

Prayer Diary:

People fleeing their homes

18-24 December 2022



‘No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark...’ – Warsan Shire, poet

Sadly, the cycle of refugee crises has become all too familiar in the news. There are many reasons why people are forced to flee their homes, to areas either within their countries or across borders, but a regular contributing factor is human rights violations.

This is why advocacy is so important, and why we urge international leaders to protect freedom of religion or belief for all: because when this right is being violated, our research indicates that other rights are most likely being violated also. By campaigning for change, perhaps we can prevent countries of concern from generating the next global refugee crisis.

Sunday 18 December

Today on International Migrants’ Day, pray that people will be sensitive and understanding as they consider the myriad reasons why people leave their country of birth – often undertaking extortionate, difficult and dangerous journeys to find a better, safer life for themselves and their families.

Monday 19 December

Use Deuteronomy 31:8 to inspire your prayers for those who are forced to flee into the unknown: ‘The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.’

Tuesday 20 December

Today on International Human Solidarity Day, give thanks for those who champion the rights of others and stand alongside them in their suffering. May our united pursuit of justice be stronger than any differences of ethnicity, religion or belief.

Wednesday 21 December

Matthew 2:13-15 describes how Joseph was warned in a dream to escape to Egypt with Mary and Jesus. Pray that Christian parents in dangerous situations will be similarly in tune with the Holy Spirit, supplying them with wisdom to decide whether to stay or go, and where to go.

Thursday 22 December

In some cases, people are told it is safe to return home, but the community has not welcomed them back. In other cases, people struggle to trust that conditions have truly changed, and sometimes they indeed remain dangerous.

Ask God to transform these communities with a spirit of harmony and reconciliation, creating an environment where everyone’s basic rights are respected, and to bring peace to areas where it remains elusive.

Friday 23 December

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.’ – Matthew 5:4

Pray this verse over everyone who is mourning the loss of their home and all they have left behind.

Saturday 24 December

God our provider, we lift up to you people of all beliefs who are in hostile environments, with little option but to leave. Go before them and be with them amid psychological trauma and indescribable loss. Settle their tired, anxious minds with your hand of blessing (Psalm 139:5 NLT). Amen.