

## Prayer Guide: Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Then the King will say to those on the right, “Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:34–36,40

**Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; Look with mercy on those today who are fleeing from danger, those who are homeless and hungry.**

**Bless those who work to bring them relief; Inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; And guide the nations of the world towards that day. When all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and peace.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen**

(Prayer from [www.invitationtoprayer.org/prayers\\_refugees.html](http://www.invitationtoprayer.org/prayers_refugees.html))

“It seems to me that immediately a man lands on these shores he sticks up a placard and shouts Australia for the Australians! A nation cannot be untrue to the great principles which have to do with human happiness and welfare without suffering any more than the individual, and selfishness, if it is hateful in the individual, must be deplorable in the nation.”

William Booth

### Prayer points for refugees, asylum seekers, and all newcomers.

#### Please pray:

- that they may be welcomed and find peace in Australia
- that they may find hope and restoration from the despair and persecution from which they have fled
- that Christians can celebrate unity in Christ while celebrating our differences in cultures and nationalities
- that unaccompanied refugee children may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families
- for migrant workers, that they may work in safe and just conditions, and that we who benefit from their labour may be truly grateful for what they provide.
- for an end to the violence and poverty that displace so many of our sisters and brothers from their homes and homelands.
- for our leaders in The Salvation Army, that they may continue to lead, guide and support Salvationists in opening their hearts towards immigrants and vulnerable populations.
- for our political leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration and just migrant working conditions, and put an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety.

(Some prayers taken from [www.immigrationsundaymn.org/](http://www.immigrationsundaymn.org/))

### Quick Facts:

Some 43.3 million people were forcibly displaced globally at the end of 2009.

The global number of new individual asylum claims grew to nearly 1 million.

Australia accepts just 14,750 refugees each year.

An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection.

Under Australian law, it is not illegal to enter Australia without a visa in order to seek asylum.

Historically, between 85–90% of asylum seekers that come by boat are granted refugee status.

Australia still detains children seeking asylum.

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