



ChangeMakers Refugee Forum Empowering new New Zealanders

PO Box 9186 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand • Ph: +64 4 384 6295 Ext 112 •
Mobile:027 4125758 •Email: changemakersforum@gmail.com

Media Release

7 June 2006

Celebrating refugees

World Refugee Day, Tuesday 20 June, is a day to celebrate both the courage and resilience of refugees and the goodwill of host communities who welcome them to their new homes

This year the day will be marked in the Wellington region by an afternoon of entertainment and food at the Petone Settlers' Museum offices in Britannia St, Petone (right by the Petone library). There'll be childrens' activities, displays to look at, music and performance from different refugee communities and delicious food. Everyone is welcome and entry is free. Events begin at 2.30pm and will run till 5pm.

World Refugee Day also sees the launch of *Walk With Me*, an exhibition about refugee resettlement in New Zealand telling the stories of ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary circumstances and are forced to rebuild their lives in unfamiliar surroundings

The United Nations General Assembly established 20 June as World Refugee Day in 2001. Since then it has been celebrated around the world each year as a salute to the indomitable spirit and courage of the world's refugees.

This year's theme is hope. In every step of their arduous journey refugees carry with them an unshakable, unrelenting hope. By hanging on to their hopes for basic survival, sustenance and protection, and for the chance to one day rebuild their lives, refugees defy all odds

While there are over nine million refugees in the world today only a very small percentage of those will ever be accepted for resettlement in another country. New Zealand is one of merely a handful of countries worldwide which accept a guaranteed quota of refugees each year, taking 750 annually.

This year's event has been organised by Changemakers Refugee Forum with assistance from RMS Refugee Resettlement, the Office of Ethnic Affairs, the Department of Labour, Settlement Support, Settlers Museum and Wellington's Multicultural Services Centre.

ends

For further information contact:

Adam Awad

Acting Chairperson

Changemakers Refugee Forum

0274125758