



## SCREENING GUIDE

### Before You Screen

1. **Publicize Your Event** - Photos and posters can be downloaded from the [Refugee Kids website](#). Think about the best methods for publicizing the screening to your community whether it be sending emails, creating event notifications on Facebook or Meetup, using Twitter, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters.

2. **Find a Partner** - Give some thought to who is already working on refugee and immigration issues in your community. Can they help sponsor the event, spread the word, or speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include refugee advocacy groups, teachers, national religious organizations, human rights groups and immigration law centers.

3. **Make it an Event** - Guest speakers and panels can help facilitate discussion and debate after a community screening. Contact local non-profit representatives, teachers, social workers, or policy makers who have expertise or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend and participate in a Q&A session.

Members from the filmmaking team are available to appear in person or via Skype for a Q&A. [Contact us](#) if you're interested.

4. **Engage Your Audience** - Included in this guide is a *Call to Action* which links to relevant resources online and can be used as a hand-out at your screening. Your community members may also want to add their own links and contact information for further involvement in local neighborhood and regional events and actions.

5. **Tell Us How It Went** - [Send us](#) pictures and a note to update us about your event. Where it was held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? Did the film have a positive impact and inform people about the issues? Your feedback will help others to plan their own successful events and will energize the Refugee Kids national screening campaign as a whole.

## Discussion Points

1. Before watching **Refugee Kids**, what impressions came to mind when you heard the term “refugee”? What were the sources of your preconception? In what ways did the film confirm or challenge your ideas?
2. The Tibetan twins, Tashi and Rigzun, describe their parents’ risky escape carrying the four-year-old siblings through the Himalayas by night and dodging Chinese soldiers. In what ways does their story reflect the current situation of the refugees coming to Europe?
3. The earliest memory of the Liberian student, George as a two year old is of encountering flying bullets. Years later, he passes the Statue of Liberty on a daily basis during his commute from Staten Island and describes how it represents “a new life, a new start” for him and his grandmother. How does this story fit in with the narrative of the American dream? Do you have any family members or friends who connect with the Statue of Liberty in a similar way?
4. Magdee, the Christian boy from Egypt and Ohmeed, a Muslim from Iraq, become friends and allies in the summer academy, in part, because they both speak Arabic. Their teacher observes, “it is possible that their families might not ‘like each other’ because of their cultural differences but that in New York it doesn’t matter.” In what ways does bringing different groups together in a new setting foster understanding.
5. What do you think of the epilogue of the film? Were you surprised by where the kids are four years later? What does this say about the promise of America and the resilience of children?
6. How can Americans contribute in a meaningful way to the global dialogue with other more homogeneous countries that are struggling to accommodate the current influx of refugees? What is the take away about our two hundred year plus experiment of offering refuge to those in need and forging a multi-cultural society?

## Call to Action

**1. Donate to the New York Refugee Youth Program at The International Rescue Committee.** Refugee Kids was filmed at the IRC's **New York Refugee Youth Program**, which offers year round innovative programming to help refugee youth adjust to their new communities, succeed academically, and foster a positive multicultural identity. New York youth programs include: afterschool and weekend academic enrichment programs throughout New York City, the summer youth academy featured in Refugee Kids, a youth leadership program, and long term academic guidance. To donate, click [here](#).

**2. Support Generous Refugee Admissions.** The IRC is a member of Refugee Council USA, a coalition of U.S. non-governmental organizations focused on refugee protection. Join them in telling Congress and the White House that you oppose President Trump's efforts to cut refugee resettlement and discriminate against individuals from certain countries. [Get the Refugee Council USA's Step-by-Step Advocacy Guide](#).

U.S. refugee admissions ceilings are set by presidential declaration. Trump has drastically reduced the number of refugees the United States would welcome in the coming year from 110,000 to 50,000 (the U.S. resettled 84,995 last year). The [U.N. Refugee Agency](#) says 1.19 million refugees are in need of resettlement to a host country, of 65 million currently displaced around the world.

Both Trump's January and March 2017 executive orders seek to ban travelers from specified Muslim-majority countries for 90 days and to suspend refugee resettlement for 120 days. Syrians would be banned indefinitely. Both orders have been challenged in court, but they are far from dead. These orders are gut-wrenching for our community members who are waiting to be reunited with a family member, and for refugees overseas with no other options for safety than to be resettled.

**3. Join the Refugee Kids Community Screening Campaign.** Arrange additional screenings of this film with other groups in your community that need to be brought up to speed on this issue. [Click here for more info about setting up screenings](#).

**4. Check out the following agencies, faith-based organizations and resources for refugees for additional actions and information in your community:**

**RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES:** [International Rescue Committee](#); [Church World Service](#); [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#); [HIAS \(Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society\)](#); [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#); [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services](#); [World Relief](#); [Ethiopian Community Development Council](#); [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#).  
**ALSO:** [Welcoming America](#); [UNHCR](#); [U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration](#); [Refugee Council USA](#).