child participating. If these precautions are taken the Refugee Realities should be an empowering excursion for young people who have been refugees.

How will we minimise the risks?

After your booking is confirmed we will send out an information pack which explains in detail what will happen at the Refugee Realities experience. We urge group leaders, teachers and guardians to use this information pack to hold an information night or send out information about the exhibition to all potential group members and their families. This is particularly important for young visitors to the experience.

We will have a "Time Out" area at the exhibition in the event any visitors need some time out to reflect, debrief and regroup.

We also wish to minimise risks by ensuring that school groups of only grade 5 and above attend the exhibition. This is on advice of the Teachers Reference Group.

What is in the education kit?

The education kit is free and linked to the Victorian Education Learning Standards (VELS). It will have a range of lesson plans, activities and resources linked to the following learning areas: Civics and Citizenship, History, Geography, English, Economics, Thinking Processes, ICT, and Communication. It will thus enable teachers to incorporate refugee education into a range of different learning streams. The kit is being produced by Oxfam educators with the assistance of Victorian teachers. The kit will be delivered both electronically and in printed form, and may be used alongside an excursion to the Refugee Realities experience or on it's own without an actual excursion.

How can I order an education kit?

If you are making a group booking for Refugee Realities simply tick the box indicating you wish to receive an education kit. Education kits will arrive by 10 December 2007, International Human Rights Day. The kit is currently still in the development phase currently.

If you are not making a Refugee Realities booking but would still like to receive an education kit, please contact refugeerealities@oxfam.org.au with the number of kits you would like to request and we will send them out to you. Please make sure to include your name, address and contact phone number along with your request.

How can I find out more?

Contact refugeerealities@oxfam.org.au or Steph Cousins on (03) 9428 9313 if you have any queries about the project.