

Refugee week 2024

Briefing for Breaking Barriers partners

Every year the UK hosts Refugee Week which returns on 17-23 June. It is the world's largest festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

The Business Behind Refugees movement is united to improve the lives of refugees in the UK through meaningful employment. Refugee Week is an excellent moment to:

- Unite your employees, clients and customers in a shared goal to make a difference for refugees
- Support your social impact goals
- Improve employee understanding of people from a refugee background
- Foster an inclusive workplace culture
- Raise awareness of your partnership with Breaking Barriers

There are four main ways you can get involved:

1. Take part in our flagship campaign, answering questions from refugees
2. Host an event to raise awareness and celebrate our partnership
3. Join our webinar
4. Fundraise for Breaking Barriers

Please show your support for Refugee Week during 17-23 June. We'd encourage you to share posts about your plans and/or posts that emphasize your commitment to supporting refugees and our partnership. Please tag us in any posts:

- LinkedIn: [Breaking Barriers](#)
- Twitter: [@BB_UK](#)
- Instagram: [@breakingbarriers](#)
- Facebook: [Breaking Barriers UK](#)

Resources

You will find draft copy and assets for each activity on our Business Behind Refugees Portal. Please let your Partnership Manager know if you can't access the portal links.

Portal link: <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/business-behind-refugees-portal>

1) Flagship campaign: a helpful, national conversation

This year, Breaking Barriers is starting a helpful national conversation. We know that the value of connection and conversation can be lifechanging. Having the opportunity to ask questions and learn from others is a powerful way to break down barriers and open up opportunities.

Refugees and business leaders alike have submitted questions to our new forum, and your answers can bring about change. For refugees this means learning valuable insights from the UK workforce. And for business leaders, it means learning from refugees to create more inclusive and refugee friendly workplaces.

The questions from refugees range from curiosity about UK working culture to tips for turning their international experience to their advantage when applying for jobs.

Anyone with a job in the UK and/or who is from a refugee background should be able to answer some, or all, of the questions. It doesn't matter what you do, what level you're at, or the industry you work in- every employee could have something to offer.

It's quick and simple to take part. Visit our website to see the questions, pick one or more to answer, and share your thoughts: <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/a-helpful-conversation-refugee-week-2024/>

How to take part

1. **Launch day:** On Monday 17 June we will launch the campaign all our social media channels. Please react, share and comment on the posts so that we can reach as many people as possible.
2. **Your channels:** We have put together draft resources for you to help you share the campaign on your internal and external channels to encourage as many of your employees as possible to take part. You can find these on the Business Behind Refugees portal: <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/business-behind-refugees-portal>
3. **Employee engagement:** We have already heard from partners who are planning to work through the questions together as part of a team bonding exercise. Perhaps you could encourage employees to take a 10-minute break to answer a question, or encourage team leaders to mention the campaign in team meetings?

2) Hold an event

Want to take it a step further? Then why not run an internal event?

Lunch and learns:

A member of the Breaking Barriers team can host an information and awareness session to update your colleagues on the work of Breaking Barriers, our partnership and opportunities to get involved for the year ahead. Examples slides available.

Documentary screening:

Our multi-award winning 25-minute documentary, 'My (Refugee) Life', looks beyond the numbers and behind closed doors to follow five refugees as they navigate temporary accommodation, employment, love, family and education in the UK.

We worked alongside award-winning filmmakers, Postcard Productions, and a trainee crew of people from refugee backgrounds to follow Bahaa, Bahadury, Gulsom, Joel and Zarith to shed light on many of the misconceptions people have about refugee lives.

- Find further information about the documentary here: <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/get-involved/my-refugee-life/>
- Suggested social media posts about the documentary can be found on the portal: <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/business-behind-refugees-portal/>

Employee resource groups:

Many of our partners engage their Employee Resource Groups and host panel discussions or events as part of their Social Mobility, Diversity Equity & Exclusion or Multicultural network activities.

Follow up resources:

We have a number of recommendations from top Ted Talks, Netflix films or Reports to grow your awareness and understanding of refugee communities.

Please get in touch with your Partnership Manager if you would like to find out more.

3) Join our webinar

You will receive an invitation to join our annual Refugee Week webinar. This year we will highlight practical strategies to nurture inclusive workplaces and inclusive hiring practices to support refugees on their journey to employment. Please do share it with your teams.

Business Behind Refugees Webinar: Unlocking Refugee Talent

Getting to the facts: refugees and the potential of responsible businesses in the UK.

Date: Wednesday 19th June, 2024

Time: Midday – 1pm BST

Hosted: Via Zoom

RSVP: You must register in advance to receive your Zoom link here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6617140599350/WN_qg5PN62XRYugesxGyeB8gg#/registration

Through our webinar panel discussion with refugees and leaders from our Business Behind Refugees movement you will:

- Discover unique insights about the UK refugee context from sector experts.
- Hear directly from refugees on the barriers they have faced in the UK, and the role businesses have played in overcoming those.
- Learn what the private sector is doing to address refugee unemployment and how this can benefit your business. We will share approaches to skills-based volunteering and skills-based hiring from our across our Business Behind Refugees movement.

4) Fundraise for Breaking Barriers

Get creative, encourage teams to fundraise for Breaking Barriers, and help us to create lasting change for refugees in the UK:

- Hold a World Foods Bake Sale - we can provide some recipes from our refugee clients to get you started.
- Get sponsored, as a team or individually - to get fit, give something up, or even learn a new skill- with support from our team.
- Love sport? Start a summer of sport sweepstakes - whether it's on the Tour de France, Wimbledon, the Olympics or Paralympics...
- One to ask the boss... how about a raffle to win an extra day's holiday!

Next steps

- Please speak to your Partnership Manager if you have any questions
- Check out our portal for all your resources: <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/business-behind-refugees-portal/>
- Start planning your internal and external communications opportunities to mark Refugee Week

Thank you for your support