

# FAMILIES TOGETHER

Schools Speak Out  
April 2022

## ACTION GUIDE

People in the UK have shown generosity, compassion and kindness to Ukrainians fleeing war. For example, The Ukraine Family Scheme permits Ukrainians already settled in the UK to sponsor a long list of immediate and extended family members to join them. This is the welcome Britain could extend to all refugees seeking safety but doesn't.

The Families Together campaign asks the government to change the rules to make it easier for all refugee families no matter where they are from to be reunited safely in the UK. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how important family ties are for our wellbeing. No refugee family, whether from Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan or further afield should be separated for a moment longer.

## What Can You Do?

This action guide outlines what you can do to campaign for a change in the rules which keep refugee families apart.

1. Learn, and then teach others about  
Refugee Family Reunion - page 2

2. Collect Families Together  
messages or postcards to  
send to your MP  
- pages 2 & 3

3. Meet or write to your MP  
to hand in your school's  
messages - page 3



*As we come out of the Covid-19 pandemic please make sure your campaigning is safe. Many MPs may not yet be meeting constituents face-to-face, and many are still holding meetings online. Check your MP's website for more information.*

**UK law is keeping vulnerable child refugees away from their parents.  
You have the power to change this. Fix the rules and bring families together.**

## 1. Learn, and then teach others about Refugee Family Reunion

Use the PowerPoint presentation and workshop activity to learn more about the Families Together campaign. Then strengthen your learning and develop your confidence by teaching others.

- In school you could adapt the script of the presentation so it's in your own words, and present it to an assembly or to your class.
- In school you could lead the 'How does the law affect refugees' workshop.
- At home you could discuss the presentation with your parents or brothers and sisters. Can you explain the key points in 5 minutes, or in 1 minute?
- At home you could complete the activities in the 'How does the law affect refugees' workshop and take notes to prepare for writing a message to your MP.

## 2. Collect Families Together postcard messages to send to your MP.

Aim to inspire and organise as many young people as possible to write Families Together postcard messages to send to your MP.

There is an online 'postcard' template you could print or share online. Make sure the young people you ask to take the action understand the Families Together campaign and write their messages thoughtfully.

# PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON DO WHAT'S RIGHT

**UK law is keeping vulnerable child refugees away from their parents.  
You have the power to change this. Fix the rules and bring families together.**

Petition signed by Adrian Lester Adwoa Aboah Alan Cumming Alex Lawther Anish Kapoor Anita Asante  
Anita Rani Anoushka Shankar Asma Khan Axel Scheffler Catherine Johnson Chiwetel Ejiofor Chris Riddell  
Chris Martin - Coldplay Colin Firth David Morrissey Deborah Frances-White Douglas Booth Emma Freud  
Emma Mackey Emma Thompson Gary Lineker Gugu Mbatha Raw Guy Berryman - Coldplay Gwendoline Christie  
Hassan Akkad Helen Mirren Jason Isaacs Jaz O'Hara Jessie Ware JJ Bola Joanna Lumley Jonny Buckland - Coldplay  
Jordan Stephens Julia Donaldson Juliet Stevenson Kaiser Chiefs Kate Moss Kwame Kwei-Armah Livia Firth Lolita  
Chakrabarti Maggie O'Farrell Martin Bell Maya Ghazal Michaela Coel Nazanin Boniadi Neil Gaiman Nish Kumar  
Nitin Sawhney Olivia Colman Sir Patrick Stewart Phil Harvey - Coldplay Sir Philip Pullman Ramla Ali Rebecca Front  
Richard Curtis Riz Ahmed Rufus Hound Rufus Jones Sita Brahmachari Stephen Daldry Stephen Fry Susie Dent  
Tanya Burr Theo James Tracey Seaward Vanessa Redgrave Vick Hope Will Champion - Coldplay William Sutcliffe

**FAMILIES  
TOGETHER**

# How to organise your campaign

First think about how and from whom you will collect messages. Then think about how your school is organised and how this could help your campaign.

For example, you could work face-to-face with classes in your year group and/or share your campaign on your school's online platforms. Messages from students could either be handwritten in class or completed online. Ask your teacher for help to decide what will work best and be prepared to be flexible.

Next think how you'll explain the Families Together campaign to your school community. Activity 1 should help you to do this well. Young people who write a message to your MP complete the following statement.

*I am calling on the UK Government to keep refugee families together because...*

**Teach your school community to write powerful and persuasive messages**

## 3. Send the messages to your MP

Once you have collected the messages, think about how to hand them in to your MP.

- Find your MP's contact details by entering your school's postcode [here](#)  
Every MP's postal address is (MP's Name)  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
- Amend the downloadable cover letter to tell your MP about your campaign and send it along with your school's messages.
- Ask to meet your MP to discuss your campaign and call for refugee family reunion. You may do this online or face-to-face.
- Ask your teacher to help with school social media. Use @oxfamcampaigns and #FamiliesTogether
- Let Oxfam know how you get on and reach out to us if you'd like help.





A photograph of a woman and four children of African descent hugging each other. The woman is on the left, smiling, with her arms around the children. One child is kissing her on the cheek. The children are also smiling and hugging each other. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Dear Prime Minister,  
Children need their  
families.**

**Please reunite  
them.**

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