

20 JUNE

# WORLD REFUGEE DAY

**"Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire."  
-Thomas Keneally -**

## WHY DO WE MARK THIS DAY?



"World Refugee Day" was held globally for the first time on June 20, 2001, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. It was originally known as "Africa Refugee Day," before the United Nations General Assembly officially designated it as an international day in December 2000. This day, designated by the UN to honor refugees around the globe, celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Why do refugees have to leave their country?

What are the challenges that refugees face?

## MEET TODAY'S GLOBAL CITIZENS



**Jetsun Pema**

She was born in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet on July 7, 1940 and is the sister of the 14th Dalai Lama. Known as the "Mother of Tibet," Pema has received several prizes and awards in recognition of her commitment to the well being of the Tibetan refugee children. She is the former president of the Tibetan Children's Villages. She is a humanitarian who has worked for the plight of Tibetan refugee children for more than 40 years.



**Khaled Hosseini**

He was born on March 4, 1965 in Kabul, Afghanistan. He is a refugee, activist, and novelist. In 2006, Hosseini was appointed the Goodwill Ambassador for the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Through filmed messages and his social media platform, he supports many UNHCR campaigns such as the iBelong campaign to end statelessness and the Nansen Refugee Award to honor extraordinary people for their outstanding work to protect refugees.