

JRS Australia Youth Award

Teacher Information Sheet

The Project

- The JRS Youth Award is organised by the Jesuit Refugee Service Australia and is based on the Pedro Arrupe Award held by JRS Europe. It aims to raise awareness of refugee issues both in Australia and abroad, and to highlight the work undertaken by JRS.
- The award is open to students in two categories:
Years 9-10
Years 11-12
- Working in groups of three to five, students are required to engage with the broad topic of refugees and asylum seekers in the following ways:
 1. **Research** into the plight of asylum seekers/refugees both in Australia and abroad.
 2. **Interviews** (face-to-face, via telephone or email) with asylum seekers/refugees in the community.
 3. **Creation** of a multi-media project that summarises the group's findings, provides analysis and offers possible resolutions. Students may choose a format that best represents their ideas: advertisements, radio segments, short films, websites, PowerPoint presentations, artworks or other multi-media platforms.
- Entries will be judged according to their technical quality, originality, clarity of theme, and quality of analysis and research.
- The panel of judges will include representatives from JRS Australia, JRS International and the Australian refugee community.
- The closing date is Friday 10 September 2010. Entries should be forwarded to: JRS Australia, P.O. Box 522, Kings Cross, NSW, 1340.
- The winning group in each category will be awarded a cash prize of \$1500. Runners-up will each receive a JRS presentation book. Winning entries will be displayed at JRS events, on the JRS website, and in JRS' quarterly newsletter, *Link*.
- Winners will be announced in the first week of October 2010, and will be featured in the Christmas edition of Australian Catholics magazine.

Suggested topics

- Education (look at particular programs in one country or compare ways of bringing education to refugees)
- Income generation (helping refugees build their future)
- Emergency humanitarian assistance (how do you deal with a sudden movement of 200,000 internally displaced people?)
- At work in a crisis zone (a refugee camp, a detention centre)
- Reconstruction (what happens after the war is over?)
- Peace education (in current or past war zones)
- Reconciliation (how do you bring about opportunities for reconciliation and forgiveness in countries torn apart by war, famine, genocide etc)

- Pastoral accompaniment and chaplaincy work (e.g. in detention centres or among asylum seekers in the community)
- Landmines and their effect on refugees
- Detention issues
- Xenophobia: attitudes toward asylum seekers and refugees
- Home visits
- Advocacy and policy
- Displacement due to climate change
- Countries in the Asia Pacific region (eg. PNG): what refugee issues exist there?
- Other topics that are of interest

Teacher Responsibilities

You will be required to:

- liaise between JRS and your school and students. If more than one teacher from your school is involved in the project, you will be required to undertake this role together;
- commit to accompany students to interviews with asylum seekers/refugees;
- ensure that parents who offer their assistance comply with all legal requirements for working with children, and that students follow your school's excursion guidelines;
- supply JRS, via email, with a photograph of each group, for possible use in Australian Catholics magazine and the JRS website, by no later than 18 September 2009;
- ensure that students' parents have given permission for the use of their children's photographs.

Resources and Support

- JRS Australia and JRS International have developed a range of educational resources for the use of both teachers and students. They can be accessed at www.jrs.org.au and www.irseurope.org./pedroarrupe-award.
- JRS will facilitate interviews between asylum seekers/refugees and students. These can be done face-to-face, telephonically or via email. JRS will supply students with guidelines for interviewing vulnerable people.
- JRS will undertake, where possible, a visit to your school during which the issue of refugees and asylum seekers can be more deeply explored. These visits will depend on the availability of staff, and should be booked as early as possible.