



# Making *Walk A Mile In My Shoes* Virtual

Wondering how you can bring the *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* exercise to your community virtually? Below we provide you with some tips and ideas on how to make this an interactive, educational and awareness raising event for all who participate.

You can learn more about *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* at [www.jrsusa.org/resource/walk-a-mile](http://www.jrsusa.org/resource/walk-a-mile).

If you are planning on hosting *Walk a Mile* virtually, please send an email to [outreach@jrsusa.org](mailto:outreach@jrsusa.org). Our team can provide you with technical support, identity cards, slideshows, and supplemental materials to help make your event a success. We are so excited to work with you!

## HOW TO CHOOSE A VIRTUAL PLATFORM

We recognize that there are many different platform options for hosting a virtual event. Many institutions currently choose to run events over Zoom, as it can create a more interactive experience for participants through their “polling” feature. Consequently, this sheet walks event coordinators through how to best use Zoom to create a digital *Walk a Mile in My Shoes* exercise. Should your organization choose to use a different virtual platform, such as Facebook Live or Microsoft Teams, please reach out to [outreach@jrsusa.org](mailto:outreach@jrsusa.org) to discuss how to make your event a success!

## ASSIGNING ROLES FOR LEADERS

The following is a list of people and tasks to consider for hosting a virtual event. This is not a comprehensive list, but rather a way to get you thinking about how to divide up the work to have a successful virtual experience.

Role:	Responsibility:
<b>Host/Pollster</b>	<b>Must be the host of the virtual meeting.</b> In charge of scheduling the meeting ahead of time and starting the meeting 40 minutes early to input all questions into the poll function and launching the correct poll at the correct time during the exercise.
<b>Screen-sharer</b>	<b>Must be a co-host of the virtual meeting.</b> In charge of displaying the presentation and moving through the slides.
<b>ID Card Distributors</b>	In charge of creating and executing a way to individually get ID cards to participants through the chat function at the start of the event.
<b>Monitor</b>	<b>Must be a co-host of the virtual meeting.</b> In charge of keeping an eye on the chat to troubleshoot technology issues and answer questions.
<b>Presenters</b>	In charge of writing scripts for each station and reading them at the appropriate times during the event.
<b>Communications/Marketing</b>	In charge of advertising the event, making sure that registrants have the event zoom link, and sending a follow-up thank you email with next steps.

## HOW TO USE IDENTITY CARDS

The ID Card Distributors will use the JRS provided identity cards to privately message every event participant. Wait about five minutes until everyone has joined the event. Then, have the ID Card Distributors send an identity card to every participant. Make sure that one person is in charge of sending an ID card to anyone who comes in late. We suggest these ID cards are sent to people using the individual chat function, as it will give the exercise more of an intimate feeling and help participants enter into the exercise.

## HOW TO MOVE THROUGH THE STATIONS

JRS has prepared a slide show that was specially designed for a virtual Walk a Mile in My Shoes. You can obtain the slide show and other helpful information by sending an email to [outreach@jrsusa.org](mailto:outreach@jrsusa.org). The photos in the slide show depict each Walk a Mile in My Shoes station as presenters talk about that particular station. We recommend that you talk with your team beforehand to come up with a script for each station, decide who will be in charge of screen sharing the slideshow, and discuss who will read each part.

For example, to keep participants engaged, we recommend that you use the poll feature on Zoom at the beginning of every new station. Please visit Zoom's Polling Page for more information about setting up polls. We recommend having a test run with members of your group a week before the event to ensure that everything goes smoothly. Below are some suggestions as to what you can use for poll questions.

### 1. Entry and Border Checkpoint

- a. **Go to slide 3** in the slideshow and discuss what it means to be a refugee crossing borders.
- b. **Sample poll question 1: True or False:** Once a person is in the European Union, they can choose where in the EU they want to apply for asylum. (*Answer: False. Under the Dublin Regulations, people must seek asylum in the first country in the EU that they enter*)
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** How many asylum seekers were given asylum status in the United States from March 21-May 13 of 2020? (*Answer: 2*).

