

Fair for All refugee policy: New Zealand

In September 2018, World Vision New Zealand invited young people to support refugees from South Sudan and call for New Zealand's refugee policy to be Fair for All. Step back into 2018 to find out how World Vision ran this social action.

1. World Vision creates a video:

Clench is a proud Kiwi and former refugee from South Sudan. In 2003 her family resettled in New Zealand to start a new life. If New Zealand's current policy regarding refugees from Africa and the Middle East had been in place back then, Clench's family would never have been able to come to New Zealand and live a life of freedom and opportunity. Listen to Clench's letter to the Minister of Immigration.

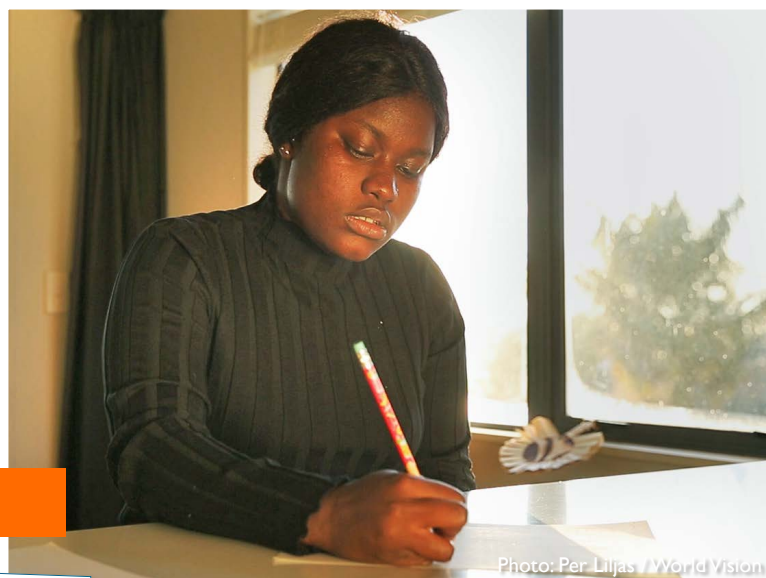


Photo: Per Liljas / World Vision

Watch: <https://youtu.be/YbXwXHjrT4w>



Photo: World Vision

2. The call goes out to young people:

Use your knowledge and passion for justice to inspire others to take action, and to support children and families in the midst of the South Sudan refugee crisis. You might like to set up a stall at lunchtime, put up posters, put information in the school newsletter, speak at an assembly, or go around classes. Share some of the stories of those affected, and let others know that their voices are powerful and our government needs to hear from everyone who wants to change this!

3. Young people are invited to write letters:

Join World Vision and other young people like you to advocate for refugees! Write a note to our Minister of Immigration, Iain Lees-Galloway, to let him know why you think we should make the refugee quota fair for people from South Sudan. World Vision will gather all of the letters and hand deliver them to the Beehive. Once you have submitted your letter, give yourself a pat on the back! What you have done is awesome: you have given refugees a voice and sent it straight to our government. You have spoken truth to power.



Photo: World Vision

4. Youth advocates meet the Minister for Immigration:

September 2018: World Vision youth advocates Clench, Tessa and Cole deliver your 750 letters on New Zealand's refugee policies to Parliament. Your letters ask the Minister of Immigration, Iain Lees-Galloway, to make it easier for refugees from Africa and the Middle East to find protection in New Zealand.

Watch: <https://www.facebook.com/40HourFamineNZ/videos/864981427025244/>



Photo: World Vision

5. World Vision starts a parliamentary petition:

May 2019: World Vision launches a petition achieving 500 signatures.

Petition request – *That the House of Representatives urge the Government to make the refugee quota fair by removing the requirement for refugees from Africa and the Middle East to have family links to NZ and by increasing the composition of the quota to at least 25% each for refugees from Africa and the Middle East.*

Petition: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_85022/petition-of-carsten-bockemuehl-for-world-vision-new-zealand

World Vision presents petition:

June 2019: World Vision's advocacy representative, Carsten, and former refugee, Guled, present this petition to the Select Committee hearing as part of the government's formal review of New Zealand's refugee quota. They call on the Government to scrap the discriminatory restrictions placed on refugees from Africa and the Middle East since 2010. The Select Committee responds positively and the petition gets lots of attention – politically and from the media.

Watch: <https://www.facebook.com/EWSCNZ/videos/366904757339235/>

6. Immigration Minister announces three-year refugee policy:

October 2019: Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway announces that the Government will remove the former National-led Government's requirement for quota refugees from Africa and the Middle East to have family already in New Zealand. "We are proud to be a welcoming and inclusive nation committed to supporting some of the world's most vulnerable people to rebuild their lives and thrive in New Zealand," says the Minister.



Photo: World Vision



Photo: Ruth Prentice

News links: Newshub 6pm news, Radio New Zealand, Reuters, Stuff, Newsroom

Writing letters

Individually written, addressed and signed letters are a powerful form of social action, and much more effective than emails.

1. Address and greet the person correctly, e.g. Dear Prime Minister, Dear Ms... Dear Mr...
2. Write one page at the most.
3. Use a polite, constructive tone.
4. Clearly explain why you're writing, what the issue is, why it's important and personally important to you.
5. State what you want done about the issue – the solution, the call to action.
6. If appropriate, request to discuss in person, in a meeting or on the phone.
7. End with a thank you, your signature and your printed name.
8. Make sure you proofread and spell check.
9. Use your letter as a template so your friends can send letters too and multiply your effectiveness.



STANDING UNITED
WITH THE CHILDREN
OF SOUTH SUDAN

World Vision

Use this letter template to help frame up your submission:

Dear Minister Lees-Galloway,

My name is «name», and I am from «school/ location». I am a «Year xx student/ University student».

I am writing to you today to ask you to make New Zealand's refugee quota fair for refugees from Africa and the Middle East.

I am thankful that we allow some of the world's most vulnerable people to start a new life in our beautiful country. But I am also surprised that we have barriers in place that make it difficult for refugees from Africa and the Middle East to come here. One such barrier is the need for them to already have family members in New Zealand. Another one is the regional composition of our refugee quota; we allow only 17% of all refugees we take to come from Africa. The number for refugees from the Middle East is even lower.

I believe this should change because... «include why you care and why you think the restrictions should be removed».

Will you please remove the restrictions on refugees from Africa and the Middle East, and make our quota fair for everyone?

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
«Name + email»

WRITING TO A NEW ZEALAND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

You can write to the relevant MP for the issue – in government or in opposition. You can also write to your local MP.

Look here to find out who your local MP is: <https://www.govt.nz/browse/engaging-with-government/members-of-parliament/>

Read more about writing to an MP: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/have-your-say/contact-an-mp/>

Watch this TED talk about the power of writing to an MP (5.50 mins):

https://www.ted.com/talks/omar_ahmad_political_change_with_pen_and_paper

Your address

Date

Their address

Dear <<Title and name>>,

I am writing to express my concern about/support for...
[clearly explain the issue]

[write a paragraph or two with facts about the issue]

I kindly ask that you, as [name their portfolio, role, or explain why they are the best person to contact about the issue], address this issue by... [state what you want to be done]

I would love to talk to you about this issue in more detail.
To set up a meeting or phone call, please contact me on...
[your preferred contact – phone number or email address]

Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue.

Kind regards,

[Your signature]

[Your name]

[Your contact details – phone number, email address, location if seeking a meeting]

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