

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Founded in 1998, it is held every year around World Refugee Day on the 20 June.

This year's theme is *We Cannot Walk Alone*, inspired by Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech. It celebrates how our families and communities have come together over the last year in the face of crisis. With the New Plan for Immigration being discussed, and worsening inequality for refugees and asylum seekers, Refugee Week reminds us how we can all support each other to create inclusive and resilient communities.

15th June

6pm - We Cannot Walk Alone: On Becoming a Kuwaiti Bidoon Refugee in the UK - Presentation + Q&A Sanctuary Hosting

Ahmad Jaber will be discussing the relationship between language and identity, and how a people's way of expression may be used as a tool to identify and target them. The aim of the event is to shed light on the complexity of being a stateless Kuwaiti Bidoon, especially in terms of being in limbo while in the asylum-seeking process, but also on how even small social (re)actions may be significantly helpful.

Watch here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7994154783?pwd=QkowelV0N1R4bldUdGhqMzdCLOxNdz09>

16th June

11am-2pm – Exhibition Opening: We Cannot Walk Alone | Refugee Resource

Photographer Philippa James has collaborated with the charity Refugee Resource to create a thought-provoking series of portraits of refugee women. The images explore themes of trauma, the inner and outer self, and expectations from society. The exhibition celebrates the new family that these women have made from meeting each other.

Exhibition is open 17th June-17th July.

Venue: Old Fire Station

Details: <https://oldfirestation.org.uk/exhibitions/we-cannot-walk-alone/>

9am-4pm – Stand with Refugees at Gloucester Green Market | Asylum Welcome

Asylum Welcome will be raising awareness and funds to support refugees and asylum seekers in Oxford. As well as a collection of donated books and handmade crafts, we are inviting the public to add their message to our orange heart, showing their support to Oxford's refugee community.

6pm - We Cannot Walk Alone - Music Evening | Sanctuary Hosting

What better a way to celebrate togetherness than coming together to share music and what it means to us! During the music evening, we will be able to talk about music, what music means to us and our cultures, share songs, dances or anything creative, and create connections through our love of music.

Watch here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7994154783?pwd=QkowelV0N1R4bldUdGhqMzdCLOxNdz09>

17th June

5.30pm - Voices for Sanctuary: We Cannot Walk Alone | Oxford's Colleges of Sanctuary

Reverend Inderjit Bhogal, founder of the Cities of Sanctuary Movement UK and Afraa Hashem, of Action for Sama. Introduced by Helen Mountfield QC, Principal of Mansfield College and Baroness Jan Royall, Principal of Somerville College.

Details: <https://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/event/oxfords-colleges-sanctuary-annual-event-2021>

RSVP: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/156211489771

6pm – 'Worth' - Book Presentation + Q&A | Sanctuary Hosting

Join us to hear from Bharti Dhir as she shares a couple of excerpts from her book and hosts a Q&A at the end. Read more at: <https://www.hayhouse.co.uk/worth-pb>

Watch here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7994154783?pwd=QkowelV0N1R4bldUdGhGZmZdCL0xNdz09>

18th June

Refugee Walk | Asylum Welcome

A guided walk through the contemporary experience of a refugee arriving in Oxford, and the challenges they face. We will visit spaces used and created by asylum seekers and refugees, exploring how our community can come together to welcome and support those arriving here.

Details: Given current government restrictions, this event is by invitation only

19th June

9am-2pm – Stand with Refugees at Headington Market | Asylum Welcome

Asylum Welcome will be raising awareness and funds to support refugees and asylum seekers in Oxford. As well as a collection of donated books and handmade crafts, we are inviting the public to add their message to our orange heart, showing their support to Oxford's refugee community.

All events are free to attend.

