

## PRESENTATION NOTES – STEPH. S

Originally we were going to raise awareness about the shortage of water in less privileged countries. But then, scattered across the news, were refugees fleeing from their homes that were no longer safe to live in. These people, in that much danger, how could we ignore it? So, we changed from water to refugees. But why? Because people, like you and me, were running away from their homes to a strange place they have never been to before. Families were walking miles and miles for hours on end to a place they had no idea about because they couldn't live in their homes any more. Their lives were hard enough as it is. So let's put this in to a bit more detail. Less privileged people were having to drink dirty water, eat less than one meal a day, live in the same clothes all day, everyday and that's if they had any clothes. They were famishing, dehydrated, living in harsh, dirty environments and many people were dying. And on top of that, little that they had was being destroyed, along with the shelter they had. The few that had homes, had them torn to the ground. These people could no longer stay there. So, they would walk for hours and hours to get to refugee camps. These camps were giving refugees food, water and homes. But there were problems; these camps were meant to hold hundreds of people but were holding thousands. So we had an awareness day.

## MIKA'S "WELCOMING THE STRANGER" AWARENESS DAY REFLECTION

The "Welcoming the Stranger Awareness Day" was very informative because it showed me what life is like for refugees and how different their lives are to ours.. Our group focussed on the story of Lina, she is roughly our age. Her responsibilities are far more than ours. We usually want things and she struggles to have her everyday needs met. We should be appreciative of how lucky we are instead of taking it for granted.

I learned there are lots of things I could do to help such as volunteering, donations etc.

Overall, I learned that we are very lucky and live in a safe, clean environment. We should be "WELCOMING THE STRANGERS" into our communities. No one chooses to become a refugee, anyone can become a refugee, refugees are people like you and me.

## MS WINTERS' REFLECTION

The Awareness Day and the whole project was an insightful and informative experience for both myself and the students involved.

Initially comments made about refugees included "they are like the convicts in the olden days" or "they are all terrorists – we are not sure we want them here". Through research, exposure and reflection the students developed empathy, understanding and compassion for people who were coming to Perth.

What the students got from this experience was amazing. They were engaged, enthusiastic, willing to try new things and excited. They tried different ways of presenting information and failed teaching them to persist and challenge themselves as well as developing a sense of resilience.

The students also developed leadership skills as this was a totally student driven project so some students really demonstrated their leadership skills, their passion and their tolerance.