### 2. Shelter

- a. **Go to slide 4** in the slideshow and discuss different types of shelters for refugees.
- b. **Sample poll question 1: True or False:** Most refugees live outside of refugee camps in more urban settings. (*Answer: True*)
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** How many people, approximately, live in refugee camps? (*Answer: 6.6 million*)

### 3. Food

- a. **Go to slide 5** in the slideshow and discuss food in refugee camps.
- b. **Sample poll question 1: True or False:** Providing refugees with boxes of food rather than e-vouchers leads to higher rates of nutrition. (*Answer: False. E-vouchers allow for autonomy, which boosts self-confidence, and is shown to lead to healthier and more varied diets*).
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** At minimum, how many of the estimated 32 million refugee children are likely to suffer from malnutrition according to data from the United Nations and the World Food Program? (*Answer: 10.6 million. Globally, 1 in 3 children suffer from malnutrition*)

### 4. Water

- a. **Go to slide 6** in the slideshow and discuss how refugees obtain water in a camp.
- b. **Sample poll question 1:** What is the minimum amount of water that should be supplied to refugees in a UNHCR camp daily? (Answer: 20 Liters, 5.3 Gallons. For perspective, mention that the average person in the US uses up to 300 gallons per day).
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** True or false: It is safer for women and girls to get water than it is for men and boys. (*Answer: False. Mention that sexual assaults and kidnapping are common. This is why it is important that water stations are in well-lit areas with people around*)

## 5. Medical

- a. **Go to slide 7** in the slideshow and discuss what medical situations look like in a camp.
- b. **Sample poll question 1:** What percentage of asylum seekers and refugees experience high rates of depression, anxiety, and PTSD? (**Answer:** 33%. *Remind participants that this is the number of people who have been diagnosed. The actual rate is likely much higher*)
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** How many people share a space the size of a tennis court in sub-camp 2E in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh? (**Answer:** 13. *Highlight that this makes social distancing during COVID-19 impossible*)

## 6. Education

- a. **Go to slide 8** in the slideshow and discuss educational opportunities for refugees.
- b. **Sample poll question 1:** If every child had the ability to read, how would it affect the global poverty level? (**Answer:** It would decrease by 12%).
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** If you are doing this event with High School students, ask: What percentage of refugee children are able to get a high school education? (**Answer:** 24%)

**If you are doing this event with University students, ask:** What percentage of refugees are able to get a university education? (**Answer:** 3%)

## 7. Destination?

- a. **Go to slide 9** in the slideshow and discuss what it means for a refugee to be resettled.
- b. **Sample poll question 1:** How long, on average, does a person wait in a refugee camp before they are resettled? (**Answer:** 17 years)
- c. **Sample poll question 2:** What percentage of refugees were able to be resettled in 2019? (**Answer:** 0.4%)

## 8. Advocacy

- a. **Go to slide 10** in the slideshow and discuss what it means to be a refugee crossing borders.
- b. **Encourage participants to sign up for JRS Action Alerts** to stay up to date with current news regarding ways you can work on behalf of refugees.
- c. **Send the link below** in the chat function and leave one minute for participants to sign up during the event.  
[www.jrsusa.org/take-action/jrs-advocates/advocacy-alert-sign-up](http://www.jrsusa.org/take-action/jrs-advocates/advocacy-alert-sign-up)

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# How to Conclude *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*

Make sure that you thank participants for engaging in this digital exercise. In the chat, feel free to send the links below and encourage participants to take one step further in their journey to walk with refugees. Remind them that you will also be sending a follow-up email with more information about how to get involved.

Sign up for JRS Action Alerts: [www.jrsusa.org/take-action/jrs-advocates/advocacy-alert-sign-up](http://www.jrsusa.org/take-action/jrs-advocates/advocacy-alert-sign-up)

Be a JRS Global Companion: [www.jrsusa.org/take-action/companions-at-home](http://www.jrsusa.org/take-action/companions-at-home)

**Do not hesitate to reach out to [outreach@jrsusa.org](mailto:outreach@jrsusa.org) with any and all questions!**

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ADDRESS SERVICE

REQUESTED



Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic organization serving refugees and other forcibly displaced people. Founded as a work of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1980, in direct response to the humanitarian crisis of the Vietnamese boat people, JRS today works in more than 50 countries worldwide to meet the educational, health, and social needs of more than 811,000 refugees.

JRS/USA is the U.S. office for JRS based in Washington, DC. JRS/USA provides support to the broader JRS network - through funding, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation - to JRS projects and programming throughout the world. JRS/USA also serves forcibly displaced migrants in the U.S. through our Detention Chaplaincy Program.



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