

Immigration and Refugees: Definitions and Key Questions

Look up the meaning of these words and write your own definitions. Follow your interests and reputable sources to learn more about refugees in your community.

bias: a weighted view in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair

decolonize: the process of separating from the values and practices imposed from an invading and dominant culture that colonized an area

intersectionality: the combined identities that a person can hold, such as black and a woman or Muslim and unmarried; each identity brings unique attributes and are complicated when combined

oppression: the systemic nature of social inequality woven throughout society as well as embedded within individual beliefs and behaviors

migrant: a person who chooses to come to a new country for a job or family

tokenism: presence without meaningful participation; such as inviting someone to represent a race, gender, or religion without giving this person a real opportunity to participate or speak

refugee: a person who has been forced to leave their country from a well-founded fear of persecution, war, or natural disaster

immigration: the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country

Key Questions

1. Tell a story of a time you witnessed someone being treated differently or unfairly because of their ethnicity. What can you do or say in reaction to this mistreatment?
2. How can you change your everyday language to be more curious about and respectful of different people?
3. Where do you see opportunities for growth related to immigration and refugee rights in your community? In the country? In the world?
4. How does your community (or school or workplace) address issues related to immigration and refugees? What resources are available? How do these resources help the community?

