

Course Rationale

'Refugees: Their Histories, Lives and Futures' is a programme that addresses the fields of anthropology, history, international development, and geography. There are millions of refugees in this world, some we unknowingly interact with daily; most live in distant lands that we have only seen in pictures. All refugees have been forced to leave their home nation due to war or because of a serious fear for their lives. This course aims to explore the issues faced by refugees in the 21st century, specifically their histories, their lives today, and their future opportunities.

In the initial tutorial, we will learn what a refugee is and follow a specific refugee population known as the Lost Boys of Sudan. In tutorial 2, we will examine what life is like as a refugee in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, and discuss topics that we take for granted like education, medical treatment, and food. In our next tutorial, we will examine how the world manages refugees, and explore why most refugees live in camps for decades. Our fourth tutorial will focus on the current lives of refugees living all over the world, and explore their relationships with their extended family members and their culture. In our fifth tutorial, we will discuss future prospects for protracted refugees today by critically thinking about what needs to happen for refugees to no longer live in camps.

By the end of this course, pupils will be able to look at complicated social issues through multiple perspectives and assess the benefits or costs of various solutions to refugee displacement. Pupils will also learn how to actively discuss their ideas that challenge assumptions about our society. This course aims to develop their oral and written communication through the use of both research skills and the formation of evidence-based arguments.

Final Assignment: A Policy Solution for South Sudanese Protracted Refugee Communities

As a final assignment, students will be asked to design a potential policy solution for the South Sudanese refugee population in Kakuma refugee camp based on their knowledge of this population and their beliefs about how the world could help them. Students will be expected to support their arguments with sources that argue some (or all) of the following:

- That the current policy solutions do not work
- Policy solutions similar to the one they are proposing have been successful on other refugee communities
- That other refugee communities are doing something similar