

A Prayer for World Refugee Day- 2026

God of mercy and peace,
we come before you with heavy hearts,
carrying the sorrow of a world marked by war, displacement, and loss.

We remember the millions who have lost home, safety, and belonging,
the families in camps,
the ones at borders,
the ones who do not know where they will sleep tonight.

God of all people,
Be near to those walking unknown roads,
crossing seas, escaping violence,
searching for a place to live without fear.

We pray for this world, O God,
that hearts may be softened, and doors opened,
that nations may choose compassion over fear.

Give us courage to stand with the displaced,
to welcome the stranger,
and to act with justice and love.

In a time of deep division, teach us what is most difficult:
to pray even for our enemies,
and to resist hatred.
Holy Spirit, transform what is broken in this world,
and what is hardened within us.

Until the day when no one is forced to flee,
when every person has a place to belong
and every child can grow up in safety,
keep us faithful, compassionate, and hopeful

Jesus, through your mercy, make us instruments of your peace.
Amen

Author:

Kochar Abubaker is a Kurdish author from northern Iraq. She has called Canada home for the past nine years. Her life has been profoundly shaped by personal experiences of displacement and the relentless pursuit of refuge. Kochar recently spent several months with refugee families in Syria. She is also a co-founder of The Vancouver Kurdish Film Festival.

Image:

The refugee children in this photo are in the Kurdish region of Syria. They have no proper place to stay, very little to hold onto, and almost nothing to play with. And yet they are still smiling, still hoping, and still finding ways to play, even among the rubble.

World Refugee Day:

Each year, June 20th marks World Refugee Day, a day set aside to honour people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes. The Sundays immediately before and after June 20th are observed by many churches as World Refugee Sunday- a day to remember, to pray for the displaced, and to recommit ourselves to God's call to welcome the foreigner.